



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

October 18, 2010

Small Entity Compliance Guide

Subject: Common Pool Handgear A (HA) Trip Limit Reduction for Cod

Dear Common Pool Northeast (NE) Multispecies HA Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you that, as of 0001 hours October 21, 2010, the trip limit for cod is reduced to 50 lb/trip for vessels fishing in the common pool fishery under a NE multispecies HA category permit. This trip limit applies to Gulf of Maine (GOM) and Georges Bank (GB) cod. NE multispecies common pool HA vessels that have declared a trip through the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System or Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and started the trip prior to 0001 hours October 21, 2010, will be subject to the previous 100 lb/trip cod landing limit for that trip.

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is authorized to make changes to the trip limits in the common pool fishery to prevent over- and under-harvesting the common pool sub-annual catch limit (sub-ACL). On July 30, 2010, NMFS reduced the GOM cod trip limit for NE multispecies common pool vessels fishing under a day-at-sea (DAS) to 200 lb per DAS up to 1,000 lb per trip, from the original 800 lb per DAS up to 4,000 lb per trip limit. On September 27, 2010, NMFS again reduced the GOM cod trip limit to 100 lb per DAS up to 1,000 lb per trip.

The regulations at 50 CFR 648.82(b)(6) state that the HA cod trip limit (initially 300 lb/trip) for the GOM and Georges Bank (GB) "shall be adjusted proportionally to the trip limit for GOM cod (rounded up to the nearest 50 lb...)" for common pool DAS vessels. The current 100 lb/DAS landing limit represents an 87.5 percent reduction from the initial 800 lb/DAS limit. Therefore, the landing limit for common pool HA vessels for both GOM and GB stocks of cod should have been proportionally reduced to 50 lb/trip (300 lb/trip reduced by $87.5\% = 37.5$ lb/trip, rounded up to 50 lb/trip). In the September 27, 2010, action; however, this was inadvertently not addressed.

Should the common pool sub-ACL for any stock be exceeded by the end of FY 2010 (April 30, 2011), accountability measures would be put in place for FY 2011, beginning May 1, 2011. This could result in less common pool sub-ACL being available for that stock, and differential DAS counting in that stock area in FY 2011.

If a common pool sub-ACL is projected to be under-harvested by the end of FY 2010, in-season adjustments to increase the trip limit will be considered. The rates of harvest of all NE multispecies stocks are updated weekly on the internet at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

