



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

July 10, 2003

Small Entity Compliance Guide

Dear Permit Holder:

This letter informs you that the Days-At-Sea (DAS) Leasing Program, proposed on an interim basis for Northeast (NE) multispecies limited access vessels for the current fishing year will not be implemented at this time.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) published a proposed emergency rule in the Federal Register on April 24, 2003 (68 FR 20096) that described a DAS Leasing Program (Program) for limited access NE multispecies vessels that was proposed to be implemented during the current fishing year. Comments on the proposed Program were accepted through June 10, 2003. A total of 127 comments were received.

Based on the comments received, NOAA Fisheries is withdrawing the proposed rule that would have implemented the Program and is publishing a notice of withdrawal of the DAS leasing portion of the proposed emergency rule in the Federal Register.

A DAS leasing program is included in the Draft Amendment 13 document that the New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is currently developing. NOAA Fisheries anticipates that the Council will conduct public hearings on Amendment 13, including DAS leasing options, during the fall of this year. We encourage the public to attend these public hearings on Amendment 13 and provide input to the Council.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

