



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

January 9, 2008

Small Entity Compliance Guide

Dear Limited Access Northeast (NE) Multispecies Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is decreasing the Georges Bank (GB) yellowtail flounder trip limit. **As of 0001 hours local time on January 10, 2008, the GB yellowtail flounder trip limit for all NE multispecies days-at-sea (DAS) vessels fishing in the U.S./Canada Management Area is 1,500 lb per trip.**

NE multispecies DAS vessels that have not declared into the U.S./Canada Management Area, departed on a trip, and crossed the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) demarcation line to start their trip prior to 12:01 AM on January 10, 2008, are restricted to a 1,500-lb trip limit of GB yellowtail flounder.

NE multispecies DAS vessels that have declared into the U.S./Canada Management Area, departed on a trip, and crossed the VMS demarcation line to start their trip prior to 12:01 AM on January 10, 2008, may possess and land up to 7,500 lb of GB yellowtail flounder on that trip.

NMFS is authorized to make changes to the GB yellowtail flounder trip limit in the U.S./Canada Management Area to prevent over-harvesting the total allowable catch (TAC) allocation. Based upon VMS reports and other available information, the current rate of harvest will result in the complete harvest of the TAC by the end of January 2008. Decreasing the GB yellowtail trip limit to 1,500 lb from 7,500 lb is expected to slow catch rates and provide opportunity for vessels to continue fishing, while helping to ensure that the TAC will not be exceeded during the 2007 fishing year.

GB yellowtail flounder landings will continue to be closely monitored. Further inseason adjustments to increase, or decrease, the trip limit will be considered based upon updated catch data and projections. Should 100 percent of the TAC allocation for GB yellowtail flounder be projected to be harvested, all vessels would be prohibited from harvesting, possessing, or landing yellowtail flounder from the entire U.S./Canada Management Area, and the Eastern U.S./Canada Area would remain closed to limited access NE multispecies DAS vessels for the remainder of the fishing year. The rate of harvest of the GB yellowtail flounder TAC in the U.S./Canada Management Area is updated weekly on the internet 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.

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

