



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

December 22, 2008

Small Entity Compliance Guide

Dear Atlantic Herring Permit Holder:

This letter is to advise you that, effective 0001 hrs local time, December 24, 2008, vessels issued Federal permits for Atlantic herring may not fish for, catch, possess, or land more than 2,000 pounds of Atlantic herring in or from Area 1B per trip or calendar day through 2400 hours, December 31, 2008; except, vessels may transit or land herring in Area 1B with more than 2,000 lb of herring on board, provided such herring were not caught in Area 1B, and provided all fishing gear is stowed and not available for immediate use, as required by 50 CFR 648.23(b). This catch limit restriction will cease at 0001 hours, January 1, 2009, at which time the Period 1 Area 1B TAC for the 2009 Atlantic herring fishery will become available.

The regulations at 50 CFR 648.201 require the National Marine Fisheries Service to close the directed Atlantic herring fishery in Area 1B in the EEZ when the harvest of Atlantic herring is projected to reach 95 percent of the total allowable catch (TAC) allocated to that area. I have determined, based on best available data, that 95 percent of 9,700 mt in Area 1B TAC has been harvested.

You may also receive permit holder letters, including closure notices, by e-mail by clicking on "Permit Holder Letters" on our website at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>; or via fax by providing a fax number through a written request to the above address, or by faxing your request to 978-281-9135.¹

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

¹*This small entity compliance guide complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996.*

