

Table 3- Summary of Gulf of Maine cod recreational catch performance and federal management (fishing years 2010–2018).

Fishing Year	Sub-Annual Catch Limit (mt)	Catch (mt)	Percent of catch limit taken (%)	Minimum Size (inches)	Bag Limit Fish per angler - daily	Season Open	Season Closed	Additional Measures/Notes
2010	2,673	1506.9	56.4	24	10	5/1/10 to 10/31/10 and 4/16/11 to 4/30/11	11/1/10 to 4/15/11	First year of sub-ACL 33.7% of ACL Groundfish Regulations: Only one line per angler, and Fillets landed by private recreational and charter/party vessels must have at least 2 sq. inches (5.08 sq. cm) of contiguous skin that allows for the ready identification of the fish species. Such fillets are required to be from legal-sized fish, but the fillets themselves would not need to meet the minimum size requirements in the regulations.
2011	2,824	1640.3	58.1	24	10	5/1/11 to 10/31/11 and 4/16/12 to 4/30/12	11/1/11 to 4/15/12	First Year: Gulf of Maine (Whaleback) Cod Spawning Protection Area: From April 1 through June 30 of each year, all recreational vessels, including private recreational and charter/party vessels, may only use pelagic hook-and-line gear, as defined below, when fishing in the Whaleback Cod Spawning Protection Area. ¹

¹ **Pelagic hook-and-line gear** is defined as handline or rod and reel gear that is designed to fish for, or that is being used to fish for, pelagic species. No portion of this gear may be operated in contact with the bottom at any time.

Possession Restrictions: Any vessel fishing in the Gulf of Maine Whaleback Cod Spawning Protection Area, or the Winter Massachusetts Bay Spawning Protection Area, including pelagic hook-and-line gear by recreational vessels, is prohibited from possessing or retaining regulated species or ocean pout from April 1 through June 30 of each year.
Transiting: Recreational vessels are allowed to transit the Gulf of Maine Cod Spawning Protection Area, and Winter Massachusetts Bay Spawning Protection Area provided all gear is stowed in accordance with the regulations.

Fishing Year	Sub-Annual Catch Limit (mt)	Catch (mt)	Percent of catch limit taken (%)	Minimum Size (inches)	Bag Limit Fish per angler - daily	Season Open	Season Closed	Additional Measures/Notes
2012	2,215	937.4	42.3	19	9	5/1/12 to 10/31/12 and 4/16/13 to 4/30/13	11/1/12 to 4/15/13	
2013	486	639.3	131.5	19	9	5/1/13 to 10/31/13 and 4/16/14 to 4/30/14	11/1/13 to 4/15/14	
2014	486	623.3	128.3	21	9	5/1/14 to 8/31/14 and 4/15/14 to 4/30/14	9/1/14 to 4/14/15	Replaced by interim action on 11/15/14
				n/a	0	closed	11/15/14 to 4/30/15	2014 interim action: Seasonal 30-minute block closures, no recreational gear capable of catching groundfish in closures
2015	121	84.5	69.8	n/a	0	Closed year-round		Interim action Seasonal closures removed on 5/1/16
2016	157	280.9	178.9	24	1	8/1/16 to 9/30/16	5/1/16 to 7/31/16 and 10/1/16 to 4/30/17	
2017	157			24	1	8/1/17 to 9/30/17	5/1/17 to 7/31/17	Replaced by final rule effective on 7/27/17

Fishing Year	Sub-Annual Catch Limit (mt)	Catch (mt)	Percent of catch limit taken (%)	Minimum Size (inches)	Bag Limit Fish per angler - daily	Season Open	Season Closed	Additional Measures/Notes
		245.4	156.3	n/a	0	Closed year-round	and 10/1/18 to 4/30/18	
2018	220			n/a	0	Closed year-round		First Year: Winter Massachusetts Bay Spawning Protection Area: From November 1 through January 31 of each year, all recreational vessels, including private recreational and charter/party vessels, may only use pelagic hook-and-line gear, as defined below, when fishing in the Winter Massachusetts Bay Spawning Protection Area. ¹
2019	220			n/a	0	Closed year-round		Previous year's regulations stay in place unless replaced through Council/NMFS recreational management measure process