



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

March 24, 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 removing the 15,000-lb trip limit for Georges Bank (GB) yellowtail flounder for the remainder of this fishing year, through April 30, 2006. **As of March 24, 2006, there is no trip limit for GB yellowtail flounder for limited access NE multispecies days-at-sea (DAS) vessels fishing in the U.S./Canada Management Area.**

NOAA Fisheries Service is authorized to make changes to the trip limits in the U.S./Canada Management Area to prevent under-harvesting the TAC allocation. Based upon Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) reports and other available information, the current rate of harvest will result in the under-harvest of the GB yellowtail flounder total allowable catch (TAC) for the 2005 fishing year (May 1, 2005 - April 30, 2006). Therefore, the trip limit of 15,000 lb is being removed. This action will provide additional opportunities to fully harvest the GB yellowtail flounder TAC. **Starting March 24, 2006, NE multispecies DAS vessels may possess and land an unlimited amount of GB yellowtail flounder.**

GB yellowtail flounder landings will continue to be closely monitored. Should 100 percent of the TAC allocation for GB yellowtail flounder be projected to be harvested, all vessels will be prohibited from harvesting, possessing, or landing yellowtail flounder from the U.S./Canada Management Area. The rate of harvest of the GB yellowtail flounder 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.

