



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

June 24, 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 June 26, 2009 to limited access NE multispecies days-at-sea (DAS) vessels for the remainder of the first quarter of the 2009 fishing year.** The 2009 Interim Rule, which became effective on May 1, 2009, postponed the opening of the Eastern U.S./Canada area for vessels fishing with trawl gear until August 1, 2009. Therefore, for the first quarter (May through July), vessels fishing with fixed gear were allowed access to the Eastern U.S./Canada Area, with an Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod total allowable catch (TAC) of 5 percent of the annual TAC (26.4 mt of 527 mt) during that period. 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 TAC specified for the first quarter of 2009 from being exceeded. 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 Area, departed on a trip, and crossed the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) demarcation line to start their trip prior to 12:01 AM on June 26, 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 first quarter Eastern GB cod TAC before the end of the first quarter of the 2009 fishing year (July 31, 2009).

The area will reopen to all limited access NE multispecies DAS vessels on August 1, 2009. Vessels can not declare or start a trip to the Eastern U.S./Canada Area until 12:01 AM on August 1, 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.*

