



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

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## **Small Entity Compliance Guide**

Dear Limited Access Northeast (NE) Multispecies Permit Holder:

This letter describes regulations in the NE multispecies (groundfish) fishery that revert to those originally implemented under Amendment 13 for the beginning of the fishing year on May 1, 2005. The regulations listed below are only a summary of these regulations implemented under Amendment 13 and Framework Adjustment 40-A to the NE Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Regulations that remain the same for the beginning of the 2005 fishing year are not described in this letter. A copy of all of the regulations for the groundfish fishery can be found at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>.

**U.S./Canada Management Area:** Beginning May 1, 2005, the U.S./Canada Management Area regulations will revert to the original requirements specified last May for the implementation of Amendment 13. This means the following regulations will be in place beginning May 1, 2005:

- **Eastern U.S./Canada Area:** This area will reopen to all limited access NE multispecies days-at-sea (DAS) vessels.
- **Possession limits:**
  - **Georges Bank (GB) cod** – Vessels fishing in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area outside of a special access program (SAP) may land up to 500 lb of cod per DAS, or any part of a DAS, up to 5,000 lb per trip, not to exceed 5 percent of the total catch on board. Vessels fishing in the Western U.S./Canada Area may land up to 1,000 lb of cod per DAS, or any part of a DAS, up to 10,000 lb per trip.
  - **GB haddock** – Until otherwise notified, the haddock possession limit is 3,000 lb per DAS, or any part of a DAS, up to 30,000 lb per trip for the entire U.S./Canada Management Area.
  - **GB yellowtail flounder** – There is no possession limit for GB yellowtail flounder caught outside of a SAP.
- **Western U.S./Canada Area Trips:** Vessels may fish inside and outside of the Western U.S./Canada Area on the same trip, provided vessels comply with the most restrictive regulations between the areas fished (i.e., vessel monitoring system (VMS) requirements, catch reporting, possession limits, etc.).
- **Other Requirements:** Vessels are required to use a VMS, notify the Observer Program of their intent to fish in this Area, report the amount of the above species kept and discarded on a daily basis, and use either a haddock separator trawl or a flounder trawl net when fishing in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area.

**Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP Pilot Program:** Beginning May 1, 2005, the Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP Pilot Program will be open to all limited access NE multispecies DAS vessels. **Vessels may fish throughout the SAP area during the month of May, despite the GB Seasonal Closure Area. The current regulations are unclear on this point because they inadvertently failed to explicitly exempt vessels fishing under this SAP from the GB Seasonal Closure Area provisions. NOAA Fisheries Service intends to clarify these regulations through a proposed correction rule to be published shortly.**



Vessels may not fish for, possess, or land more than 1,000 lb of cod per trip, regardless of length. Vessels may use Category A or B DAS and must use VMS; notify the Observer Program of their intent to fish in this SAP; fish with a haddock separator trawl; and report the amount of GB cod, GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder kept and discarded daily. Vessels that have declared into the Category B DAS Pilot Program may not discard legal-sized cod; must have as many Category A DAS as B Regular DAS remaining before the start of a trip; and must flip to a Category A DAS once a vessel harvests and brings aboard more than 1,000 lb of GB cod.

**Closed Area (CA) II Yellowtail Flounder SAP:** Unless otherwise modified by Framework Adjustment 40-B, the CA II Yellowtail Flounder SAP will reopen on June 1, 2005, with a 30,000 lb trip limit for GB yellowtail flounder and a 1,000-lb trip limit for GB cod. Vessels may use Category A or B DAS and must use VMS, notify the Observer Program of their intent to fish in this SAP; fish with a haddock separator trawl or flounder net; and report catch and discard of GB cod, GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder.

**Regular B DAS Pilot Program:** On May 1, 2005, the third quarter of the B Regular DAS Pilot Program will begin with revised quotas and 1,000 Category B DAS available to vessels. Vessels participating in this program must use VMS; notify the observer program of their intent to fish in this program; must have as many Category A DAS as B Regular DAS remaining before the start of a trip; are prohibited from discarding legal-sized groundfish; must flip to a Category A DAS once a vessel harvests and brings aboard more than the maximum landing limit for stocks of concern (see below); and must report catch and discard of cod, yellowtail flounder, American plaice, white hake, winter flounder, witch flounder, and haddock by statistical area fished.

Groundfish Stocks of Concern	Landing Limit	Quarterly Quota
Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod	100 lb per DAS; 1,000 lb per trip	63.5 mt
GB cod	100 lb per DAS; 1,000 lb per trip	32.01 mt
American plaice	100 lb per DAS; 1,000 lb per trip	12.5 mt
White hake	100 lb per DAS; 1,000 lb per trip	90 mt
Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic winter flounder	100 lb per DAS; 1,000 lb per trip	38 mt
Witch flounder	100 lb per DAS; 1,000 lb per trip	49.5 mt
Cape Cod/GOM yellowtail flounder	25 lb per DAS; 250 lb per trip	89 mt
Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder	25 lb per DAS; 250 lb per trip	175 mt

**Other Reminders:**

- Vessels are required to submit the correct VMS catch report when fishing in the U.S./Canada Management Area, the Regular B DAS Pilot Program, or any of the SAP's.
- When crossing into and out of the Western U.S./Canada Area, vessels are required to submit a VMS catch report for yellowtail flounder only.
- Unused leased DAS cannot be carried over into the 2005 fishing year.
- In determining carry over DAS, unused allocated Category A DAS will be carried over first, followed by B regular DAS and then by B reserve DAS.

*This notice is authorized by the Administrator of NOAA Fisheries Service, Northeast Region.*

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