



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National
Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

February 27, 2002

Dear Multispecies Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you of an adjustment to the daily haddock landing limit for vessels fishing under a multispecies day-at-sea (DAS), and to clarify how limited access multispecies permit holders must comply with the required 20-day block out of the fishery and the required blocks out of the day gillnet fishery.

Beginning March 1, 2002 (0001 hours), the landing limit of 5,000 lb haddock per DAS fished will be reinstated. The maximum amount of haddock allowed to be landed per trip will continue to be 50,000 lbs. These limits will be in effect through April 30, 2002, at which time a vessel that fishes under a NE multispecies DAS may land up to 3,000 lb of haddock per DAS fished, up to 30,000 lb per trip.

Secondly, this letter is to remind you of the requirement for limited access permit holders to take a 20 day block of time out of the fishery during the time period from March 1 through May 31, and explain some aspects of this rule that may have been confusing. **Vessel owners must declare that they will be out of the multispecies day-at-sea program by calling in to the day-at-sea program in advance, and specifying a 20 consecutive day block during which they will not fish under a multispecies DAS.** Simply not fishing for groundfish will not satisfy the requirement, you need to call in and declare which 20 days you will not be fishing under a DAS. **The 20 days must begin on or after March 1 and end on or before May 31.** No portion of the 20 days may be taken prior to March 1 or after May 31. If you have not called in and declared your 20 day block by 0001 hrs by May 12, no multispecies sailing or landing confirmation numbers will be issued to you through 2400 hrs on May 31.

Similarly, for those fishing under the day gillnet category, you must call in and declare the beginning and ending dates of the required blocks out of the gillnet fishery (7 days minimum). For day gillnet vessels, the total number of required days out of the gillnet fishery is 120 days, 21 days of which need to be called out of the fishery during the period from June 1 through September 30 (the 20 day "spawning block" time out described above will be credited toward the 120 days).

Sincerely,

for

Patricia A. Kurkul,
Regional Administrator



