



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 20, 2010

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, effective immediately, to limited access NE multispecies days-at-sea (DAS) vessels and prohibiting the harvest, possession, and landing of GB yellowtail flounder by all federally-permitted vessels within the entire U.S./Canada Management Area for the remainder of the 2009 fishing year (through April 30, 2010).**

This action is being taken in accordance with the NE multispecies regulations at 50 CFR 648.85(a)(3)(iv)(C)(3) to prevent the fishing year (FY) 2009 Georges Bank (GB) yellowtail flounder total allowable catch (TAC) from being exceeded during FY 2009.

NE multispecies DAS vessels that have declared their intent to fish exclusively in the U.S./Canada Management Area, departed on a trip, and crossed the vessel monitoring system (VMS) demarcation line to start their trip prior to 1615 hr April 20, 2010, may possess and land yellowtail flounder up to 5,000 lb per trip, on that trip.

NMFS is authorized to make changes to the yellowtail flounder 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 GB yellowtail flounder TAC before the end of FY 2009 on April 30, 2010.

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.

