



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

December 3, 2004

Small Entity Compliance Guide

Dear Atlantic Herring Permit Holder:

This letter is to advise you that 95 percent of the Atlantic Herring total allowable catch (TAC) allocated to Management Area 1B is projected to be harvested by 0001 hrs local time, December 8, 2004.

Therefore, pursuant to 50 CFR 648.202, effective 0001 hours, December 8, 2004, vessels issued Federal permits for Atlantic herring may not fish for, catch, possess or land more than 2,000 pounds of Atlantic herring in or from Area 1B per trip or calendar day through 2400 December 31, 2004; except, vessels may transit Area 1B with more than 2,000 lb (907.2 kg) of herring on board, provided such herring were not caught in Area 1B, and provided all fishing gear is stowed and not available for immediate use as required by § 648.23(b). This catch limit restriction will cease at 0001 hours, January 1, 2005, at which time the Area 1B TAC for the Atlantic herring fishery will become available.

The Northeast Regional Office has established an automated system to provide faster notice to the fishing industry of management actions. You may receive permit holder letters, including closure notices, by requesting to be notified through e-mail by clicking on "What's New" on our website at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>. If you choose to receive notification of management actions through the automated system, you will continue to receive notices through the mail.

This permit holder letter also serves a small entity compliance guide required under the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Sincerely,

for Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

