



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

MAY 24 2010

SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE

Dear Red Crab Vessel Permit Holder:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is implementing the following specifications for the 2010 red crab fishery, effective June 14, 2010:

- (1) A 2010 target total allowable catch of 3.56 million lb; and
- (2) A fleet-wide days-at-sea (DAS) allocation of 582 DAS.

A fleet allocation of 582 DAS results in an initial per vessel DAS allocation of 116 DAS for each of the five current limited access permits. However, one limited access permit holder formally declared out of the directed red crab fishery for fishing year (FY) 2010. **Therefore, the resulting DAS allocation for FY 2010 is 146 DAS for each of the remaining four limited access permit holders, in addition to any FY 2009 carryover DAS.** In accordance with the regulations, any DAS used in FY 2010 (between March 1, 2010, and June 14, 2010) will be counted against this new allocation.

The New England Fishery Management Council has recently recommended that NMFS adjust the specifications in light of the Scientific and Statistical Committee's revised recommendation (3.91 million lb) for the acceptable biological catch of red crab. This request is currently under review and a decision will be announced through proposed and final rulemaking, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

You may also receive permit holder letters, including closure notices, by e-mail by clicking on "Permit Holder Letters" on our website at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>.

This small entity compliance guide complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996.

