

collection is contained in Section 335 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

*Total Annual Burden:* 49 hours.

*Total Annual Cost:* None.

*Privacy Act Impact Assessment:* No impacts.

*Nature and Extent of Confidentiality:* Although the Commission does not believe that any confidential information will need to be disclosed in order to comply with the information collection requirements, applicants are free to request that materials or information submitted to the Commission be withheld from public inspection. (See 47 CFR 0.459).

*Needs and Uses:* In 2019, the Commission adopted new rules governing the delivery and form of carriage election notices. Electronic Delivery of MVPD Communications, Modernization of Media Regulation Initiative, MB Docket Nos. 17–105, 17–317, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 19–69, 2019 WL 3065517 (rel. Jul. 11, 2019). Pursuant to that decision, the public file obligations of DBS providers were slightly modified. Therefore, the following information collection requirement needs review and approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB):

47 CFR 25.701(f)(6)(i)(D) requires that each satellite carrier shall provide an up-to-date email address for carriage election notice submissions and an up-to-date phone number for carriage-related questions. Each satellite carrier is responsible for the continuing accuracy and completeness of the information furnished. The satellite

carrier must respond to questions from broadcasters as soon as is reasonably possible.

Federal Communications Commission.

**Marlene Dortch,**

*Secretary.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**50 CFR Part 648**

[Docket No. 181203999–9503–02]

**RTID 0648–XX044**

**Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Possession and Trip Limit Increases for the Common Pool Fishery**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Temporary rule; inseason adjustment.

**SUMMARY:** This action increases the possession and trip limits of Georges Bank cod, Gulf of Maine cod, Gulf of Maine haddock, Cape Cod/Gulf of Maine yellowtail flounder, American plaice, and witch flounder for Northeast multispecies common pool vessels for the remainder of the 2019 fishing year. This action will provide the common

pool fishery greater opportunity to harvest, but not exceed, the annual quotas for these stocks.

**DATES:** These possession and trip limit adjustments are effective March 23, 2020, through April 30, 2020.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Spencer Talmage, Fishery Management Specialist, 978–281–9232.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The regulations at § 648.86(o) authorize the Regional Administrator to adjust the possession and trip limits for common pool vessels in order to help avoid overharvest or underharvest of the common pool quotas.

Based on most recent catch information, the common pool fishery has caught low amounts of the following species relative to the annual quotas for each of these stocks (Table 1): Georges Bank (GB) cod, Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod, GOM haddock, Cape Cod (CC)/GOM yellowtail flounder, American plaice, and witch flounder. At the current rate of fishing, we project that the common pool fishery will not fully harvest the annual quotas for these stocks by the end of the 2019 fishing year. Providing vessels an opportunity to possess and land greater amounts of catch should provide greater incentive to fish and more opportunity to catch available quota. Based on our review of past fishing effort, we project that increases in the possession and trip limit for these stocks should provide additional fishing opportunities and flexibility to catch available quota while ensuring that the common pool does not exceed its annual quotas.

TABLE 1—SUMMARY OF COMMON POOL CATCH

Stock	FY 2019 catch (mt)	Sub-ACL (mt)	Percent caught
GB cod .....	1.4	53.8	2.5
GOM cod .....	4.7	10.9	43.1
GOM haddock .....	6.9	96.1	7.1
CC/GOM yellowtail flounder .....	4.5	21.4	21
American plaice .....	3.8	31.4	12.2
Witch flounder .....	2.6	23.1	11.2

Effective March 23, 2020, until April 30, 2020, NMFS increases the

possession and trip limits summarized in Tables 2 and 3.

TABLE 2—PREVIOUS POSSESSION AND TRIP LIMITS

Stock	A days-at-sea	Handgear A	Handgear B	Small vessel category
GB cod .....	250 lb (113.4 kg) per DAS, up to 500 lb (226.8 kg) per trip.	250 lb (113.4 kg) per trip	25 lb (11.3 kg) per trip ....	250 lb (113.4 kg) per trip.
GOM cod .....	50 lb (22.7 kg) per DAS, up to 100 lb (45.4 kg) per trip.	50 lb (22.7 kg) per trip ....	25 lb (11.3 kg) per trip ....	50 lb (22.7 kg) per trip.

TABLE 2—PREVIOUS POSSESSION AND TRIP LIMITS—Continued

Stock	A days-at-sea	Handgear A	Handgear B	Small vessel category
GOM haddock .....	500 lb (226.8 kg) per DAS, up to 1,000 lb (453.6 kg) per trip.		500 lb (226.8 kg) per trip.	
CC/GOM yellowtail flounder.	750 lb (340.2 kg) per DAS, up to 1,500 lb (680.4 kg) per trip.		750 lb (340.2 kg) per trip.	
American plaice .....	750 lb (340.2 kg) per DAS, up to 1,500 lb (680.4 kg) per trip.		750 lb (340.2 kg) per trip.	
Witch flounder .....		600 lb (272.2 kg) per trip.		

**Note:** The Small Vessel Category trip limit of 300 lb (136 kg) of cod, yellowtail flounder, and haddock combined remains in place.

TABLE 3—NEW POSSESSION AND TRIP LIMITS

Stock	A days-at-sea	Handgear A	Handgear B	Small vessel category
GB cod .....	500 lb (226.8 kg) per DAS, up to 1,000 lb (453.6 kg) per trip.	500 lb (226.8 kg) per trip	25 lb (11.3 kg) per trip ....	300 lb (136.1 kg) per trip.
GOM cod .....	100 lb (45.4 kg) per DAS, up to 200 lb (90.7 kg) per trip.	100 lb (45.4 kg) per trip ..	25 lb (11.3 kg) per trip ....	100 lb (45.4 kg) per trip.
GOM haddock .....	1,500 lb (680.4 kg) per DAS, up to 3,000 lb (1,360.8 kg) per trip.	1,500 lb (680.4 kg) per trip		300 lb (136.1 kg) per trip.
CC/GOM yellowtail flounder.	1,000 lb (453.6 kg) per DAS, up to 2,000 lb (907.2 kg) per trip.	1,000 lb (453.6 kg) per trip		300 lb (136.1 kg) per trip.
American plaice .....	1,500 lb (680.4 kg) per DAS, up to 3,000 lb (1,360.8 kg) per trip.	1,500 lb (680.4 kg) per trip.		
Witch flounder .....		1,200 lb (544.3 kg) per trip.		

Weekly quota monitoring reports for the common pool fishery can be found on our website at: <https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/ro/fso/reports/h/nemultispecies.html>. We will continue to monitor common pool catch through vessel trip reports, dealer-reported landings, VMS catch reports, and other available information and, if necessary, we will make additional adjustments to common pool management measures.

#### Classification

This action is required by 50 CFR part 648 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA, finds good cause pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) and 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) to waive prior notice and the opportunity for public comment and the 30-day delayed effectiveness period because this action relieves possession and landing restrictions, and delayed implementation would be

impracticable and contrary to the public interest.

The regulations at § 648.86(o) authorize the Regional Administrator to adjust the possession and trip limits for common pool vessels in order to help avoid overharvest or underharvest of the common pool quotas. The available analysis indicates that the increased possession and trip limit adjustments for these stocks should help the fishery achieve the optimum yields (OY) for each stock. Any delay in this action would limit the benefits to common pool vessels that the increased landing and possession limits are intended to provide.

The time necessary to provide for prior notice and comment, and a 30-day delay in effectiveness, would keep NMFS from implementing the necessary possession and trip limit before the end of the fishing year on April 30, 2020, which could prevent the fishery from achieving OY and cause negative

economic impacts to the common pool fishery. This would undermine management objectives of the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan and cause unnecessary negative economic impacts to the common pool fishery. The public received prior notice and an opportunity to comment on the Regional Administrator's exercise of this authority. The fishing industry participants have experienced these adjustments and have become accustomed to this process. There is additional good cause to waive the delayed effective period because this action relieves restrictions on fishing vessels by increasing a trip limit.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: March 19, 2020.

**Hélène M.N. Scalliet,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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