



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

FEB 17 2009

Dear Limited Access Northeast (NE) Multispecies Permit Holder:

As a result of the options being considered under Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan, specifically sectors, we are in the process of compiling data reports to be delivered to all federally permitted limited access multispecies permit holders. These will contain landings information that will be used to determine a vessel's potential ~~share~~<sup>share</sup> contribution (PSC) for the nine regulated species proposed for allocation in Amendment 16. For vessels that choose to enroll in a sector, these data will be used to determine that sector's annual catch entitlement (ACE) for the 2010 fishing year.

#### Fishing Year 2010

For the calculation of the 2010 sector allocation, we will use the data as they currently exist in our databases, and we will not be making any modifications. We will produce and send the summary data that will be used as the bases for calculation of PSC and ACE. These data will be sent to sector managers for their member vessels and to permit holders not on a sector roster sometime in April 2009.

#### Fishing Year 2011 and Beyond

For the data to be used in 2011 and beyond, we will be accepting requests for review of historic data.

The process for data review is under development and will be based on the data summaries distributed for the 2010 fishing year. The data review and update processes are expected to be completed by December 31, 2009. This will allow you to obtain revised data in time for the 2011 sector process, which will begin in April 2010.

Prior to distribution of data summaries, you will receive instructions describing how to obtain the data that were used to determine these allocations. These will inform you if you need to obtain letters of authorization from previous owners of your multispecies moratorium right (MRI).

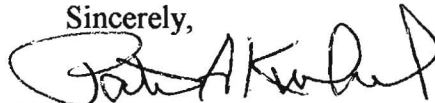
Under the laws (16 U.S.C. 1881a MSA §402(b)) and procedures (NOAA Administrative Order ((NOA) 216-100) that protect data submitted to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), we may only release detailed data back to the submitter of those data. Data may



only be released to the general public in such a way that an individual submitter's information can not be determined. This means that, unless specified otherwise in the bill of sale or other signed document, a current owner does not have authorization to review landings information submitted by a previous owner of that vessel. As we are preparing to release data, we are reviewing vessel permit histories, specifically vessel sales, and whether or not access to the previous owner's confidential catch records was transferred to the new owner on the bill of sale. We are also reviewing vessel histories to determine the number of owners a vessel may have had, in an effort to provide landings data in a summarized format that will maintain confidentiality while still documenting the current vessel owner's PSC.

Vessel owners should review the landings data upon receipt. If discrepancies are found, vessel owners may submit requests for data corrections to the NMFS for review. Instructions outlining the data correction request process will be distributed to vessel owners shortly. Sector vessels should work with their sector managers to submit landings correction requests, and non-sector vessel owners should submit their requests directly to NMFS according to the instructions to be provided.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia A. Kurkul". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "K".

Patricia A. Kurkul  
Regional Administrator