



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

April 28, 2006

Small Entity Compliance Guide

Dear Limited Access Northeast (NE) Multispecies Permit Holder:

This letter informs you of the following Total Allowable Catches (TACs) that have been set for the 2006 fishing year (May 1, 2006-April 30, 2007) under the NE Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP): 1) Annual hard TACs for Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder; 2) Target TACs for all regulated groundfish stocks; and 3) Incidental Catch TACs for groundfish stocks of concern.

The specification of hard TACs is required to ensure that the transboundary resources of GB cod, Eastern GB haddock, and Eastern GB yellowtail flounder, that are shared between the U.S. and Canada, are managed as outlined in the Resource Sharing Understanding (Understanding) (Table 1 below). The FMP specifies Target TACs for all regulated groundfish stocks (where sufficient information exists), as one of the means of evaluating the effectiveness of the management measures. Target TACs are calculated from projections of future catches, using recent assessment data, and the Amendment 13 target fishing mortality rates (Table 2 below).

Lastly, the FMP specifies Incidental Catch TACs for stocks of concern in order to limit the impact of special programs on such stocks. Incidental Catch TACs are set as a percentage of the Target TACs and divided among the special programs (Category B days-at-sea (DAS) program; Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock Special Access Program (SAP); and Closed Area I Hook Gear Haddock SAP) (Table 3 below).

Table 1. FY 2006 U.S./Canada TACs (mt) and percentage shares.

	<b>Cod</b>	<b>Haddock</b>	<b>Yellowtail Flounder</b>
Total Shared TAC	1,700	22,000	3,000
U.S. TAC	374 (22%)	7,480 (34%)	2,070 (69%)
Canada TAC	1,326 (78%)	14,520 (66%)	930 (31%)

Table 2. Target TACs (mt) for FY 2006

<b>Species</b>	<b>Stock</b>	<b>2006 Target TACs</b>
<b>Cod</b>	GB	7,458
	GOM	5,146
<b>Haddock</b>	GB	49,829
	GOM	1,279
<b>Yellowtail Flounder</b>	GB	2,070
	SNE/MA	146
	CC/GOM	650
<b>American Plaice</b>		3,666



<b>Witch Flounder</b>		5,511
<b>Winter Flounder</b>	GB	1,424
	GOM	*
	SNE/MA	2,481
<b>Redfish</b>		1,946
<b>White Hake</b>		2,056
<b>Pollock</b>		12,005
<b>Windowpane Flounder</b>	North	389
	South	173
<b>Ocean Pout</b>		38
<b>Atlantic Halibut</b>		NA

\* GARM II did not develop a TAC for GOM winter flounder because of uncertainties in the assessment.

Table 3. Incidental Catch TACs (mt) for FY 2006.

<b>Stock</b>	<b>Percentage of Total Target TAC</b>	<b>2006 Incidental Catch TAC</b>
GB cod	Two	122.6
GOM cod	One	51.5
GB Yellowtail Flounder	Two	41.4
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	One	6.5
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	One	1.5
American Plaice	Five	183.3
Witch Flounder	Five	275.6
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	One	24.8
GB Winter Flounder	Two	28.5
White Hake	Two	41.1

GOM: Gulf of Maine; GB: Georges Bank; CC: Cape Cod; SNE/MA: Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic

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.*