



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

AUG 30 2010

SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE

Dear Northeast Skate Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you that, effective 0001 hours on September 3, 2010, fishing vessels issued a Federal open access skate permit may not possess or land more than the incidental limit of 500 lb of skate wings (1,135 lb whole weight) per trip for the remainder of the 2010 fishing year (through April 30, 2011).

Under Amendment 3 to the Northeast Skate Complex Fishery Management Plan, which became effective July 16, 2010 (75 FR 34049), the Regional Administrator must reduce the skate wing fishery possession limit when 80 percent of the annual total allowable landings (TAL) of skate wings is harvested, unless doing so would prevent the entire TAL from being attained. The skate wing TAL for the 2010 fishing year was specified at 20.302 million lb, and the initial skate wing possession limit was 5,000 lb wing weight (11,350 lb whole weight) (refer to the June 15, 2010 permit holder letter).

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service is projecting that 80 percent of the skate wing TAL has been harvested. Furthermore, without adjustment, there is a high probability that skate wing landings will exceed the TAL before the end of the fishing year. Therefore, in order to avoid quota overages that could negatively impact future skate wing fishery TALs, the skate wing trip limit is being reduced.

This adjustment does not apply to vessels participating in the skate bait fishery under the provisions of a valid Skate Bait Letter of Authorization. Weekly quota reports for the skate wing and bait fisheries may be found on the Northeast Regional Office website (www.nero.noaa.gov). Please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315 if you have any questions.

You may also receive permit holder letters, including closure notices, by e-mail by clicking on "Permit Holder Letters" on our website at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

'This small entity compliance guide complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996.

