



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

May 15, 2006

SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE

Dear Herring Vessel Owner/Operator and
Herring Dealer/Processors:

This letter is to inform you that the emergency action that was enacted by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) to allow Category 1 herring vessels to retain up to 1,000 lb of haddock per trip **will expire on June 6, 2006**. That action also required: 1) All Category 1 herring vessels to provide advance notification of landing via the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), whether or not such a vessel is carrying an at-sea observer; and 2) certain herring processors to cull landings made by Category 1 herring vessels and to retain haddock for inspection by enforcement officials.

Due to the expiration of the emergency action, as of June 6, 2006, all herring vessels will be prohibited from fishing for, possessing, or landing haddock. Similarly, Category 1 vessels will no longer have to provide advance notification of landing via VMS, and herring processors will no longer have to cull landings of Category 1 vessels for haddock.

The New England Fishery Management Council has submitted Framework 43 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (Framework 43) to NOAA Fisheries Service. Framework 43 would allow Category 1 herring vessels to retain haddock, as well as other regulated multispecies, up to certain limits, and impose other requirements on Category 1 vessels and herring processors and dealers. Framework 43 is under review by NOAA Fisheries Service, and a proposed rule will be published in the near future. If and when Framework 43 is approved, you will be notified through a permit holder letter, and informed of the new regulations and how they will affect your fishing operations.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

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

