



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

March 2, 2007

Small Entity Compliance Guide

Dear Limited Access Northeast (NE) Multispecies Permit Holder:

Effective March 5, 2007, NE multispecies days-at-sea (DAS) vessels fishing with trawl gear in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area may fish with either a haddock separator trawl or a flounder trawl. Also effective March 5, 2007, through April 30, 2007, the Georges Bank (GB) yellowtail flounder trip limit is reduced from 10,000 lb/trip to 5,000 lb/trip for all NE multispecies DAS vessels not using a haddock separator trawl that have declared into the Eastern U.S./Canada Area. Vessels electing to use a haddock separator trawl must remain compliant with the gear performance incentives (trip limits) required for the haddock separator trawl. The Western U.S./Canada Area is unaffected by this action.

- **NE multispecies DAS vessels fishing with trawl gear in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area may begin using a flounder trawl net at 0001 hours on March 5, 2007, and may subsequently land up to 5,000 lb of GB yellowtail flounder.**
- **NE multispecies DAS vessels fishing with non-trawl gear that declare into the Eastern U.S./Canada Area and cross the demarcation line prior to 0001 hours on March 5, 2007, may continue to fish and may land up to 10,000 lb of GB yellowtail flounder for that trip. All subsequent trips will be subject to a trip limit of 5,000 lb for GB yellowtail flounder.**

NMFS is authorized to modify gear requirements and trip limits in the U.S./Canada Management Area to prevent under-harvesting the total allowable catch (TAC) allocation of GB haddock, GB yellowtail flounder, and GB cod. Based upon Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) reports and other available information, the current rate of harvest will result in the under-harvest of the GB haddock, GB yellowtail flounder, and GB cod TACs for the 2006 fishing year (May 1, 2006 - April 30, 2007). The haddock separator trawl requirement is being removed to increase opportunities for the fishery to fully harvest these TACs. To reduce the risk of a derby fishery for GB yellowtail flounder and reduce the likelihood of attaining the GB yellowtail flounder TAC prior to the end of the fishing year (causing a premature closure of the Eastern U.S./Canada Area), NMFS is reducing the GB yellowtail flounder trip limit from 10,000 lb to 5,000 lb for all limited access NE multispecies DAS vessels not using a haddock separator trawl and declared into the Eastern U.S./Canada Area.

GB haddock, GB yellowtail flounder, and GB cod landings will continue to be closely monitored. Should 100 percent of any TAC allocation be projected to be harvested, the Eastern U.S./Canada Area will be closed. The rate of harvest of the TACs in the U.S./Canada Management Area is updated weekly on the internet at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>.

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.

