



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

January 12, 2005

Dear Atlantic Surfclam and/or Ocean Quahog Permit Holder:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) has issued final specifications for the 2005, 2006, and 2007 fishing years for surfclams, ocean quahogs, and Maine ocean quahogs. We have approved continuing the status quo quota (3.4 million bushels) for the surfclam fishery for 2005-2007, a 20-percent increase for the ocean quahog quota from the 2004 quota levels over the 3-year period (5.33 million bushels in 2005, 5.66 million bushels in 2006, and 6.00 million bushels in 2007), and are keeping the 100,000 Maine bushel quota for the Maine ocean quahog fishery for 2005-2007. In addition, we have extended the suspension of the minimum size limit for surfclams in the 2005 fishing year. Below is a summary the 2005, 2006, and 2007 fishing year quotas:

FINAL 2005-2007 SURFCLAM/OCEAN QUAHOG QUOTAS¹

	2005	2006	2007
Surfclams ²	3.400	3.400	3.400
Ocean Quahogs ²	5.333	5.666	6.000
Maine Ocean Quahogs ³	100,000	100,000	100,000

¹ Numerical values in table are in millions of bushels except for Maine ocean quahogs

² 1 bushel = 1.88 cubic ft = 53.24 liters

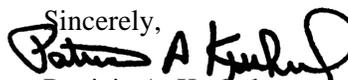
³ 1 bushel = 1.2445 cubic ft = 35.24 liters

These specifications were published on January 12, 2005, and are effective January 1, 2005. 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. If you need more information or a copy of the final specifications please call Brian Hooker at (978) 281-9220. 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 specifications can also be obtained through the NOAA Fisheries 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 ITQ allocation information.

For your information, beginning January 18, 2005, we will no longer be returning copies of the transfer request form that you submit to us as part of the Atlantic surfclam and ocean quahog ITQ program. The allocation permit reflecting the transaction will be all that you receive. As always you may request a copy of the received transfer request form by submitting a letter to the Regional Office or by calling Brian Hooker at (978) 281-9220.

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

