



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

June 20, 2007

Small Entity Compliance Guide

Dear Limited Access Northeast (NE) Multispecies Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you that **the Eastern U.S./Canada Area is now closed to limited access NE multispecies days-at-sea (DAS) vessels**. This action is being taken in accordance with the NE multispecies regulations at 50 CFR 648.85(a)(3)(iv)(D) to prevent the Georges Bank (GB) cod total allowable catch (TAC) from being exceeded during the 2007 fishing year and to minimize the discards of undersized haddock.

- Vessels that **have not** yet departed on a trip, declared their intent to fish in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area (VMS Area Code 2), and crossed the VMS demarcation line, **may not** declare their intent to fish in, enter (except transiting), or fish in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area, for the remainder of the fishing year, or until otherwise notified.
- Vessels that **have** already declared their intent to fish in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area (VMS Area Code 2) through VMS, departed on a trip, and crossed the demarcation line, **may** finish their trip and retain and land any GB cod caught from the Eastern U.S./Canada Area on this trip, consistent with existing regulations.
- Vessels that are currently declared into the Eastern U.S./Canada Area, and have already “flexed out” or “flexed west” to fish inside and outside of the Eastern U.S. Canada Area on the same trip may not reenter the Eastern U.S./Canada Area. Any vessel that leaves the Eastern U.S./Canada Area is prohibited from reentering the Eastern U.S./Canada Area for the remainder of the fishing year, or until otherwise notified.

This area may be reopened at a later date during the 2007 fishing year to provide access to the shared U.S./Canada stocks of cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder, pursuant to the regulations at § 648.85(a)(3)(iv)(D), should it be determined that the area could be reopened without resulting in exceeding the GB cod TAC for the 2007 fishing year.

This small entity compliance guide complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996.

This notice is authorized by the Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Region.

