



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

March 28, 2008

Small Entity Compliance Guide

Dear Northeast (NE) Multispecies Days-at-Sea (DAS) Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you that, at the request of the New England Fishery Management Council (Council), the National Marine Fisheries Service recently implemented, for Fishing Year 2008, a delay in the opening of the Eastern U.S./Canada Area from May 1, 2008, until August 1, 2008, for vessels fishing with trawl gear. **Therefore, NE multispecies DAS vessels fishing with trawls may not fish in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area until August 1, 2008.** The objective of this delay is to prevent trawl fishing in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area during the time period when cod bycatch is likely to be very high, with the intention to help prolong access to this area in order to maximize the catch of available cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder.

NE multispecies DAS vessels fishing with longline gear may fish in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area as of May 1, 2008, but the maximum amount of cod that may be caught (landings and discards) during the May through July period will be limited to 33.4 metric tons (five percent of the overall Eastern Georges Bank cod Total Allowable Catch (TAC) specified for the Eastern U.S./Canada Area). If the Regional Administrator projects that 33.4 metric tons of cod will be caught in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area by longline vessels prior to August 1, the Eastern U.S./Canada Area will close to NE multispecies DAS vessels. You will be notified in the event of such a closure.

This letter also notifies permit holders that the Council recommended U.S./Canada Management Area **TACs for Fishing Year 2008** have been implemented as follows:

TAC	Amount
Eastern Georges Bank Cod	667 mt
Eastern Georges Bank Haddock	8,050 mt
Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder	1,950 mt

Please note that the 2008 Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder TAC of 1,950 mt may be slightly reduced if, at the end of the current (2007) fishing year, NMFS determines that the 2007 TAC was overharvested. If you have any regulatory questions, please call (978) 281-9315.

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

