



February 9, 2010

**SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE**

**2010 BLACK SEA BASS SPECIFICATIONS--REVISION**

Dear Permit Holder:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is utilizing the authority provided at section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to increase the 2010 black sea bass specifications, including the commercial quota, recreational harvest limit, and research set-aside (RSA). This emergency rule will be effective for 180 days beginning February 10, 2010. NMFS may extend the emergency specifications for the remainder of the year through a subsequent rulemaking. Comments on the rule may be submitted through the government's e-rulemaking portal at [regulations.gov](http://regulations.gov).

The black sea bass Total Allowable Landings (TAL) has been increased from 2.30 to 3.7 million lb. After deducting the revised RSA of 111,000 lb, the revised TAL is divided into a commercial quota of 1,758,610 lb and a recreational harvest limit of 1,830,390 lb.

TABLE 1. REVISED 2010 BLACK SEA BASS SPECIFICATIONS

	Allowable Biological Catch (ABC)/ Total Allowable Catch (TAC)	Discards	Total Allowable Landings (TAL)	Research Set-Aside (RSA)	Commercial Quota	Recreational Harvest Limit (RHL)
	lb	lb	lb	lb	lb	lb
Published at 74 FR 67978, December 22, 2009	2,710,000	410,000	2,300,000	69,000	1,093,190	1,137,810
Emergency Rule Revisions	4,500,000	800,000	3,700,000	111,000	1,758,610	1,830,390

Proposed 2010 recreational fishery management measures for black sea bass will be published in the *Federal Register* in the first quarter of 2010.

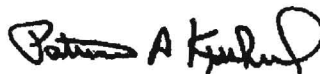
This letter does not contain all the regulatory provisions that pertain to these species and, consequently, has no legal force or effect. A copy of the regulations can be obtained through a



link to the *Federal Register* at the NMFS Northeast Regional Office website:  
<http://www.nero.noaa.gov>.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia A. Kurkul". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "P".

Patricia A. Kurkul  
Regional Administrator