



# Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

NOAA Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

For Information Contact:  
Sustainable Fisheries Division  
(978) 281 – 9315

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/>  
Date Issued: 3/31/2014

## Skate Permit Holders

### Establishment of a Control Date in the Skate Fishery

*Effective Date: March 31, 2014*

On March 31, 2014, we published a notice setting that date as the new control date for the participants in the skate fishery that do not fish for bait skates, but for skate wings for food for human consumption and any potential future use of a skate product. The control date was set at the request of the New England Fishery Management Council. By establishing the control date, we are notifying the public that the Council may consider an action to limit the number of participants in the fishery in the future. The control date is intended to discourage speculative entry and investment in the skate fishery.

The control date, by itself, does not affect you at this time, but the Council could use it as a reference point as it considers how to limit the number of participants in the skate fishery. In developing a future action, the Council may choose to use qualification criteria that do not rely on the new control date, or previous dates considered by the Council, including the July 30, 2009, control date for the bait skate fishery. The Council may also choose to take no further action to control entry or access to the skate fishery.

### *Frequently Asked Questions*

<b>When will this control date be used?</b>	The Council has not yet initiated an action to control excess capacity in the skate fishery, but it may choose to do so in the future. If and when it does, the Council could use the control date in deciding how to limit participation in the fishery.
<b>Will this affect my open access permit?</b>	This control date, by itself, does not affect your permit or fishing privileges. If the Council relies on it in a future action, it may or may not affect your permit. Any future effects will depend on the measures developed by the Council and your permit’s landings history. We encourage you to participate in the development of such actions by the Council to better understand how such measures may affect you in the future.
<b>How could it affect my open access permit?</b>	If the Council limits participants in the fishery, you may have to apply for a skate moratorium permit under new qualification criteria. The control date is intended to discourage speculative entry into the skate fishery while the Council develops future measures. You need take no action at this time.
<b>What do I need to do?</b>	Find and keep all documents associated with your Federal skate permit, including dealer slips/receipts and logbook pages from trips on which you landed skate from Federal waters. The Council may use any range of fishing years in a future action, so you should preserve all skate-related documents that you have.

*For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Greater Atlantic Region.*