



United States Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Region
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

July 8, 2011

Northeast Skate Fishery Reporting of Skate Carcasses

Dear Federally Permitted Skate Dealer:

On May 17, 2011, NOAA Fisheries Service implemented new regulations for the skate fishery that allow vessels with a skate permit to possess and land skate carcasses (racks) in addition to skate wings and whole skates. Details may be found in a May 13, 2011 Permit Holder Letter (PHL) at the following location: http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/nr/nrdoc/11/Skate_FW1_PHL.pdf.

Skate racks must be reported properly to NOAA Fisheries. To update your system, please follow these instructions for your particular reporting system:

- **SAFIS web-based data entry system** —Open the appropriate skate species on the species tree and select the **Grade-Mkt-UOM** combination labeled **Racks-Unclassified-LB**. Always use these combinations with a disposition of **Bait**. Make sure that your “Favorite Species list” is updated to reflect this species/grade/market category/unit/disposition combination. This can be done on your Favorites page.
- **Bluefin Data Inc.'s Trip Ticket** - Use a species code of **SKATExxxRACK** in the species code drop-down box (where **xxx** identifies the species of skate). Alternatively users may enter **Skate,xxx** in the species description drop-down, then select **Racks** from the grade drop-down. If you wish, edit the species code name to one of your own choosing in the Species setup screen.
- **File Upload** - Match your own "in house" code for skate racks to **Skatesxxx-Racks-Unclassified-LB** (**xxx** identifies the specific species of skate) in the File Upload species conversion table. Submit

You must record a VTR serial number with each purchase from all NER-permitted vessels with the exception of those holding only an American lobster permit.

For a complete description of the changes to the skate fishery regulations, please see the final rule implementing Framework Adjustment 1 to the Skate Fishery Management Plan. This rule can be found at the following location: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/regs/frdoc/11/11SkateFW1FR.pdf>

A fact sheet for this fishery can be found at the following location:
<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/regs/infodocs/NESkateInfoSheet.pdf>

Sincerely,

John Witzig, Director
Fisheries Data Services Division

