



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

April 26, 2006

SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE

Dear Northeast (NE) Multispecies Limited Access Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you of corrections to the April 10, 2006, letter sent to you regarding the NE multispecies emergency management action that will become effective on May 1, 2006. The original April 10, 2006, letter, this correction letter, and a summary of answers to commonly-asked questions about this emergency action are available on the Northeast Regional Office website at: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/hotnews/multiemer/>.

The emergency management measures become effective on May 1, 2006, and will remain in effect for at least 180 days until such time as measures included in Framework Adjustment (FW) 42 to the NE Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and FW 3 to the Monkfish FMP, if approved, are implemented, or unless you are otherwise informed.

DIFFERENTIAL DAYS-AT-SEA (DAS) COUNTING

The April 10, 2006, letter included an inaccurate description and example of how differential counting of Category A NE multispecies DAS would affect a vessel's monkfish-only DAS allocation. This letter clarifies that a vessel's monkfish-only DAS allocation will be increased by 0.286 monkfish-only DAS for every Category A NE multispecies DAS charged (not used) at the differential DAS counting rate of 1.4:1 when fishing any part of a trip outside of the U.S./Canada Management Area.

Example:

- If a monkfish Category C vessel has an annual allocation of 40 monkfish DAS and 30 NE multispecies DAS, the vessel has an annual allocation of 10 monkfish-only DAS. If this vessel uses 10 NE multispecies DAS outside of the U.S./Canada Management Area, the vessel would actually be charged 14 NE multispecies DAS (10 DAS x 1.4), and its monkfish-only DAS would be increased by 4 DAS (14 DAS x 0.286), for a total of 14 monkfish-only DAS.

REGULAR B DAS PROGRAM

Because participating NE multispecies trawl vessels are required to use a haddock separator trawl and abide by restrictive trip limits to ensure that this gear is performing as intended, this letter clarifies the trip limits as follows:

- For participating NE multispecies vessels issued a monkfish Category C, D, F, or E permit and fishing on a Regular B DAS under this program with trawl gear, possession of lobsters is prohibited and possession of flounders (all species, combined), monkfish (**whole weight**), and skates is limited to 500 lb each;



- For participating NE multispecies vessels issued a monkfish Category C, D, F, or E permit and fishing on a Regular B DAS under this program with gear other than trawl gear, the current monkfish incidental catch limits will apply. The incidental catch limits vary depending on the area fished. In the Northern Fishery Management Area (NFMA), that limit is 400 lb **tail weight** per DAS, or 50 percent of the total weight of fish on board, whichever is less; in the Southern Fishery Management Area (SFMA), that limit is 50 lb **tail weight** per DAS).

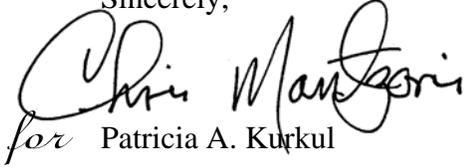
In the April 10, 2006, permit holder letter, Table 3 did not accurately describe the monkfish trip limits. A revised Table 3 is included below:

Permit Category	Area	Regular B DAS Landing Limits		Category A DAS Landing Limits	
		Trawl Gear	Non-Trawl Gear	Trawl Gear	Non-Trawl Gear
C or D	NFMA	500 lb/trip (whole weight)	400 lb/DAS, or 50% of the total weight of fish on board, whichever is less	No Trip Limit	
	SFMA	500 lb/trip (whole weight) or 50 lb/DAS (tail weight), whichever is less	50 lb/DAS	50 lb/DAS	50 lb/DAS
F	NFMA	500 lb/trip (whole weight)	400 lb/DAS, or 50% of the total weight of fish on board, whichever is less		
	SFMA	500 lb/trip (whole weight) or 50 lb/DAS (tail weight), whichever is less	50 lb/DAS	300 lb/DAS	50 lb/DAS
E	NFMA	500 lb/trip (whole weight)	400 lb/DAS, or 50% of the total weight of fish on board, whichever is less		
	SFMA	500 lb/trip (whole weight) or 50 lb/DAS (tail weight), whichever is less	50 lb/DAS		

Table 3: Monkfish Trip Limits (lb is in tail weight, unless otherwise specified) for Vessels Issued Category C, D, F, or E Monkfish Permits and Fishing in the Regular B DAS Program.

This letter is only a summary of the corrections to the information contained in the April 10, 2006, permit holder letter. This letter should not be considered as a substitute for the actual regulations. To read these regulations in their entirety, you are encouraged to obtain a complete copy by calling (978) 281-9315, or by accessing the Northeast Regional Office's web page at: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>.

If you have any questions regarding this correction letter, please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315.

Sincerely,

 for Patricia A. Kurkul
 Regional Administrator