



Dear Atlantic Surfclam and/or Ocean Quahog Permit Holder:

This is to inform you that the 2007 (January 1, through December 31, 2007) quotas for surfclams, ocean quahogs, and Maine ocean quahogs will remain unchanged from the previous year. That is, the 2006 quota of 3.4 million bushels for Atlantic surfclams, 5.333 million bushels for ocean quahog, and 100,000 Maine bushels for Maine ocean quahogs will remain in effect for 2007. In addition, the minimum size limit for surfclams has been suspended for the 2007 fishing year (October 30, 2006, 71 FR 63268). Below is a summary of the 2007 fishing year quotas:

FINAL 2006 and 2007 SURFCLAM/OCEAN QUAHOG QUOTAS¹

	2006	2007
Surfclams ²	3.400	3.400
Ocean Quahogs ²	5.333	5.333
Maine Ocean Quahogs ³	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 quotas were published in the Federal Register on December 28, 2005 (70 FR 76715). These quotas were evaluated in an annual quota recommendation paper prepared by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and presented at its June 2006 meeting. The Council recommended that the status quo quota specifications remain in place. 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 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. If you need more information or a copy of the final specifications please call Brian Hooker at (978) 281-9220.

We remind surfclam and ocean quahog fishermen that it is important to stay informed of how to identify and react to discarded military munitions encountered while fishing. For more information regarding unexploded ordinance please visit www.denix.osd.mil/uxosafety.

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

