



Northeast Region Bulletin

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<http://nero.noaa.gov>
Date issued: 04/27/2012

Northeast Skate Fishery SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE **Final 2012-2013 Fishery Specifications** *Effective date: May 1, 2012*

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service has approved final catch limits, quotas, and possession limits for the skate fishery for the 2012 and 2013 fishing years (May 1, 2012 through April 30, 2014). The following measures have been approved:

Skate Catch Limits and Total Allowable Landings (Quotas)

- Annual Catch Limit (ACL) = 111,190,161 lb (50,435 mt)
- Annual Catch Target (ACT) = 83,392,070 lb (37,826 mt)
- Skate wing fishery quota = 31,609,885 lb (14,338 mt)
- Skate bait fishery quota = 15,923,992 lb (7,223 mt) allocated as follows:
 - Bait Season 1 (May 1 – July 31) = 4,904,589 lb (2,225 mt)
 - Bait Season 2 (August 1 – October 31) = 5,907,801 lb (2,680 mt)
 - Bait Season 3 (November 1 – April 30) = remainder of annual quota

Skate Possession Limits

- Skate wing possession limits remain at status quo levels:
 - *May 1 – August 31*: 2,600 lb wing weight (5,902 lb whole weight) per trip if fishing on a Northeast Multispecies, Monkfish, or Scallop Day-at-Sea (DAS)
 - *September 1 – April 30*: 4,100 lb wing weight (9,307 lb whole weight) per trip if fishing on a Northeast Multispecies, Monkfish, or Scallop DAS
 - 220 lb wing weight (500 lb whole weight) per trip if fishing on a Northeast Multispecies Category B-DAS
 - 500 lb wing weight (1,135 lb whole weight) per trip if NOT fishing on a DAS
- Skate bait possession limit is increased for vessels fishing with a valid Skate Bait Letter of Authorization:
 - 25,000 lb of whole skates per trip
 - Maximum size limit of 23 inches total length
 - Must fish on a DAS, unless fishing in a Northeast Multispecies exemption area
- **Possession and landing of thorny, barndoor, and smooth skates remains prohibited**

This bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Region.