



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

April 30, 2004

## **SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE**

### **CORRECTION TO THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS IN THE AMENDMENT 13, NORTHEAST MULTISPECIES FISHERY, FINAL RULE**

Dear Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you of a correction to the final rule implementing Amendment 13 to the Northeast (NE) Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (Amendment 13), which published on April 27, 2004 (69 FR 22906).

On March 23, 2004, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) published a final rule specifying changes to the recordkeeping and reporting regulations, at 50 CFR 648.7, for federally permitted seafood dealers (69 FR 13482). This final rule implemented new requirements for all federally permitted seafood dealers to submit reports of all fish purchased or received electronically via computer, changed the reporting frequency for such reports, and defined the required “trip identifier” data element to be reported by dealers.

The final rule implementing Amendment 13 also included a provision related to the recordkeeping and reporting requirements at § 648.7. Because the Amendment 13 final rule was published after the electronic dealer reporting final rule, the Amendment 13 final rule inadvertently replaced the new requirements implemented under the electronic dealer reporting final rule in favor of language suggesting that the new electronic reporting requirements were not yet to be implemented. This language in the Amendment 13 final rule was not intended to replace the electronic dealer reporting final rule, but had been included in an early draft of the Amendment 13 final rule as a placeholder, should the electronic dealer reporting final rule not publish prior to the publication of the Amendment 13 final rule.

On April 30, 2004, and effective May 1, 2004, NOAA Fisheries published in the Federal Register a correction to the Amendment 13 final rule, removing any reference in this final rule to the dealer or vessel reporting regulations at § 648.7. The intent and effect of this correction is to retain in the regulations all changes implemented under the electronic dealer reporting final rule. Thus, the new and changed reporting requirements, as described in permit holder letters to you dated March 24, April 19, and April 21, 2004 (dealers), and April 19, 2004 (vessels), are and remain in place, effective May 1, 2004.

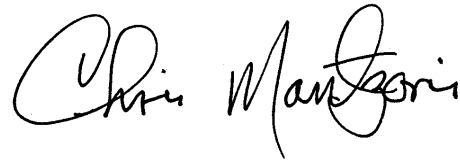
This letter is only a summary of the correction to the Amendment 13 final rule regarding the recordkeeping and reporting regulations at 50 CFR part 648, subpart A. To read the



full Amendment 13 and/or electronic dealer reporting final rules and the resulting requirements in their entirety, I strongly suggest that you request a complete copy of the regulations by calling the Sustainable Fisheries Division at 978-281-9315, or by accessing the Federal Register through our Internet home page at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/ro/doc/com.html>. For specific reporting-related questions, contact the Northeast Region's Fisheries Statistics Office at 978-281-9264.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Mantzaris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*for*

Patricia A. Kurkul  
Regional Administrator