



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

February 7, 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 reducing the Georges Bank (GB) yellowtail flounder trip limit to **1,500 lb per day**, up to a maximum of 15,000 lb per trip, for limited access NE multispecies days-at-sea (DAS) vessels fishing in the U.S./Canada Management Area, as of **0001 hours, February 9, 2006**.

Regulations require that the Regional Administrator adjust the yellowtail flounder trip limit for vessels fishing in U.S./Canada Area to 1,500 lb per day, and 15,000 lb per trip, when 70% of the GB yellowtail flounder total allowable catch (TAC) is projected to be harvested. Based on recent data, 70% of the GB yellowtail flounder TAC is projected to be harvested by February 9, 2006. This action will slow the rate of harvest of GB yellowtail flounder, increasing the likelihood that the GB yellowtail flounder TAC will be available through the end of the 2005 fishing year on April 30, 2006, and preventing the TAC from being exceeded. NE multispecies DAS vessels that have departed on a trip, and crossed the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) demarcation line prior to 12:00 AM on February 9, 2006, may possess and land up to 15,000 lb of GB yellowtail flounder, regardless of the length of their trip.

Yellowtail flounder landings will continue to be closely monitored. When 100 percent of the TAC allocation for GB yellowtail flounder is 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 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.

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

