



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

December 19, 2005

### **Small Entity Compliance Guide**

Dear Limited Access Northeast (NE) Multispecies Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) is reducing the Georges Bank (GB) yellowtail flounder trip limit from an unlimited amount to **15,000 lb per trip** for limited access Northeast (NE) multispecies days-at-sea (DAS) vessels fishing in the U.S./Canada Management Area, as of 0001 hours, **December 21, 2005**.

Recent data indicate that over 59% of the TAC has been harvested to date. NOAA Fisheries Service is taking this action to slow the rate of harvest of GB yellowtail flounder to increase the likelihood that the GB yellowtail total allowable catch (TAC) will be available through the end of the 2005 fishing year on April 30, 2006, and to prevent the TAC from being exceeded. NE multispecies DAS vessels that have not departed on a trip and crossed the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) demarcation line prior to 12:00 AM on December 21, 2005, are restricted to a 15,000-lb trip limit of GB yellowtail flounder.

Yellowtail flounder landings will continue to be closely monitored. When 70 percent of the TAC allocation for GB yellowtail flounder is projected to be harvested, the GB yellowtail flounder limit for NE multispecies DAS vessels in the U.S./Canada Management Area will be reduced to 1,500 lb per day, up to a maximum of 15,000 lb per trip. The rate of harvest of the GB yellowtail flounder TAC in the Western and Eastern U.S./Canada Areas is updated weekly on the internet at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>.

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

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul  
Regional Administrator

