



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

February 29, 2008

## **SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE**

Dear Federal Permit Holder:

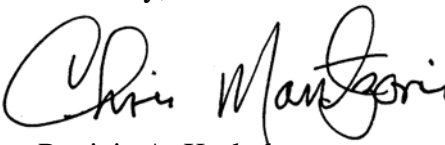
This letter is to inform you of the availability of a helpful **Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Question and Answer Guide** on the Northeast Regional Office's Fishing Industry Homepage: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/fishermen>. When on this page, click on the "Vessel Monitoring Systems" link, and look for the "VMS Q&A."

The VMS Question and Answer Guide was developed to assist vessel owners and operators, who are required, or choose, to use the VMS system, to better understand the VMS regulatory requirements by answering commonly asked questions regarding the operation of the VMS.

The Fishing Industry Homepage VMS link will also direct you to a helpful "quick reference guide" of contact information and operating requirements. You will also find a list of all the VMS activity codes and their meanings, and a VMS User Instruction Guide on operating your VMS.

If you have any questions regarding the operation of your VMS, please contact the Office of Law Enforcement at 978-281-9213. If you have any questions regarding the regulatory requirements of your VMS, please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at 978-281-9315.

Sincerely,

*for*   
Patricia A. Kurkul  
Regional Administrator

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

