



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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March 6, 2015

RE: Notice to State Waters Groundfish Endorsement (GE) Permit Holders of Lower Tier Qualifying Criteria

Dear Permit Holder:

On February 6, 2015, the Massachusetts Division on Marine Fisheries (DMF) sent you an informational mailing notifying you of Phase 2 of the Groundfish Disaster Economic Assistance Program qualification criteria for commercial and for-hire permit holders and an appeals period. Based on a review of appeals received by the February 20, 2015 deadline, DMF is implementing an additional lower tier qualification for state waters Groundfish Endorsement (GE) permit holders. This decision is consistent with providing aid to those active federal and state commercial groundfishermen impacted by the recent fishery declines and consequent disaster declaration.

MA DMF has expanded the criteria for state GE permit holders to include a lower flat rate payment to permit holders that landed at least 3,000-lbs. of groundfish¹ but less than 5,000-lbs. of groundfish in any one year from FY2010 to FY2013. **You have not been pre-qualified for payment based on your commercial permit history.**

If you believe there was a technical error in the landings data to qualify your vessel, you may appeal to MA DMF in writing (c/o Samantha Andrews, 251 Causeway St., Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114; or by dated email at Samantha.n.andrews@state.ma.us). Appeals must be postmarked no later than March 20, 2015.

Should you have any additional questions about Phase 2 of the Groundfish Disaster Economic Assistance Program, please contact Samantha Andrews, DMF Program Coordinator, at (617) 626-1564 or by email, Samantha.n.andrews@state.ma.us.

Sincerely,

Melanie Griffin
Fishery Policy Analyst

¹ Groundfish for qualification purposes means the following thirteen species: cod, haddock, yellowtail flounder, pollock, plaice, witch flounder, white hake, windowpane flounder, Atlantic halibut, winter flounder, redfish, Atlantic wolffish, and ocean pout.