



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

MAR - 5 2009

Dear South Carolina and Georgia Commercial Trap/Pot Fishermen:

It has recently been brought to our attention that you may not have received the October 5, 2007, Small Entity Compliance Guide summarizing the revised Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP) amendments. Although our records indicated that these letters were sent, we would like to provide you with a reminder regarding these requirements. Please find enclosed the "Guide to the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan" which summarizes the requirements for trap/pot and gillnet fishermen from Maine through Florida. Although not a substitute for the regulations, the guide is intended to provide outreach on the ALWTRP requirements.

Please note that most modifications are already effective, except for the broad-based sinking groundline requirement for Atlantic trap/pot fisheries which is scheduled to become effective on April 5, 2009. The below pages of the guide contain information on the requirements for trap/pot fishermen in your area.

- South Carolina
 - Please see pages 23 and 24 for information on the requirements inside the 100fa contour off South Carolina (i.e. Southern Nearshore Trap/Pot Waters).
 - Please see pages 25 and 26 for information on the requirements outside the 100fa contour off South Carolina (i.e. Offshore Trap/Pot Waters).
- Georgia
 - Please see pages 29 and 30 for information on the requirements inside the 100fa contour off Georgia (i.e. Southern Nearshore Trap/Pot Waters).
 - Please see pages 31 and 32 for information on the requirements outside the 100fa contour off Georgia (i.e. Offshore Trap/Pot Waters).
- Exempted Waters
 - Please see page 61 for the exempted waters in Georgia and South Carolina.

If you have any questions or need additional information on your trap/pot or gillnet requirements (e.g. ALWTRP regulations), please contact the ALWTRP coordinator, Diane Borggaard (978-282-8453), or visit the ALWTRP webpage (<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/whaletrp/>). You may also contact the industry liaison for your area, Glenn Salvador (757-414-0128).

Sincerely,

Mary A. Colligan
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Protected Resources

Enclosure

