



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

November 28, 2007

## **SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE**

### **INTERIM 2008 SUMMER FLOUNDER COASTWIDE RECREATIONAL MEASURES IMPLEMENTED**

Dear Summer Flounder Charter/Party Permit Holder:

On November 21, 2007, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) published a final rule (72 FR 65466) in the Federal Register to implement interim summer flounder recreational management measures to become effective on January 1, 2008, when state-by-state conservation equivalency measures expire. The final rule implements a 4-fish bag limit, a minimum fish size of 18.5 inches, and a year-round season as the interim measures.

For clarity, these measures are not the final 2008 summer flounder recreational management measures. The interim measures will remain effective until replaced by final 2008 measures. These interim measures are necessary to ensure that the minor amount of recreational landings that occur between January and June have appropriate measures in place to ensure the 2008 fishery objectives are not compromised. The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council will meet on December 11-13, 2007, in Secaucus, New Jersey, to review the updated 2007 recreational fishery information and to recommend measures to manage the 2008 summer flounder recreational fishery. NMFS anticipates that the final measures for 2008, used to manage the months in which the majority of recreational landings occur (July through September) will be in place by late spring. The final measures, once developed and implemented, will replace or revise the interim measures contained in this letter.

If you have additional questions about the interim recreational management measures or the process that is used to develop and implement the final 2008 recreational management measures, please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division, Northeast Region, at (978) 218-9315.

This small entity compliance guide complies with Section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul  
Regional Administrator

