



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
NORTHEAST REGION  
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## Northeast Multispecies Fishery Days-At-Sea Counting Rates for Fishing Year 2011 *Effective September 8, 2011*

We are adjusting the days-at-sea (DAS) counting rates for common pool vessels for fishing year (FY) 2011 based on updated FY 2010 catch information (Figure 1).

- The differential DAS rate for the Offshore Gulf of Maine (GOM) and Inshore Georges Bank (GB) Differential DAS areas is reduced to 1.2.
- The differential DAS rate for the Offshore GB Differential DAS Area will remain 1.3.

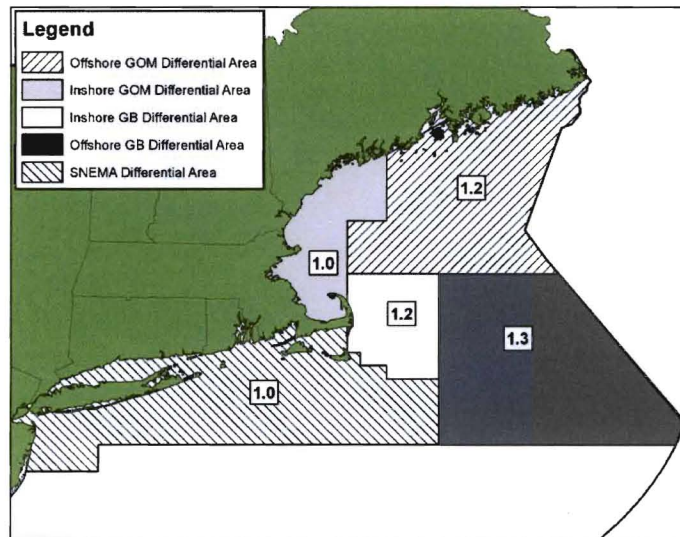


Figure 1. FY 2011 Differential DAS Rates

### Why are the DAS counting rates being adjusted?

In March 2011, we estimated that the FY 2010 common pool catch limit for witch flounder would be exceeded by 30 percent. Due to this overage, we implemented a 1.3 DAS counting rate on May 1, 2011, in the Offshore GOM, Inshore GB, and Offshore GB Differential DAS areas. Based on updated FY 2010 catch information, the witch flounder catch limit was only exceeded by 20 percent. So, the DAS counting rate is being reduced to 1.2 in the Offshore GOM and Inshore GB areas. Updated FY 2010 catch information also showed that the total catch limit for northern windowpane flounder was exceeded by 27 percent. The DAS counting rate will remain 1.3 in the Offshore GB area due to this overage.

### What if I have already fished in the Offshore GOM or Inshore GB areas in FY 2011?

If you fished in either the Offshore GOM or Inshore GB differential DAS areas since May 1, 2011, the lower rate of 1.2 was applied retroactively to all of your FY 2011 trips.

Future adjustments to the differential DAS rates for FY 2011 may be made. If you have any questions, please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at 978-281-9315.

*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.*

