



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

**Small Entity Compliance Guide**

DEC 23 2010

**Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Quota Specifications for Fishing Years 2011-2013**

Dear Atlantic Surfclam and/or Ocean Quahog Permit Holder:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has issued final fishing quotas for the 2011-2013 fishing years for Atlantic surfclams, ocean quahogs, and Maine ocean quahogs. The final rule for the 3-year quota specifications was published in the Federal Register (75 FR 81142) on December 27, 2010. The Atlantic surfclam, ocean quahog, and Maine ocean quahog quotas will remain at the 2010 quota levels detailed in the table below. In addition, the minimum size limit for surfclams has been suspended for the 2011 fishing year. Below is a summary of the 2011-2013 fishing year quotas:

FINAL 2011-2013 SURFCLAM/OCEAN QUAHOG QUOTAS<sup>1</sup>

| Fishing Year                     | 2011    | 2012    | 2013    |
|----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Atlantic Surfclams <sup>2</sup>  | 3.400   | 3.400   | 3.400   |
| Ocean Quahogs <sup>2</sup>       | 5.333   | 5.333   | 5.333   |
| Maine Ocean Quahogs <sup>3</sup> | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 |

<sup>1</sup> Numerical values in table are in **millions of bushels** except for Maine ocean quahogs, which are in Maine bushels

<sup>2</sup> 1 bushel = 1.88 cubic ft = 53.24 liters

<sup>3</sup> 1 Maine bushel = 1.2445 cubic ft = 35.24 liters

These quotas will be evaluated in an annual quota recommendation paper prepared by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council prior to September 1 of each year to determine if the multi-year quota specifications remain appropriate. 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 the NMFS 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 fishing quota allocation information. If you need more information or a copy of the final specifications please call Doug Potts at (978) 281-9341 or Anna Macan at (978) 281-9165.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul  
 Regional Administrator

