

6.03: continued

2. Dabs: 14 inches;
3. Haddock: 18 inches;
4. Pollock: 19 inches;
5. Yellowtail flounder: 13 inches;
6. Halibut: 36 inches;
7. Monkfish: 17 inches in total length or monkfish tails less than 11 inches in total length;
8. Windowpane Flounder: 12 inches;
9. Winter Flounder: 12 inches;
10. Witch Flounder: 14 inches.

(b) Recreational Fishing.

1. Cod:
 - i. 24 inches in the Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area;
 - ii. 22 inches in the Southern New England Groundfish Management Area;
2. Dabs: 14 inches;
3. Haddock: 18 inches;
4. Yellowtail flounder: 13 inches;
5. Halibut: 36 inches;
6. Windowpane Flounder: 12 inches;
7. Winter Flounder: 12 inches;

(3) Method of Measurement.

(a) Minimum Size. The minimum sizes established in 322 CMR 6.03(2) shall be determined by the greatest straight line length in inches as measured on a fish with its mouth closed from the anterior most tip of the jaw or snout to the farthest extremity of the tail. For fish with forked tails, the upper and lower fork may be squeezed together to measure the tail extremity.

(b) Exceptions for Possession of Cod Parts. For purposes of determining weights for trip limits as established by 322 CMR 6.03(b), the weight of fillets will be multiplied by three, and the weight of headless whole-gutted cod will be multiplied by 1.25. The weights of cheeks removed from cod heads and cod gonads consistent with 322 CMR 6.03(3)(b) shall be exempt from the possession limits.

(c) Prohibition. It shall be unlawful for a commercial fisherman to mutilate any cod in such a way as to interfere with or affect a proper or adequate measurement of the fish.

(4) Recreational Fishery Limit.(a) Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area:

1. April through October: It is unlawful for any recreational fisherman to possess more than ten cod per person, per day during April through October;

2. November through March:

i. For-hire: It is unlawful for customers aboard for-hire vessels to land or possess cod harvested from the Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area during November through March.

ii. Private Anglers: It is unlawful for anglers aboard private vessels or fishing from shore to possess more than two cod per person per day, not to exceed 75 pounds per vessel during November through March.

(b) Southern New England Groundfish Management Area: It is unlawful for recreational fishermen to possess more than ten cod per person, per day.

(c) Exceptions: Customers aboard head boats which are permitted pursuant to 322 CMR 7.01(4)(e) and fishing in federal waters may possess cod in compliance with federal regulations.

(5) Commercial Fishery Cod Trip Limits. The trip limits established in 322 CMR 6.03(5) shall be determined by the weight of whole, whole-gutted, or gilled fish and shall apply to any trip or 24-hour period, whichever period is longer. It is unlawful for a vessel fishing in:

(a) Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area to possess on board or land more than 800 pounds of cod.

(b) Southern New England Groundfish Management Area to possess on board or land more than 1,000 pounds of cod.

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(6) Gonad Restrictions.

- (a) Possession Limit. It is unlawful for fishermen to possess any quantity of gonads that in aggregate weighs in excess of 10% of the weight of Atlantic cod aboard the vessel.
- (b) Prohibition. It is unlawful for fishermen to remove gonads from any fish that measures below the minimum size or from any legal-sized fish released due to state or federal possession limits.

(7) Seasonal Commercial Fishery Limits for Yellowtail Flounder. It is unlawful for any vessel fishing within waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth to possess on board or land more than 250 pounds of yellowtail flounder during a trip or 24-hour period, whichever period is longer.

(8) Witch Flounder Commercial Possession Limit. It is unlawful for any vessel fishing within waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth to possess on board or land more than 1,000 pounds of witch flounder during a trip or 24-hour period, whichever period is longer.

(9) Halibut Fishery Possession Limit. It is unlawful for:

- (a) Commercial fishermen to possess on board or land more than one halibut per vessel per trip or 24-hour period, whichever period is longer.
- (b) Recreational fishermen to possess on board or land more than one halibut per person per day.

(10) Commercial Fishery Monkfish Limit. It is unlawful for any vessel fishing within waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth to possess on board or land more than 470 pounds of monkfish tails or 1,560 pounds whole weight, per trip or 24-hour period, whichever period is longer.

(11) Winter Flounder Fishery Limits.(a) Commercial Fishery.

1. Possession Limits. It is unlawful for commercial fishermen to possess on board or land:

- a. more than 250-lbs of winter flounder taken from the Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area per trip or 24-hour period, whichever period is longer; or
- b. more than 50-lbs of winter flounder taken from Southern New England Groundfish Management Area per trip or 24-hour period, whichever period is longer.

(b) Recreational Fishery.

1. Possession Limits. It is unlawful for recreational fishermen fishing in:

- a. Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area to possess more than eight winter flounder per day during the open fishing seasons as described in 322 CMR 6.03(11)(b)2.b.i.
- b. Southern New England Groundfish Management Area to possess more than two winter flounder per day during the open fishing seasons as described in 322 CMR 6.03(11)(b)2.a. and b.

2. Seasons.

- a. Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area. The open fishing period shall be January through August and November through December.
- b. Southern New England Groundfish Management Area.
- Spring Open Fishing Season. The spring open fishing period shall begin on the 4th Saturday in April and remain open for 30 consecutive days.
 - Fall Open Fishing Season. The fall open fishing period shall begin the 4th Saturday in September and remain open for 30 consecutive days.
- c. Prohibitions. It is unlawful for recreational fishermen to take or possess winter flounder taken from the Gulf of Maine Groundfish Management Area or Southern New England Groundfish Management Area except during the open fishing seasons.

(12) Exceptions.

- (a) Multispecies Groundfish Except Winter Flounder. Vessels with federal permits allowing the taking of multispecies groundfish from federal waters may possess and land more than the state possession limit provided said fish were lawfully taken from federal waters.