



Northeast Region Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Regional Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

For Information Contact:
Sustainable Fisheries Division
(978) 281-9315

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/>
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New York Summer Flounder Fishery Open

Effective Date: December 12, 2012

On December 5, 2012, we determined that the 2012 commercial summer flounder quota set in the final rule implementing the 2012 specifications was incorrect. We mistakenly removed the 3-percent research set-aside (RSA) from the initial quota twice. NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) closed the commercial summer flounder fishery in New York on October 20, 2012, because its quota of 922,705 lb was projected to be fully harvested by that date. However after adjusting for the RSA error, the correct 2012 commercial summer flounder quota for New York is 953,773 lb.

The Regional Administrator has determined that New York has 2012 quota available for harvest. Therefore, effective 0001 hours, December 12, 2012, fishing vessels issued a Federal moratorium permit for the summer flounder fishery may land summer flounder in New York until the quota is fully harvested. This reopening is concurrent with the State of New York's reopening of its commercial summer flounder fishery to state permitted vessels and dealers effective December 12, 2012.

Vessel owners issued Federal permits must continue to complete and submit vessel logbooks. Additionally, dealers issued Federal dealer permits for summer flounder may now purchase summer flounder from federally permitted vessels that land in New York until the quota is fully harvested. Federally permitted dealers must also continue to report all fish purchases from any vessel.

For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Region.