



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

JAN 18 2011

Small Entity Compliance Guide

Subject: Pre-trip Notification System and Observer Requirements

Fisheries: Northeast (NE) Multispecies, Monkfish, Skate, Spiny Dogfish

Dear NE Multispecies Limited Access Permit Holder:

This letter is to remind NE multispecies limited access permit holders of the current observer notification requirements. To facilitate the deployment of observers, any owner or operator of a vessel issued a NE multispecies limited access permit that is fishing under a NE multispecies day-at-sea (DAS) or on a sector trip must notify the NE Fisheries Observer Program at least 48 hours before leaving port. This pre-trip notification can be made via the internet (<https://fish.nefsc.noaa.gov/PTNS>), by email (nefsc.ptns@noaa.gov), or telephone (508-495-2309). For a vessel planning trips shorter than 48 hours, the owner or operator may provide notification for multiple trips up to 9 days in advance, through the pre-trip notification system. This pre-trip observer notification replaces the previous 72-hour notification for vessels fishing in Special Access Programs, the U.S./Canada Management Area, or the Regular B DAS Program that was in effect prior to Amendment 16.

Please note that the pre-trip notification requirements pertain to all vessels declared into a NE multispecies DAS or a sector trip, regardless of the targeted species, such as on trips targeting monkfish or skate. For example, a vessel issued both a monkfish and a NE multispecies DAS permit, when fishing on a monkfish DAS, must use a NE multispecies DAS concurrently, subjecting the trip to observer and pre-trip notification requirements.

If you would like more information on the pre-trip notification system, including detailed instructions, please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978)-281-9315 or visit the Northeast Fisheries Science Center website at <http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/fsb/>.

Sincerely,

for Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

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

