



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

January 31, 2003

Small Entity Compliance Guide

Dear Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you that the Northeast multispecies management measures (for both the commercial and recreational fisheries) that were implemented through an interim action on August 1, 2002, consistent with the Settlement Agreement and adopted by a Court Order in Conservation Law Foundation, et al. v. Evans et al., have been extended for a second 180-day period. Furthermore, we anticipate that the Secretary of Commerce will take subsequent action to implement similar measures until such time that Amendment 13 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan is implemented, which is expected by May 2004. You will be informed of any such action through publication of a rule in the Federal Register and an additional small entity compliance guide (letter).

If you are a limited access permit holder, your multispecies days-at-sea (DAS) allocation for the new fishing year beginning May 1, 2003, will be the same as the allocation of DAS that you received under the August 1, 2002, interim action. In contrast to last year, during the period May through July, 2003, DAS use will not be limited to 25% of the annual allocation. Only vessels under the Day gillnet designation are subject to the differential DAS accounting rule under which trips greater than 3 hours, but less than or equal to 15 hours, will be counted as 15 hours.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

