



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

May 23, 2006

### Small Entity Compliance Guide

Dear Limited Access Northeast (NE) Multispecies Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you that Framework Adjustment (FW) 42 to the NE Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP), includes a proposed requirement that all NE multispecies vessels that intend to fish under a NE multispecies day-at-sea (DAS) must have an operational vessel monitoring system (VMS) on board their vessel. Although this VMS requirement has not been approved at this time, NOAA Fisheries Service will soon publish proposed regulations to implement FW 42 in the Federal Register. NOAA Fisheries Service is providing you with this notification because of the potential that limited access NE multispecies DAS vessel owners may be required to purchase a VMS in order to fish under a NE multispecies DAS for groundfish.

If approved by NOAA Fisheries Service, the requirement to have a VMS in order to fish under a DAS would be in effect upon the implementation of measures approved in FW 42, as early as August 2006. Please note, under FW 42, NE multispecies vessels would only be required to install an operational VMS to fish under a NE multispecies DAS. In other words, vessels would not have to install an operational VMS until they intend to actually fish.

If the FW 42 VMS requirement is approved, NOAA Fisheries Service will send you a description of the procedures for verifying that you have satisfied the VMS requirement. If you would like to speak to a NOAA Fisheries representative regarding technical VMS questions please call (978) 281-9213. If you would like to speak to NOAA Fisheries Service regarding groundfish regulations, please call (978) 281-9315.

Sincerely,

*for* Patricia A. Kurkul  
Regional Administrator

