



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

March 9, 2004

SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE

REVISION TO THE 2004 SUMMER FLOUNDER COMMERCIAL QUOTAS

Dear Permit Holder:


NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) has revised the 2004 state-by-state commercial quotas for the summer flounder (fluke) fishery, which were published as part of the final specifications for the 2004 summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass fisheries on January 14, 2004 (69 FR 2074). Following publication of the final commercial quotas, NOAA Fisheries found discrepancies in how certain landings were attributed and subsequently used for quota monitoring, and has revised the affected commercial quotas accordingly. The revisions are effective retroactively, i.e., January 14, 2004, and are further described in the Federal Register notice, which published on March 9, 2004.

The 2004 commercial summer flounder quotas have been revised for Massachusetts (1,128,276 lb), Connecticut (379,531 lb), Maryland (313,658 lb), and North Carolina (4,615,059 lb). See the back of this page for the final quotas as published on January 14, 2004, the amounts restored, and the revised 2004 quotas, for the affected states; note that these are the only changes made at this time to the final 2004 summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass quotas.

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 Office of the Federal Register at NERO's website: <http://www.nero.nmfs.gov>.

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

Sincerely,


for Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator



Summary of summer flounder commercial quota revisions (in lb).

(Note that these are the only changes to the final 2004 quotas. All other quotas remain as published in the January 14, 2004, Federal Register notice.)

| Affected State | 2004 Adjusted Quota, less the 2004 Research Set-Aside | Amount Restored to the 2004 Adjusted Quota | Revised 2004 Quota, less the 2004 Research Set-Aside |
|----------------|---|--|--|
| Massachusetts | 1,127,996 | 280 | 1,128,276 |
| Connecticut | 338,424 | 41,107 | 379,531 |
| Maryland | 269,581 | 44,077 | 313,658 |
| North Carolina | 4,163,464 | 451,595 | 4,615,059 |