



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

July 30, 2009

SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE

CONTROL DATE FOR THE NORTHEAST (NE) SKATE COMPLEX BAIT FISHERY

Dear Permit Holder:

This letter serves to inform you of action recently taken by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on behalf of the New England Fishery Management Council (Council) relating to possible future action to develop fishery management regulations for the NE skate bait fishery.

The Council recently requested, and NMFS published, an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding the skate bait fishery. The date of publication of this notice, July 30, 2009, shall be known as the "control date" for potential use in determining historical or traditional participation in the skate bait fishery. Consideration of a control date does not commit the Council or NMFS to develop any particular management system or criteria for participation in this fishery. The Council may choose a different control date, or may choose a management program that does not make use of such a date.

Fishing vessels are not guaranteed future participation in the fishery, regardless of their entry dates or level of participation in this fishery before or after the control date. The Council may choose to give variably weighted consideration to vessels active in the fishery before and after the control date. The Council may also choose to take no further action to control entry or access to the fishery, in which case the control date may be rescinded. Any action by the Council will be taken pursuant to the requirements for the development of fishery management plan amendments established under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

This notification also gives the public notice that interested participants should locate and preserve records that substantiate and verify their participation in the skate bait fishery in Federal waters.

The control date for the NE skate complex bait fishery is: July 30, 2009.

The Federal Register notice that established this control date contains additional information regarding the possible use of this control date. To request a copy of this notice, please call (978) 281-9315, or visit the Northeast Regional Office's website at: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/>

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

