



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

April 23, 2007

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 for the 2007 fishing year (May 1, 2007, through April 30, 2008). **As of May 1, 2007, there is a trip limit of 3,000 lb for GB yellowtail flounder for limited access NE multispecies days-at-sea (DAS) vessels fishing in the U.S./Canada Management Area.**

Vessels subject to these regulations are prohibited from possessing or landing more than 3,000 lb of GB yellowtail flounder after 0000 hrs May 1, 2007. Therefore, any vessels that begin trips prior to May 1, 2007, and possess more than 3,000 lb (and up to the 25,000-lb trip limit) of GB yellowtail flounder, must land their catch prior to 0001 hrs, May 1, 2007.

NMFS is authorized to make changes to the trip limits in the U.S./Canada Management Area to prevent over- and under-harvesting the total allowable catch (TAC) allocation. The TAC for GB yellowtail flounder for the 2007 fishing year is being proposed at 900 mt, in accordance with the regulations implemented by Amendment 13 to the NE Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. Based upon the proposed reduction in the 2007 TAC for GB yellowtail flounder (a 43% reduction from 2006), and projections of harvest rates in the fishery, the current trip limits could result in the over-harvest of the GB yellowtail flounder TAC during the 2007 fishing year, and reduce the opportunities to fish for Eastern GB cod and haddock in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area. Therefore, the default fishing year 2007 trip limit of 10,000 lb in the U.S./Canada Management Area is decreased to 3,000 lb. This action will provide opportunities to more fully harvest the TACs for GB cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder. **Starting May 1, 2007, NE multispecies DAS vessels may possess and land up to 3,000 lb of GB yellowtail flounder per trip.**

Should 100 percent of the TAC allocation for GB yellowtail flounder be projected to be harvested, the Eastern U.S./Canada Area would close to limited access NE multispecies DAS vessels, and all vessels would be prohibited from harvesting, possessing, or landing yellowtail flounder from the entire U.S./Canada Management Area for the remainder of the fishing year. Conversely, if the TAC is projected to be under-harvested by the end of the fishing year, inseason adjustments to increase the trip limit will be considered. The rate of harvest of the GB cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder TACs in the U.S./Canada Management Area are 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.

