



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

February 23, 2001

2001 SPECIFICATIONS AND CLOSURE NOTICE FOR SCUP AND BLACK SEA BASS

Dear Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has approved final 2001 specifications for the scup and black sea bass fisheries. This rule was published in the Federal Register on **March 1, 2001**.

All measures are in effect immediately, with the exception of revisions to Gear Restricted Area (GRA) measures; measures making trip limits possession limits; and measures specifying that the possession limit is the maximum amount that can be landed in a 24-hour period. These measures are effective **March 31, 2001**. Tables summarizing the initial and adjusted commercial quotas, and possession limits for each species, are provided. All adjusted commercial quotas are preliminary and subject to change as landings data become available. Landings of scup and black sea bass made since January 1, 2001, count toward these quotas.

Simultaneously with the publication of these specifications, the Winter I scup fishery was closed, effective March 1, 2001. The First Quarter black sea bass fishery was also closed, effective March 7, 2001.

SCUP

This rule implements the following measures:

- (1) A total allowable landings (TAL) of 6.22 million lb (4.45 million lb commercial, 1.77 million lb recreational);
- (2) An increase from 200 lb to 500 lb in the scup possession limit for the Winter I and Winter II fisheries that triggers the 4.5-inch minimum mesh requirement ;
- (3) Revision of the current scup trip limit provisions to be possession limits;
- (4) Specification that the possession limit is the maximum amount that can be landed in a 24-hour period (calendar day);
- (5) Revision of the Winter I possession limit to 10,000 lb/trip, with a reduction to 1,000 lb/trip when 75 percent of the Winter I quota is attained;
- (6) Reduction of the Winter II possession limit from 4,000 lb to



2,000 lb; and

(7) Revised Gear Restricted Areas (GRAs) in the Mid-Atlantic with exemptions for Atlantic herring and Atlantic mackerel small-mesh fisheries. Vessels are not allowed to fish for or possess black sea bass, Loligo squid or silver hake (whiting) in these areas when fishing with mesh smaller than 4.5 inches diamond mesh.

The boundary coordinates and time periods for the new GRAs are provided below. A map depicting these GRAs is also attached.

NORTHERN GEAR RESTRICTED AREA (November 1 through December 31)

<u>Point</u>	<u>N. Lat.</u>	<u>W. Long.</u>
NGA1	41°00'	71°00'
NGA2	41°00'	71°30'
NGA3	40°00'	72°40'
NGA4	40°00'	72°05'
NGA1	41°00'	71°00'

SOUTHERN GEAR RESTRICTED AREA (January 1 through March 15)

<u>Point</u>	<u>N. Lat.</u>	<u>W. Long.</u>
SGA1	39°20'	72°50'
SGA2	39°20'	72°25'
SGA3	38°00'	73°55'
SGA4	37°00'	74°40'
SGA5	36°30'	74°40'
SGA6	36°30'	75°00'
SGA7	37°00'	75°00'
SGA8	38°00'	74°20'
SGA1	39°20'	72°50'

Preliminary Adjusted 2001 Scup Commercial Quotas.

Period	2001 Initial quota		2001 Adjusted quota ¹		Possession Limits	
	lb	kg ²	lb	kg ²	lb	kg ²
Winter I	2,004,959	909,434	1,675,621	760,049	10,000 ⁴	4,536
Summer	1,731,172	785,246	1,147,861	520,661	N/A	N/A
Winter II	708,469	321,356	708,469	321,356	2,000	907
Total	4,444,600	2,016,037	3,531,951	1,602,066		

¹Adjusted due to overages in 2000.

²Kilograms are as converted from pounds and may not add to the converted total due to rounding.

³Possession limit will drop to 1,000 lb per trip when 75 percent of Winter I quota is reached.

BLACK SEA BASS

This rule implements the following management measures:

- (1) A TAL of 6.17 million lb (3.02 million lb for the commercial fishery and 3.15 million lb for the recreational fishery);
- (2) Reduction in the possession limits for Quarters 2, 3 and 4 to 1,500 lb, 1,000 lb, and 2,000 lb, respectively;
- (3) Revision of current trip limit provisions to specify them as possession limits; and
- (4) Specification that the possession limit be the maximum amount that can be landed in a 24-hour period (calendar day).

Preliminary Adjusted 2001 Black Sea Bass Commercial Quotas

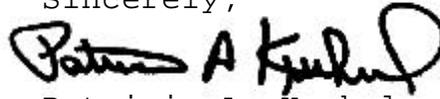
Period	2001 Initial quota		2001 Adjusted quota ¹		Possession	
	lb	kg ²	lb	kg ²	lb	kg ²
1	1,168,760	530,141	1,168,760	530,141	9000	4,082
2	885,040	401,447	683,906	310,215	1500	680
3	372,951	169,168	291,786	132,352	1000	454
4	597,991	271,244	595,254	270,003	2000	907
Total	3,024,742	1,372,000	2,739,706	1,242,710		

¹Adjusted due to overages in 2000.

²Kilograms are as converted from pounds and may not add to the converted total due to rounding.

For further information please call 978-281-9278.

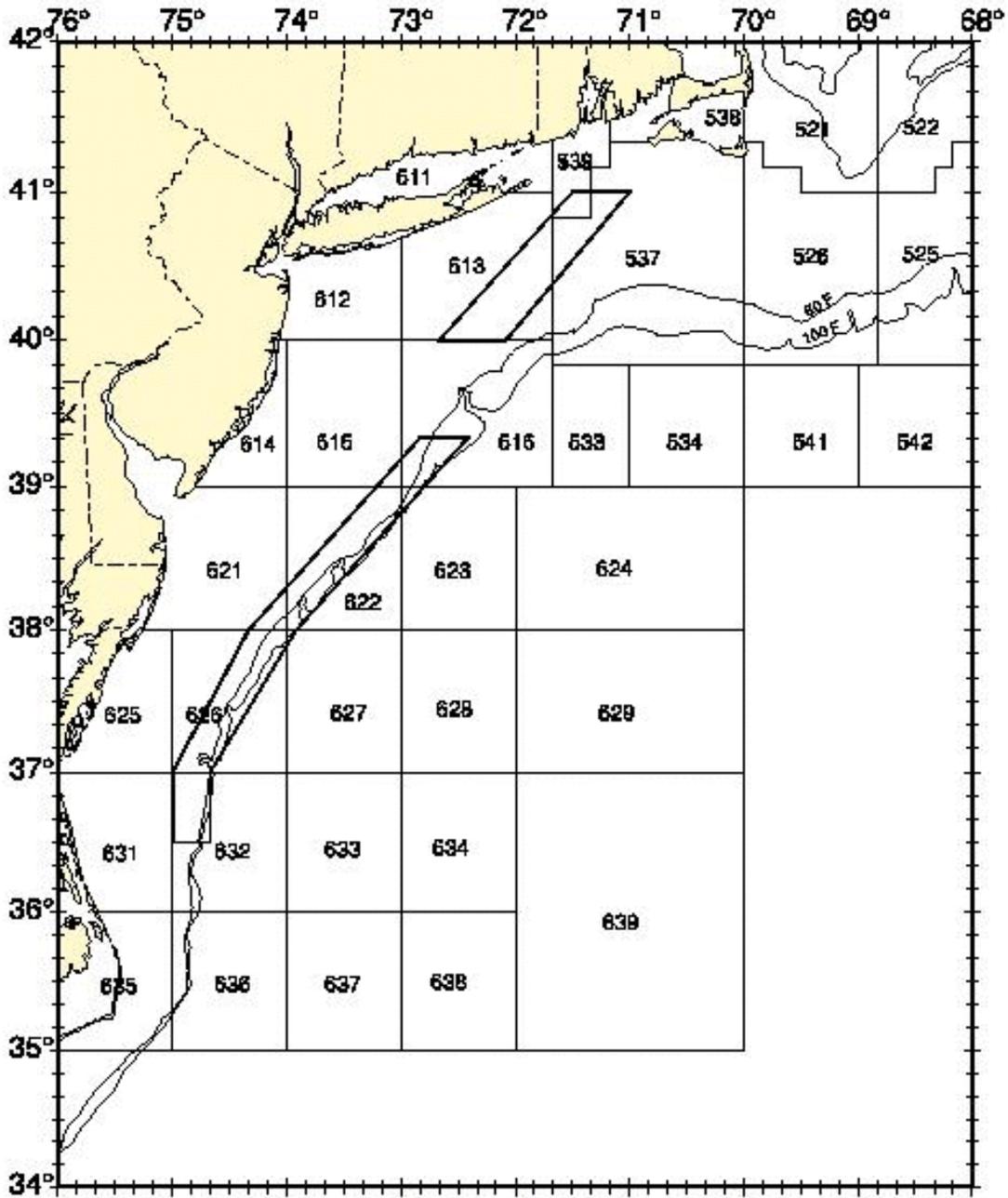
Sincerely,



Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

Attachment

Scup GRAs



Northern GRA effective November 1 through December 31.
Southern GRA effective January 1 through March 15.