



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National  
Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
NORTHEAST REGION  
One Blackburn Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

January 22, 2002

Dear Atlantic Herring Permit Holder:

This letter announces the Atlantic herring specifications for the year 2002 (see table below), announces the implementation of Framework 1 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP), and clarifies existing regulations regarding reporting requirements.

The Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Herring requires NMFS to specify annually: Allowable biological catch (ABC), optimum yield (OY), domestic annual harvest (DAH), domestic annual processing (DAP), total foreign processing (JVPT), joint venture processing (JVP), internal waters processing (IWP), U.S. at-sea processing (USAP), border transfer (BT), total allowable level of foreign fishing (TALFF), and total allowable catch (TAC) for each management area and sub-area identified in the FMP. Framework 1 to the FMP modifies the specification of TAC allocation for Area 1A by enabling the New England Fishery Management Council to recommend a seasonal quota for the January - May period for this management area. The seasonal quota set for Area 1A for 2002 is 6,000 mt.

The only change from the 2001 specifications is an increase in estimated DAH/DAP by 5,000 mt and resulting decrease in TALFF to zero. Joint venture processing will continue to be prohibited in Herring Management Areas 1A and 1B, but will be allowed in Areas 2 and 3.

**Specifications and Area TACs  
for the  
2002 Atlantic Herring Fishery**

Specification	Proposed Allocation (mt)
ABC	300,000
OY	250,000
DAH	250,000
DAP	226,000
JVPT	20,000
JVP	10,000 (Area 2 & Area 3)
IWP	10,000
USAP	20,000
BT	4,000



TALFF	0
Reserve	0
TAC - Area 1A	60,000 Jan.-May = 6,000
TAC - Area 1B	10,000
TAC - Area 2	50,000 (TAC reserve: 80,000)
TAC - Area 3	50,000

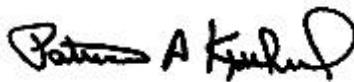
Clarification of reporting requirements

NMFS has revised regulations to clarify the Council's intent concerning the reporting requirements for owners or operators of vessels who have been issued Atlantic herring permits but who are not required to have a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) unit on board the vessel. This revision clarifies that only owners or operators of vessels that catch 2,000 lb (907.2 kg) or more of Atlantic herring on any one trip in a week must submit an Atlantic herring catch report via the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) reporting system by Tuesday of the following week. Even if the herring has not yet been landed, the operator must estimate the amount of herring on board the vessel and report that amount via the IVR system. In addition, the revision clarifies that owners or operators of vessels that catch 2,000 lb (907.2 kg) or more of Atlantic herring, some or all of which is caught in or from the EEZ, on any trip in a week, must submit an Atlantic herring catch report via the IVR system for that week.

The Northeast Regional Office has established two automated systems to provide faster notice to the fishing industry of management actions. You may receive permit holder letters, including closure notices, by requesting to be notified through one of the following systems: (1) You may request e-mail notices by clicking on "What's New" on our website at <http://www.nero.nmfs.gov/>, or (2) you may be notified via fax by providing a fax number through a written request to the above address, or by faxing your request to 978-281-9135. If you choose to receive notification of management actions through one of the above automated systems, you will continue to receive notices through the mail.

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

Sincerely,



Patricia A. Kurkul  
Regional Administrator