

Small Entity Compliance Guide

CORRECTION

March 1, 2004

Dear Gillnet Vessel Owner/Operator:

This letter is to remind you of gillnet restrictions for the Massachusetts Bay Closure Area implemented under the Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan (HPTRP). The regulations implementing the HPTRP found at 50 CFR 229.33(d)(2), specify that the **Massachusetts Bay Closure Area is closed March 1 through March 31 to all vessels using sink gillnet gear or gillnet gear capable of catching multispecies.**

The regulations implementing the HPTRP state that this area is closed from April 1 through May 31 to vessels using sink gillnet gear or gillnet gear capable of catching multispecies except gillnet vessels using pingers deployed on the nets according to the specifications found at 50 CFR 229.33(b)(1). **However, Rolling Closure Areas II and III of the Northeast Multispecies Regulations found at 50 CFR 648.81 (g)(ii) and (iii), respectively, close the Massachusetts Bay Closure Area and adjacent waters to all vessels using sink gillnet gear or gillnet gear capable of catching multispecies for the months of April and May.**

Any questions regarding this letter should be directed to the Protected Resources Division, at (978) 281-9328 extension 6505.

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