



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
NORTHEAST REGION  
55 Great Republic Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

SEP 23 2011

Rip Cunningham, Acting Chairman  
New England Fishery Management Council  
50 Water Street  
Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950

Dear Rip:

As you are aware, the regulations require that I evaluate recreational catch at the end of the fishing year (FY), and determine if any of the recreational sub-annual catch limits (ACLs) were exceeded. FY 2010 recreational catch data recently became available, and we have completed recreational catch estimates for Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod and GOM haddock, which are currently the only stocks with a recreational allocation. Attached are the FY 2010 recreational catch estimates by wave period for these two stocks.

For FY 2010, approximately 62 percent of the GOM cod recreational sub-ACL was harvested, and approximately 122 percent of the recreational sub-ACL for GOM haddock was harvested. When there is an overage of a recreational sub-ACL (such as with GOM haddock in this case), the regulations require that I develop accountability measures (AMs), after I consult with the Council, to prevent the recreational fishery from exceeding its sub-ACL in the future. AMs identified by the Council in Amendment 16 include adjustments to the fishing season, possession limits, or minimum fish sizes. The regulations also specify that, if possible, final measures should be published in the Federal Register by January to ensure the AMs are in place by the end of FY 2011. This letter, therefore, is to request that the Council provide input to me on its preferred AMs for GOM haddock.

Recreational catch estimates for other stocks, which do not have a recreational allocation, will be included in our updated FY 2010 year-end catch estimates. Updated FY 2010 year-end catch estimates are expected to be available by the end of September.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul  
Regional Administrator

Attachment



**Fishing Year 2010  
Gulf of Maine (GOM) Cod and GOM Haddock  
Recreational Harvest**

MRFSS Wave	GOM Cod					
	Wave Harvest			Cumulative Harvest		
	mt	lb	% of sub-ACL	mt	lb	% of sub-ACL
2010 Wave 3	1,007.6	2,221,378	37.7	1,007.6	2,221,378	37.7
2010 Wave 4	302.3	666,457	11.3	1,309.9	2,887,835	49.0
2010 Wave 5	250.1	551,376	9.4	1,560.0	3,439,211	58.4
2010 Wave 6	7.5	16,535	0.3	1,567.5	3,455,746	58.6
2011 Wave 1	0.0	0	0.0	1,567.5	3,455,746	58.6
2011 Wave 2	86.5	190,700	3.2	1,654.0	3,646,446	61.9

MRFSS Wave	GOM Haddock					
	Wave Harvest			Cumulative Harvest		
	mt	lb	% of sub-ACL	mt	lb	% of sub-ACL
2010 Wave 3	192.7	424,831	59.5	192.7	424,831	59.5
2010 Wave 4	89.4	197,093	27.6	282.1	621,924	87.1
2010 Wave 5	60.5	133,380	18.7	342.6	755,304	105.7
2010 Wave 6	0.1	220	0.0	342.7	755,524	105.8
2011 Wave 1	0	0	0.0	342.7	755,524	105.8
2011 Wave 2	53.6	118,168	16.5	396.3	873,692	122.3