



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

June 13, 2002

### **SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE**

Dear Trip Gillnet Vessel Owner:

In the recent Federal Court decision in Conservation Law Foundation, et al. v. Evans, et al., the Court adopted a Settlement Agreement Among Certain Parties in which National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) agreed to implement interim regulations by August 1, 2002, to reduce overfishing on fish governed by the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. The Settlement Agreement includes a measure to require all vessels that have declared into the NE Multispecies Trip Gillnet category and that fish under a multispecies Day-At-Sea with gillnet gear in the Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank, and the Southern New England Regulated Mesh Areas, to tag all gillnet gear fished.

In anticipation of this requirement being implemented by August 1, 2002, and, to ensure that you receive your net tags in a timely way, you may order tags now. To order gillnet tags, complete and return the enclosed Draft Trip Gillnet Tag Order Form to the National Marine Fisheries Service at the address listed on the form with your check (tags are \$1.15 each plus a \$5.00 shipping and handling fee for orders of less than 20 tags) made out to: **National Band and Tag Company**. The number of tags you may need are specified on the enclosed form. Once the order has been processed, the gillnet tags will be shipped directly to you at the address you provided on the tag Order Form. If you have questions about this requirement, please call (978) 281-9278.

This Small Entity Compliance Guide complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996.

Sincerely,

**for**

Patricia A. Kurkul  
Regional Administrator



**DRAFT TRIP GILLNET TAG ORDER FORM**

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED IF YOU HAVE DECLARED INTO THE TRIP GILLNET CATEGORY AND YOUR VESSEL WILL BE FISHING WITH GILLNET GEAR, under a MULTISPECIES DAS in the Gulf Of Maine, Georges Bank or Southern New England Regulated Mesh Areas beginning August 1, 2002.

YOU MUST COMPLETE PARTS 1 AND 2.

**PART 1**

**Limited Access Multispecies permit holders that have declared into the Trip Gillnet category and that fish with gillnet gear under a multispecies day-at-sea must tag their gillnet gear when fishing in the specified regulated mesh areas (RMA) as follows:**

- GOM RMA.....restricted to 150 nets.....one tag fixed to each net.**
- GB RMA.....restricted to 50 nets.....two tags fixed to each net.**
- SNE RMA .....restricted to 75 nets.....two tags fixed to each net.**

**Please indicate how many tags that you wish to purchase by filling out the following information:**

Number of Tags Requested \_\_\_\_\_ (Not to exceed 150) @ \$1.15 each  
**(NOTE, an additional shipping and handling charge of \$5.00 must be included only for orders of less than 20 tags).**

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Note, the total cost for 150 tags is \$ 172.50)

Name and Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to **National Band and Tag Company** and complete Part 2 below.

**Initial Tags will be shipped to you directly from the tag manufacturer**

**PART 2**

Vessel Name \_\_\_\_\_ Federal Permit # \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Documentation #  
or State Registration # \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions, please call the NMFS Northeast Regional Office information line at (978) 281-9278.  
Return this form and payment to:

NMFS Permits Office, Gillnet Program

The information will be used in the management of the Northeast multispecies and monkfish fisheries. One of the regulatory steps taken by NMFS to carry out the conservation and management objectives of these fishery management plans is limiting fishing vessel effort. The application to designate a gillnet category and order gillnet tags is meant to allow industry members to designate their appropriate gillnet category and order the appropriate number of gillnet tags in accordance with 50 CFR §648.4(c)(2)(iii) and §648.82(k). Since this requirement has been adopted as part of the effort reduction programs under the Northeast Multispecies and Monkfish Fishery Management Plans, it is viewed as consistent with the conservation goals of these FMPs.

BURDEN STATEMENT: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or suggestions for reducing this burden to: Patricia A. Kurkul, Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; and to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

The information collected on this form is not confidential and can be made available to the general public.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to nor shall a person be subject to penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a current valid OMB Control Number.