



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

August 23, 2005

### **Small Entity Compliance Guide**

Dear Limited Access Northeast (NE) Multispecies Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you that **the Eastern U.S./Canada Area is closed to all limited access NE multispecies days-at-sea (DAS) vessels, effective 0001 hours on August 26, 2005, through April 30, 2006, unless otherwise notified.** VMS reports, dealer reports, and other available information indicates that 90 percent of the Georges Bank (GB) cod total allowable catch (TAC) for the Eastern U.S./Canada Area has been caught so far during this fishing year. This action is being taken in accordance with the NE multispecies regulations at 50 CFR 648.85(a)(3)(iv)(D) to prevent exceeding the GB cod TAC during the 2005 fishing year.

The Eastern U.S./Canada Area may be reopened at a later date during the 2005 fishing year, should it be determined that there is additional GB cod TAC remaining that could be harvested without exceeding the GB cod TAC for the 2005 fishing year.

- Vessels that have not yet departed on a trip, or declared their intent to fish in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area (Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Area Codes 2, 5, or 6) as of 0001 hours on August 26, 2005, may not declare their intent to fish in, enter, or fish in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area.
- Vessels that have already declared their intent to fish in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area (VMS Area Codes 2, 5, or 6) through VMS, departed on a trip, and crossed the demarcation line as of 0001 hours on August 26, 2005, may finish their trip and retain and land any GB cod caught from the Eastern U.S./Canada Area, consistent with existing regulations.

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.*

