

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

OCT 2 1 2010

Small Entity Compliance Guide

Subject: Extended Opportunity to Join a Sector for Fishing Year (FY) 2011

Dear Limited Access Northeast (NE) Multispecies Permit Holder:

This letter announces an extension to **December 1, 2010**, for permit holders to sign a sector contract and for sectors to submit rosters for fishing year (FY) 2011 (May 1, 2011, through April 30, 2012). This letter supersedes the sector roster deadlines of September 1 and September 10 included in previous letters from NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) dated July 29, 2010, and August 18, 2010.

Amendment 16 to the NE Multispecies Fishery Management Plan established a September 1 deadline for sectors to submit an operations plan and sector contract for operations in the following fishing year. Due to a delay in notifying permit holders of their FY 2011 potential sector contributions, NMFS, in a permit holder letter dated August 18, 2010, extended the deadline to September 10, 2010 for permit holders to sign a sector contract and for sectors to submit rosters for FY 2011.

Based on industry request, NMFS is setting a new deadline of **December 1, 2010**, for sectors to add permits to their rosters for FY 2011. This deadline extension is being offered to permit holders that have not yet enrolled in a sector for FY 2011, as well as permit holders that have previously signed a sector contract but wish to change sectors prior to the start of FY 2011. Interested permit holders must contact individual sector managers to join. Please note that each sector may decide whether or not members may leave the sector and whether or not to accept new members. No permit may be enrolled in more than one sector during FY 2011.

Each sector must provide an updated sector roster, including copies of signed sector contracts for each new member, to NMFS no later than **December 1, 2010**. Sectors may remove permits from their rosters through April 30, 2010; however, based on this deadline, permits withdrawn from a sector after December 1, 2010, would not be allowed to join another sector and would be restricted to fishing in the common pool for FY 2011.



If you have any questions about this letter or other regulations, please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315.

Sincerely,

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Patricia A. Kurkul Regional Administrator

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