



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

APR - 5 2011

Control Date for Possible Future Regulations to Limit the Excessive Accumulation of Fishing Privileges in the Northeast (NE) Multispecies Fishery

Dear NE Multispecies Permit Holder:

The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) voted at its January 2011 meeting to request NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to publish in the Federal Register a "control date" for possible use in future fishing regulations to limit the excessive accumulation of fishing privileges in the NE multispecies fishery. In compliance with this request, NMFS published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) announcing that the control date for these possible regulations is April 7, 2011, the date of the ANPR's publication. As more fully explained in the ANPR, the control date has the following purposes and implications:

- (1) The ANPR and the establishment of a control date inform the fishing industry that the Council may develop management measures to limit the accumulation of excessive control or ownership of fishing privileges in the NE multispecies fishery. Fishing privileges include, but are not limited to, vessels, fishing permits, days-at-sea, fishing quotas, potential sector contributions, annual catch entitlements, sector allocations, and any other type of catch share.
- (2) The control date (April 7, 2011) may be used as a reference date for future management measures in determining how to treat fishing privileges acquired before this date and those acquired after this date, depending on the Council's determinations on limiting control and ownership of such privileges. Any ownership, control, or accumulation of fishing privileges in the NE multispecies fishery may be affected, restricted or even nullified, should a management regime that limits the accumulation of control or ownership of fishing privileges in the fishery be prepared and implemented. The establishment of a control date, however, does not prevent the Council from imposing limits on permits acquired prior to the control date, nor does it obligate the Council to take any action.
- (3) The ANPR and the establishment of a control date are intended, in part, to discourage speculative behavior in the market for fishing privileges while the Council considers whether and how such limitations on accumulation of fishing privileges should be developed.
- (4) The ANPR and the establishment of the control date do not impose any legal requirements or obligations at this time. The ANPR is intended to provide notice to the fishing industry and the public of possible future regulations that may affect current and future decisions and arrangements regarding their fishing privileges and activities.



Interested participants in the NE multispecies fishery should locate and preserve records that substantiate and verify their ownership or control of groundfish permits in the NE multispecies fishery in Federal waters. Please call the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315 if you have any questions regarding the information in this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PA Kurkul', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

for Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

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