



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

November 19, 2004

SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE

Dear Northeast (NE) Multispecies DAS Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you that, effective immediately, any days-at-sea (DAS) used by vessels participating in the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) program will be recorded based upon local time (i.e., currently Eastern Standard Time (EST)) and not Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

The November 17, 2004, Small Entity Compliance Guide explaining the provisions of Framework Adjustment 40-A (Framework 40-A) informed vessel owners that VMS records the time DAS use begins and ends based upon GMT instead of local time, which is EST or Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), depending on the season. Basing DAS use on GMT recorded by VMS instead of local time could affect the number of DAS charged under the Regular B DAS Pilot Program because the DAS counting for that program is determined using calendar days fished. The National Marine Fisheries Service understands that having to convert from GMT to plan a trip is inconvenient for vessels and has modified the DAS tracking program to correct for time-zone differences and record DAS use based upon local time (EST or EDT) instead of GMT. That means that your DAS will be charged based on the local time where your vessel is fishing, and you do not need to convert for GMT.

Any vessel using VMS that began a trip in the Regular B DAS Pilot Program prior to the implementation of this change will be retroactively charged DAS based upon local time. Any vessel using VMS and fishing after this change was made will be charged DAS based upon local time.

If you have any questions about this letter or the VMS program, please call James St. Cyr at (978) 281-9369.

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.

