



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

April 15, 2009

### 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 **closing the Eastern U.S./Canada Area on April 16, 2009 to limited access NE multispecies days-at-sea (DAS) vessels for the remainder of the 2008 fishing year.** This action is being taken in accordance with the NE multispecies regulations at 50 CFR 648.85(a)(3)(iv)(D) to prevent the Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod total allowable catch (TAC) from being exceeded during the 2008 fishing year. This closure applies to the whole of the Eastern U.S./Canada Area.

NE multispecies DAS vessels that have declared into the Eastern U.S./Canada Management Area, departed on a trip, and crossed the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) demarcation line to start their trip prior to 12:01 AM on April 16, 2009, may possess and land Eastern GB cod up to 500 lb per DAS, or any part of a DAS, up to 5,000 lb per trip, on that trip.

NMFS is authorized to make changes to the Eastern GB cod landing limit in the U.S./Canada Management Area to prevent under-harvest or over-harvest of the TAC allocation. Based upon VMS reports and other available information, the current rate of harvest will result in the harvest of the Eastern GB cod TAC before the end of the 2008 fishing year (April 30, 2009).

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.*

