



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

January 7, 2008

Small Entity Compliance Guide

Dear Limited Access Northeast (NE) Multispecies Permit Holder:

This letter provides further information about current regulations regarding the trip limit for Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod for vessels fishing in the GOM Differential Days-At-Sea (DAS) Area.

A vessel that has declared through the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) that it intends to fish under a NE multispecies Category A DAS for some or all of its trip in the GOM Differential DAS Area will have its DAS counted at the ratio of 2 to 1 for the entire trip.

The GOM cod trip limit when declared into the GOM Differential DAS Area is determined based on the actual time of a vessel's fishing trip (as recorded through the VMS). That is, a vessel fishing under a NE multispecies DAS may land up to 800 lb of GOM cod during the first 24-hour period after the vessel has started a trip. For trips longer than 24 hours, a vessel may land up to an additional 800 lb for each additional 24-hour period fished, or part of an additional 24-hour period fished.

Despite the fact that a vessel fishing in the GOM Differential DAS Area will be charged DAS at the ratio of 2 to 1, the GOM cod trip limit is not doubled, but remains as described above. For example, a vessel that fishes in the GOM Differential DAS Area for 22 hours (that is, 22 hours have elapsed between the time the vessel crosses the VMS Demarcation Line on its way out to fish, and the time the vessel crosses the VMS Demarcation Line on its way back to port) will be charged 44 hours of DAS (22 X 2), and the vessel may land up to 800 lb of GOM cod. If the vessel fished 26 hours in the GOM Differential DAS Area, it will be charged 52 hours of DAS (26 X 2), and the vessel may land up to 1,600 lb of GOM cod.

Please call the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281- 9315 if you have any questions regarding this letter, or the regulations.

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

