



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

February 23, 2001

Dear Permit Holder:

This refers to the final rule implementing the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan, which was published in the Federal Register (65 FR 77450) on December 11, 2000. The vessel monitoring system (VMS) requirements in the Atlantic herring fishery, which were scheduled to take effect on March 12, 2001, have been temporarily delayed for 60 days by Presidential directive.

Therefore, the requirement to install and use a VMS unit on vessels in the directed herring fishery that caught greater than 500 mt in the previous year, or vessels whose owner intends to harvest greater than 500 mt in the current year, is delayed until May 11, 2001.

Our records show that you have applied for a Category 1 herring permit. Vessel owners seeking to acquire a Category 1 (VMS required) herring permit, and vessel owners who have already acquired a Category 1 herring permit, must install a NMFS-approved VMS and submit a VMS vendor installation receipt to the Permit Office, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298, no later than May 11, 2001. *Failure to submit such proof of installation by this date will automatically void the Category 1 Atlantic herring vessel permit.*

Note: If your vessel also possesses a limited access full-time or part-time scallop permit, which requires a VMS, no further proof of VMS installation is required (you need not submit a VMS vendor installation receipt).

If you have any questions relating to permits or want to request a permit application, please call the Permit Office at 978-281-9370.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

