



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

May 20, 2003

Dear Limited Access Northeast (NE) Multispecies Permit Holder:

On April 24, 2003, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) published a NE Multispecies proposed emergency rule that would continue management measures implemented on August 1, 2002, consistent with the Settlement Agreement Among Certain Parties (Settlement Agreement) that resulted from Conservation Law Foundation, et al. v. Evans, et al., and to implement a Days-At-Sea (DAS) Leasing Program. The comment period on all aspects of this action was scheduled to close on May 27, 2003. **This letter is to inform you that, due to the newness and potential controversiality of the DAS Leasing Program and its implications, NOAA Fisheries has extended the comment period through June 10, 2003, on the DAS Leasing aspect of the proposed emergency rule only (the comment period on the Settlement Agreement measures remains unchanged and, thus, ends on May 27, 2003).** Extension of the comment period on the DAS Leasing Program will allow additional time for the public to comment on this important component of the proposed emergency rule. This notice of extension will be filed in the Federal Register on May 20, 2003, and published on May 23, 2003.

This small entity compliance guide complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996.

This notice is authorized by the Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Region.

