



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

June 9, 2004

**Small Entity Compliance Guide  
Change in Regulations on Notification Time for Observers**

Dear Limited Access Northeast (NE) Multispecies Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you of a change to the regulations implemented by Amendment 13 to the NE Multispecies Fishery Management Plan, on May 1, 2004, and to provide further instructions for observer notification. A regulatory amendment to the final rule that will be effective on June 10, 2004, and will publish in the Federal Register on June 14, 2004, reduces the Observer Program notification time for groundfish DAS vessels prior to departure of a trip into the U.S./Canada Management Area from 5 working days to 72 hours. Therefore:

Groundfish DAS vessel owners who choose to fish in either of the two U.S./Canada Management Areas must provide notice to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) of the following at least 72 hours prior to the beginning of any trip that is declared into the U.S./Canada Management Area:

vessel name  
contact name  
telephone number for contact  
date of departure  
time of departure  
port of departure

The telephone number for the Observer Program contractor is (508) 990-9057. If you do not receive an answer when you call, please leave a message with your name and callback number, and you will be called back shortly. You will receive a confirmation number when you contact the Observer Program, and either an observer will be assigned to you or you will receive a waiver within 72 hours through your Vessel Monitoring System.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul  
Regional Administrator

