



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

February 27, 2006

Small Entity Compliance Guide

2006 ATLANTIC BLUEFISH SPECIFICATIONS

Dear Atlantic Bluefish Permit Holder:

This letter announces the Atlantic bluefish specifications for the fishing year 2006, including coastwide and state quotas, and the recreational possession limit.

2006 Total Allowable Landings (TAL), Commercial Quota, Recreational Harvest Limit, and Possession Limit

Effective March 27, 2006, the bluefish TAL is 24.80 million lb. After transferring 3,865,294 lb from the recreational to the commercial sector, and accounting for a research set-aside quota of 363,677 lb, the final 2006 specifications set the commercial quota at 7,962,586 lb and the recreational harvest limit at 16,472,573 lb. The individual state commercial allocations are shown in Attachment 1, and are based on the percentages specified in the Atlantic Bluefish Fishery Management Plan. Final adjustments to the commercial quota may be necessary to account for individual state overages in fishing year 2005. A separate Federal Register notice will be published in the event that further adjustments to the quota are necessary. There is a 15-fish per person recreational possession limit in 2006, the same as in 2005.

This letter does not contain all the regulatory provisions that pertain to the bluefish fishery, 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 the NOAA Fisheries Services' 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,

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator



ATTACHMENT 1

**State Commercial Allocations—
2006 Atlantic Bluefish Fisheries**

State	Percent of Quota	2006 Commercial Quota (lb) (with RSA deducted)
ME	0.6685	53,083
NH	0.4145	32,914
MA	6.7167	533,344
RI	6.8081	540,601
CT	1.2663	100,551
NY	10.3851	824,635
NJ	14.8162	1,176,489
DE	1.8782	149,140
MD	3.0018	238,360
VA	11.8795	943,299
NC	32.0608	2,545,807
SC	0.0352	2,795
GA	0.0095	754
FL	10.0597	798,797
Total	100.0001	7,962,586