



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

December 21, 2005

SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE

Dear Northeast (NE) Multispecies Days-at-Sea (DAS) Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you that the haddock quota for the second period of the Closed Area I (CA I) Hook Gear Haddock Special Access Program (SAP) (November 16, 2005, through December 31, 2005) has been increased to 536.6 mt.

The final rule for Framework Adjustment 41 amended the CA I Hook Gear Haddock SAP to allow vessels not participating in the Georges Bank (GB) Cod Hook Sector (Non-Sector) to participate in this SAP by creating two separate participation periods and splitting the 1,000-mt haddock total allowable catch (TAC) between two periods. The regulations authorize the Regional Administrator to adjust the 500-mt quota for the second period to account for under- or over-harvest of the 500-mt haddock quota that occurred in the first participation period.

Based upon available information, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) has estimated that 463.4 mt of haddock (landings and discard) were caught during the first participation period, for an underage of 36.6 mt of the haddock quota during the first participation period (October 1, 2005, through November 15, 2005). This underage is being accounted for in the haddock quota for the second participation period to provide vessels increased opportunities to harvest healthy groundfish stocks by permitting access to fully harvest the available haddock TAC specified for this SAP during the 2005 fishing year. This action does not affect the GB cod incidental catch quota for the second participation period. If either the haddock TAC or GB cod quota is attained, the second participation period will be closed.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315.

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.

