



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

December 22, 2008

### Small Entity Compliance Guide

Dear Limited Access Northeast (NE) Multispecies Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you that NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is increasing the Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod landing limit for the remainder of the 2008 fishing year. **As of 0001 hours December 23, 2008, The Eastern GB Cod Landing Limit Is Increased To 1,000 Lb Per Day-At-Sea (DAS), Or Any Part Of A DAS, Up To 10,000 Lb Per Trip For Limited Access NE Multispecies DAS Vessels Fishing Exclusively In The Eastern U.S./Canada Area (Area 2).** Vessels that have declare an Area 2 trip through the VMS and have not yet finished their trip by crossing the VMS demarcation line by this time may possess and land Eastern GB cod up to the new landing limits.

NMFS is authorized to make changes to the Eastern GB cod landing limit in the U.S./Canada Management Area to prevent under-harvesting the total allowable catch (TAC) allocation. Based upon Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) reports and other available information, the current rate of harvest will result in the under-harvest of the Eastern GB cod TAC for the 2008 fishing year (May 1, 2008 - April 30, 2009). Therefore, the current Eastern GB cod landing limit of 500 lb per DAS, or any part of a DAS, up to 5,000 lb per trip when fishing in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area is being increased to 1,000 lb per DAS, or any part of a DAS, up to 10,000 lb per trip. This action will provide additional opportunities to fully harvest the Eastern GB cod TAC.

Please note: Vessels that declare an Area 2 trip and then "Flex-Out" or "Flex-West" to take advantage to fishing opportunities in other areas are bound by the more restrictive possession limits of the area they flex into, and therefore can not take advantage of this increased landing limit.

Eastern GB cod landings will continue to be closely monitored. Further inseason adjustments to increase, or decrease, the trip limit will be considered based upon updated catch data and projections. Should 100 percent of the TAC allocation for Eastern GB cod be projected to be harvested, the Eastern U.S./Canada Area would be closed to limited access NE multispecies DAS vessels for the remainder of the fishing year. The rate of harvest of the Eastern GB cod TAC 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.*

