



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

July 27, 2010

### **Small Entity Compliance Guide**

Subject: Northeast (NE) Multispecies Common Pool Vessels – Gulf of Maine (GOM) Cod Trip Limit Reduction and U.S./Canada Trawl Gear Restriction

Dear NE Multispecies Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you that NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is adjusting the common pool GOM cod landing limit and implementing gear restrictions in a portion of the U.S./Canada Management Area to reduce catch of Georges Bank (GB) yellowtail for the remainder of the 2010 fishing year (through April 30, 2011).

#### GOM Cod

As of 0001 hours July 30, 2010:

- The GOM cod landing limit is reduced to **200 lb per day-at-sea (DAS)**, or any part of a DAS, up to **1,000 lb per trip**, for limited access NE multispecies DAS vessels.
- The cod trip limit for Handgear A vessels is reduced proportionally to **75 lb per trip**.
- The cod trip limit for Handgear B vessels is reduced proportionally to **25 lb per trip**.
- The cod trip limit for Small Vessel (Category C) vessels is reduced to **75 lb per trip** (within the 300 lb combined limit for cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder)

NE multispecies DAS vessels that have declared into the GOM, departed on a trip, and crossed the VMS demarcation line to start a trip prior to 12:01 AM on July 30, 2010, may possess and land GOM cod up to 800 lb per DAS, up to 4,000 lb per trip on that trip. NMFS is authorized to make changes to the GOM cod landing limits to prevent under-harvest or over-harvest of the common pool sub-annual catch limit (ACL). Based upon Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) reports and other available information, the current rate of harvest would result in the harvest of the GOM cod common pool sub-ACL before the end of the 2010 fishing year (April 30, 2011).

GOM cod landings will continue to be closely monitored. Further inseason adjustments to increase or decrease the trip limit or implement differential DAS counting will be considered based upon updated catch data and projections. If 100% of the common pool sub-ACL for GOM cod is harvested, there will accountability measures (AMs) triggered for FY 2011, including differential DAS counting.



## GB Yellowtail Flounder

As of 0001 hours local July 30, 2010, NE multispecies common pool DAS vessels are prohibited from using, fishing with, or deploying trawl net gear, except for a haddock separator trawl or a Ruhle trawl, on any trip fishing:

- South of 41°40' N. latitude in the Western U.S./Canada Area (Area 4) (see Figure 1); or
- The Eastern U.S./Canada Area (Area 2), when it opens to trawl gear on August 1, 2010.

Detailed descriptions are available by calling the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315, or in the online version of this permit holder letter available at [www.nero.noaa.gov](http://www.nero.noaa.gov).

NE multispecies DAS vessels that have declared a trip through the VMS into the Western U.S./Canada Area south and started a trip by crossing the VMS demarcation line prior to 0001 hours July 30, 2010, may continue to use other legal trawl net gear in any part of the Western U.S./Canada Area for the duration of that trip.

A vessel that fishes on a NE multispecies DAS in the Western U.S./Canada Area south of 41°40' N. latitude or the Eastern U.S./Canada Area using a haddock separator trawl or Ruhle trawl for any part of a trip, may not fish with other trawl gear on that same trip, regardless of where the vessel fishes. Other trawl gear may be onboard the vessel, but must be stowed according to the regulations.

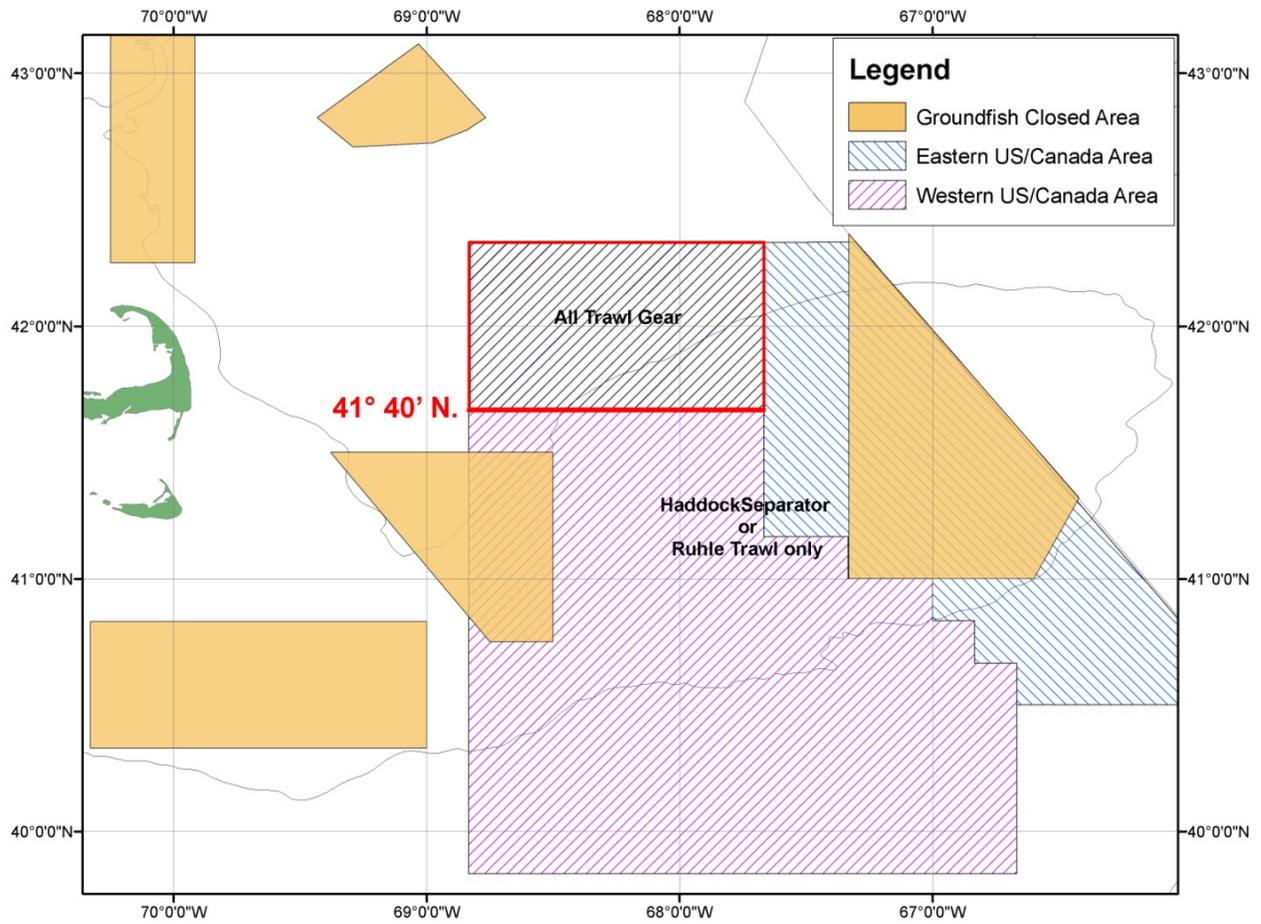
A vessel that harvests fish on a NE multispecies DAS in the Western U.S./Canada Area exclusively north of 41°40' N. latitude, may use other legal trawl gear. Such a vessel may transit the Western U.S./Canada Area south of this line, provided that all trawl gear is stowed according to the regulations.

Please note that a vessel that fishes with a haddock separator trawl or Ruhle trawl in the Western U.S./Canada Area south of 41°40' N. latitude or Eastern U.S./Canada Area is restricted to the gear performance possession limits at 50 CFR 648.85(a)(3)(iv)(D), for the entire trip, regardless of whether the vessel also fishes outside of these areas: Possession of flounders (all species combined), monkfish, and skates is limited to 500 lb (whole weight) each (i.e., no more than 500 lb of all flounders, no more than 500 lb of monkfish, and no more than 500 lb of skates), and possession of lobsters is prohibited. This is consistent with the gear performance possession limits that apply when a vessel uses a haddock separator trawl or a Ruhle trawl in the Regular B DAS Program or in the Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock Special Access Program. Possession limits for other species, and for vessels fishing with non-trawl gear (e.g., hook or gillnet gear), are unaffected by this action.

The rate of harvest of Eastern GB cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder TACs in the U.S./Canada Management Area are updated weekly on the internet at [www.nero.noaa.gov](http://www.nero.noaa.gov).

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.



**Figure 1.** Trawl gear requirements in the U.S./Canada Management Area (all other gears status quo).