

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

February 6, 2008

## Small Entity Compliance Guide

Dear Northeast (NE) Multispecies Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you that the minimum size for both Georges Bank (GB) and Gulf of Maine (GOM) haddock will remain at 18 inches (total length) through August 10, 2008.

An 18-inch minimum fish size for haddock (commercial haddock) was implemented on August 10, 2007, through emergency action and was continued by a rule published in the <u>Federal Register</u> on November 14, 2007 (72 FR 64000). The average size of the 2003 year class is anticipated to be 19 inches by the summer of 2008. Unless otherwise notified, the minimum size will revert to 19 inches on August 11, 2008.

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

