



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

OCT 23 2009

Small Entity Compliance Guide

Dear Atlantic Surfclam and/or Ocean Quahog Permit Holder:

This is to inform you that the 2010 quotas (January 1 through December 31, 2010) for surfclams, ocean quahogs, and Maine ocean quahogs will remain unchanged from 2009. That is, the 2009 quota of 3.4 million bushels for Atlantic surfclams, 5.333 million bushels for ocean quahog, and 100,000 Maine bushels for Maine ocean quahogs will remain in effect for 2010. In addition, the minimum size limit for surfclams has been suspended for the 2010 fishing year (October 23, 2009, 74 FR 54757). Below is a summary of the 2010 fishing year quotas:

FINAL 2010 SURFCLAM/OCEAN QUAHOG QUOTAS

Species	2010 quota (bu)
Surfclams ¹	3.400 million
Ocean Quahogs ¹	5.333 million
Maine Ocean Quahogs ²	100,000

¹ 1 bushel = 1.88 cubic ft = 53.24 liters

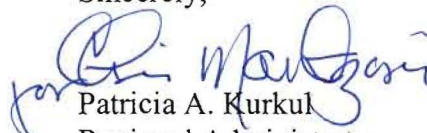
² 1 Maine bushel = 1.2445 cubic ft = 35.24 liters

These quotas were initially published in the Federal Register on January 4, 2008 (73 FR 820), and were evaluated in an annual quota recommendation paper prepared by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and presented at its June 2009 meeting. The Council recommended that the status quo quota specifications remain in place. This letter does not contain all the regulatory provisions that pertain to these fisheries and so has no legal force or effect. A copy of the final quota specifications can be obtained through NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service Northeast Regional Office's web site <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/clams/>.

Please visit this web site for up-to-date information on regulations, quota reports, maps of closure areas, and Individual Transferable Quota allocation information. If you need more information or a copy of the final specifications, please call Anna Macan at (978) 281-9165.

We remind surfclam and ocean quahog fishermen that it is important to stay informed of how to identify and react to discarded military munitions encountered while fishing. For more information regarding unexploded ordinance, please visit www.denix.osd.mil/uxosafety.

Sincerely,


Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

