



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

June 14, 2006

### **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 requiring all NE multispecies days-at-sea (DAS) vessels fishing with trawl gear in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area to use a haddock separator trawl, effective June 19, 2006.**

Because a haddock separator trawl is now required when fishing in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area, trawl vessels must comply with the following possession limits (all other possession limits not listed remain the same):

- **All regulated flatfish species (gray sole, plaice, etc.) combined:** 500 lb/trip
- **Skates (all species):** 500 lb/trip
- **Monkfish:**
  - Northern Fishery Management Area: 500 lb/trip (whole weight)
  - Southern Fishery Management Area: 500 lb/trip (whole weight), or 50 lb/DAS (tail weight), whichever is less
- **Lobsters:** Possession of lobsters is prohibited

NOAA Fisheries Service is authorized to make changes to the gear requirements for the U.S./Canada Management Area to prevent over- or under-harvesting the total allowable catch (TAC) allocations specified for the U.S./Canada Management Area. Based upon Vessel Monitoring System reports and other available information, the current catch rate of GB cod will likely result in the harvest of the GB cod TAC before the end of the 2006 fishing year (May 1, 2006 - April 30, 2007). Once this TAC is achieved, the Regional Administrator is required to close the Eastern U.S./Canada Area for the remainder of the fishing year. Therefore, this action is necessary to slow the catch rate of GB cod.

GB cod landings will continue to be closely monitored. Should 100 percent of the TAC allocation for GB cod be projected to be harvested, the Eastern U.S./Canada Area will be closed. The rate of harvest of the GB cod TAC in the U.S./Canada Management Area 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 Fairness Act of 1996.

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

