



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

February 6, 2002

Dear Permit Holder:

The Year-4 default management measures for small-mesh multispecies (whiting, red hake and offshore hake), which were scheduled to take effect on May 1, 2002, have been delayed until May 1, 2003. These measures have been delayed in order to provide at least 2 full years of data on the fishery so that the Whiting Monitoring Committee can fully assess the effectiveness of the current management measures. This action conforms with the intent of the Multispecies Fishery Management Plan.

Therefore, the current management measures for small-mesh multispecies will remain in effect through April 30, 2003.

You may also receive permit holder letters, including closure notices, by e-mail by clicking on "What's New" on our website at <http://www.nero.nmfs.gov/ro/doc/nero.html>; or via fax by providing a fax number through a written request to the above address, or by faxing your request to 978-281-9135.¹

Sincerely,

for

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

¹*This small entity compliance guide complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996.*

