

Ethical Angler video released by NOAA Fisheries

NOAA has a new web site created to celebrate “the beauty and mystery of the ocean realm captured on video around the globe.” This video-intense, and visually appealing site, has many video stories on ocean life, but above and below the sea, climate change, ocean storms, discovering secrets of the ocean floor, and much more.



One of the videos recently released is “Ethical Angler”, a two minute production that everyone should watch. It can be found online at <http://oceantoday.noaa.gov/ethicalangler/>

The commentary of the video follows:



In the U.S., fishing is a national pastime. Nearly 12 million people call themselves saltwater anglers. And marine fishing is more than a hobby – this sport contributes \$56 billion a year to the U.S. economy and supports 364,000 jobs. But whether you fish for the skill or the thrill of the catch, following sustainable and ethical practices will help ensure this sport is around for future generations.

- The number one principle for all anglers: Value and respect the ocean and all living things in it.
- Dispose of trash and old gear properly and never dump waste on land or in the water. If we don't take care of the ocean, who will?
- Treat other anglers, boaters, and property owners with respect.
- And learn the catch limits and size restrictions for each season, before you cast your reel.
- Plan your release in advance and use appropriate tools like dehookers and long-nose pliers.
- Use circle and barbless hooks to help reduce injury to fish.
- Remove all hooks and lines if you accidentally hook a seabird. And do not harm marine mammals no matter what the circumstance.
- Keep no more fish than you need to eat, and never wastefully discard fish that you catch.

By being an Ethical Angler, you can set an example for others and help preserve this sport for your kids and grandkids to enjoy.

Check out the Ocean Today web site at <http://oceantoday.noaa.gov/>



Gulf of Maine recreational fishing changes announced

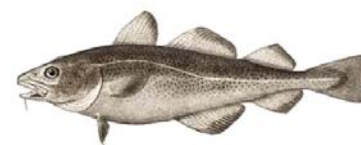
On April 21, NOAA Fisheries announced that beginning on May 1 new minimum fish sizes, daily per angler bag limits, and fishing seasons would be effective for Gulf of Maine (GOM) recreational cod and haddock fishermen.

The measures are applicable for the GOM regulated mesh area. These measures will remain in place for the 2014 fishing year (May 1, 2014, to April 30, 2015) or until replaced by other measures. If measures are changed at a later date, an additional bulletin will be issued and widely distributed.

2014 Gulf of Maine Recreational Measures

Cod:

- The minimum fish size increases to 21 inches.
- The daily per angler bag limit is not changing and remains 9 fish per day.
- Possession prohibited (closed season) increases by 2 months: now September 1, 2014 - April 15, 2015. Possession of cod in the GOM regulated mesh area is permitted May 1- August 30, 2014, and April 15-30, 2015.



Haddock:

- The minimum fish size is not changing and remains 21 inches.
- The daily per angler bag limit is decreasing from an unlimited amount to 3 fish per day.
- Possession prohibited (closed season) increases by 4 months: September 1-November 30, 2014, and March 1-April 30, 2015. Possession of haddock in the GOM regulated mesh area is permitted May 1- August 30, 2014, and December 1, 2014-February 28, 2015.



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