



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

February 22, 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 1,500 lb daily limit for Georges Bank (GB) yellowtail flounder. **As of 0001 hours, February 21, 2006, the GB yellowtail flounder trip limit for limited access NE multispecies days-at-sea (DAS) vessels fishing in the U.S./Canada Management Area is 15,000 lb, regardless of trip length.**

On February 9, 2006, NOAA Fisheries Service implemented a 1,500 lb daily limit, as required by the regulations. That action was non-discretionary and was based on a projection that 70 percent of the GB yellowtail total allowable catch (TAC) would be harvested by February 9, 2006. NOAA Fisheries Service is authorized to make changes to the trip limits in the U.S./Canada Management Areas 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 TAC for the 2005 fishing year (May 1, 2005 - April 30, 2006). Therefore, the daily limit of 1,500 lb is being removed. This action will provide additional opportunities to fully harvest the GB yellowtail flounder TAC. **NE multispecies DAS vessels landing after 0001 hours on February 21, 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. 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.*

