



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Region
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276
www.nero.noaa.gov



JUL 18 2011

Dear Sector Member:

After balancing our concerns about funding an effective dockside monitoring program for fishing years 2011 and 2012 with concerns from industry regarding sector operating costs, NMFS has decided to redirect the funding that would have been spent on dockside monitoring to help defray sector costs for the fishing industry.

Effective immediately, dockside monitoring coverage levels will be reduced to 50 percent of trips that are not observed at-sea, and the dockside monitoring program will be phased out by September 18, 2011. Since the level of dockside monitoring is based on available Federal funding, dockside monitoring for fishing years 2011 and 2012 will no longer be required as of September 19, 2011. However, sectors can voluntarily elect to continue their dockside monitoring programs.

Currently, Amendment 16 to the NE Multispecies Fishery Management Plan requires dockside monitoring to be completely funded by the fishing industry beginning at the start of the 2013 fishing year; i.e., May 1, 2013. This requirement will remain unless amended by the Northeast Fishery Management Council in a future management action.

If you have any questions about this letter, current dockside monitoring requirements, or other regulations, please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315.

You may also receive permit holder letters by e-mail, including closure notices, by visiting our website and clicking on "Permit Holder Letters."

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

This small entity compliance guide complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Region.