



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

August 9, 2007

Small Entity Compliance Guide

Dear Northeast (NE) Multispecies Permit Holder:

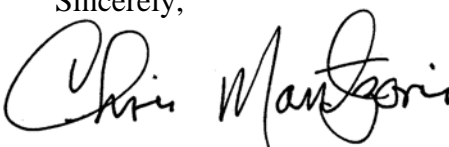
This letter is to inform you that, **effective August 10, 2007, the minimum size for both Georges Bank (GB) and Gulf of Maine (GOM) haddock is reduced to 18 inches** from the current minimum size of 19 inches, except for charter/party and private recreational vessels, for which the minimum size for haddock remains 19 inches. This emergency action is being taken under Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to immediately prevent excessive discard of caught haddock, while maintaining the rebuilding programs of the NE Multispecies Fishery Management Plan, and increasing economic opportunities for the industry.

On or after August 10, 2007, fishing vessels, except charter/party and recreational vessels, may land haddock 18 inches or larger. The 18-inch haddock minimum size will remain in effect for 180 days, unless otherwise notified.

Recent information on the haddock fishery indicates that there have been substantial amounts of regulatory discarding of haddock on GB. In order to reduce the large amount of discards and economic waste that has been occurring in the haddock fishery, the Secretary of Commerce is temporarily reducing the commercial haddock minimum size to 18 inches for both GB and the GOM. This temporary 18-inch minimum size limit will allow more of the haddock which are caught to be landed.

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

Sincerely,


for Patricia A. Kurkul

Regional Administrator

