



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

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## Small Entity Compliance Guide

Dear Limited Access Northeast (NE) Multispecies Permit Holder

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) is issuing this permit holder letter in order to inform you of your available days-at-sea (DAS) as they pertain to the DAS Leasing and Transfer Programs, and the Vessel Replacement Program.

### **DAS Leasing and Transfer Program**

Any NE multispecies DAS that are received through the DAS Leasing Program are not available for use by the Lessee (vessel receiving DAS) until the lease is officially processed by NOAA Fisheries Service. If the Lessee is conducting a fishing trip when the lease is processed by NOAA Fisheries Service, the leased DAS will not be available for use by the Lessee until the Lessee completes the fishing trip. When a vessel leaves the dock on a fishing trip, it may only fish the DAS that it has available at that point in time.

A vessel that has used more than its available DAS balance may not receive DAS through the DAS Leasing Program in order to correct for a DAS overage. For a vessel that has a negative DAS balance, a DAS leasing application will not be processed until the Office of Law Enforcement has completed an investigation of the negative balance and has determined that the DAS transaction may proceed.

### **Vessel Replacements**

As a reminder, a vessel, with the same owner or ownership interests throughout the fishing year, may not use NE multispecies DAS from more than one allocation or vessel during a fishing year. For example: The owner of Vessel A begins a fishing year with a NE multispecies permit, uses some of the DAS allocated to that permit, then moves the permit to Vessel B through a vessel replacement. Later in the same fishing year, the owner of Vessel A receives a different NE multispecies permit with DAS remaining on it from Vessel C, through a vessel replacement. This replacement would be allowed, but the remaining DAS from Vessel C would not be available for Vessel A to use in that same fishing year, since Vessel A has already used DAS from another permit during that year. Starting in the next fishing year, Vessel A would be able to use the DAS allocated to the new permit.

\*Note: DAS use refers to DAS that are fished or DAS that are leased to other vessels through the DAS Leasing Program

If you have any questions about the information contained in this letter, please call NOAA Fisheries Service at 978-281-9315.

