



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

## **Northeast Skate Fishery**

### Changes to Regulations

#### Emergency Action to Increase Catch Limits

*Effective Dates: November 28, 2011 – April 30, 2012*

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is increasing quotas for the Northeast skate fishery for the rest of the 2011 fishing year. These higher quotas are expected to prolong the fishing season this year, and allow more skate landings.

- The skate wing fishery quota is now 31,609,884 lb (up from 20,302,373 lb).
- The skate bait fishery quota is now 15,923,991 lb (up from 10,227,246 lb).

Skate possession limits will remain the same, until further notice from NMFS:

- Skate wing possession limit (if using a Day-At-Sea) = 4,100 lb per trip (wing weight)
- Skate bait possession limit (with an active Skate Bait Letter of Authorization) = 20,000 lb per trip (whole weight)
- Non-Day-At-Sea skate possession limit = 500 lb wing weight (1,135 lb whole weight)
- B-Day-At-Sea skate possession limit = 220 lb wing weight (500 lb whole weight).

Please visit <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfdskate.html> for more information on this fishery. If you have any questions, please contact Sustainable Fisheries at 978-281-9315.

*This small entity compliance guide 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, Northeast Region.*

