

Great day on the water.. and fresh tuna steaks in the freezer!

by
**Paul
Boutiette**



On Thursday, July 1, I took advantage of the "window" of weather to head out 24 miles to The Gully for tuna. My wife Pauline and had never put a tuna on the deck of Miss Pauline, our 28' Parker, so we needed to take the window as the news was that they were biting at The Gully.

I say window as it was the best forecast all week, but with seas forecast to be 3-4 feet, that turned out to actually be 4-5 foot swells all day, it was the heaviest seas I have fished in for years. It was nice weather with a hot sun, but huge swells.

We left the dock at 9:00 AM and arrived at The Gully at 10:30 AM. We trolled until 2:45 PM, seeing at least 25 sightings of whales (2 sightings were full straight up amazing breaches of what looked like humpbacks) and literally several hundred of bottlenose dolphins that pleasantly harassed us all day.

I feared catching a bottlenose dolphin on our lures as they were underfoot, but I asked over the radio and was assured they would not take bait. After catching a minke whale last year that took a cod I had on the line, I was leery. Fortunately none bit.



At 2:45 PM, as we were mulling picking up and heading to Sharks Ledge for cod on the way back, the pole took a dive and we were on! Clicking reel and "Wicked Tuna"! Boy the fish fought like hell!

I was grateful to have a two-speed reel as I could not crank him on high speed, but clicking in the low speed worked perfectly.

I cranked him to the boat and the tuna skillfully avoided the net! Finally I got him in the net and boated him only to see him spit the hook while on the deck. Whew! That was close!

Now to report my catch to the HMS folks.

The tuna measured 29 inches and weighed 23 pounds!

Thanks to fellow member **Dick Pastore** for giving us the lead that tuna was hot at the Gully! We never would have gone if Dick had not shared this info. Much appreciated Dick!



NOAA FISHERIES | Greater Atlantic Region
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

NOAA Updates Cod, Haddock Regulations

NOAA Fisheries is announcing that current Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod and haddock recreational measures will remain in place for the remainder of fishing year 2021, which ends April 30, 2022.

The recreational fishery for GOM cod and haddock is managed under the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (Plan). The Plan includes a proactive recreational accountability



measure, which allows the Regional Administrator, in consultation with the New England Fishery Management Council, to develop recreational management measures for the fishing year to ensure that the recreational quotas are achieved, but not exceeded. We project that current measures for GOM cod and haddock should prevent the recreational fishery's quotas from being exceeded.

After consultation with the Council, Gulf of Maine cod and haddock management measures set in 2020 will remain in place for 2021.

The 2021 measures are shown in the table below.

	HADDOCK			COD			
	Possession Limit	Minimum Size	Open Season	Possession Limit	Minimum Size	Open Season Private	Open Season For Hire
2021 Measures	15	17"	May 1-Feb 28 Apr 1-Apr 30	1	21"	Sep 15 - 30 Apr 1 - 14	Sep 8 - Oct 7 Apr 1 - 15