



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

July 19, 2005

Small Entity Compliance Guide

Dear Limited Access Northeast (NE) Multispecies Permit Holder:

This letter clarifies the meaning and effect of requirements specified in a recent permit holder letter. On July 8, 2005, a letter was sent to you regarding the limitation of **trips to the Eastern U.S./Canada Area** by limited access NE multispecies days-at-sea (DAS) vessels to one per month (that was effective July 12), and the requirement for such vessels to use a haddock separator trawl when operating in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area, effective July 27, 2005.

Two aspects of the requirements explained in the July 8, 2005, letter are clarified as follows:

1) The requirement to fish with a haddock separator trawl in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area.

Although the July 8, 2005, letter stated that only NE multispecies DAS vessels fishing with a haddock separator trawl may fish in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area, the intent of this restriction is to require trawl vessels to utilize haddock separator trawl gear, but still allow the use of all other gear by NE multispecies DAS vessels. Thus, this letter is to inform you that all NE multispecies DAS vessels are allowed to fish in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area; however, trawl gear vessels must use a haddock separator trawl. As a reminder, all limited access NE multispecies DAS permit holders, regardless of gear type, are restricted to one trip per month into the Eastern U.S./Canada Area.

2) Stowage of trawl gear other than the haddock separator trawl when fishing in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area.

Prior to July 27, 2005, trawl vessels may fish with either a flounder net or a haddock separator, as described in the current regulations under 50 CFR 648.85(a)(3)(iii). As of July 27, 2005, limited access NE multispecies DAS trawl vessels may only fish with a haddock separator trawl in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area, but may keep a flounder net on board, as long as it is stowed in accordance with the regulations at 50 CFR 648.23(b).

This notice is authorized by the Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Region.

