



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

July 18, 2001

Dear Permit Holder,

This letter is to advise you that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has revised a provision of the Deep Sea Red Crab (red crab) emergency rule, which is currently in effect through November 14, 2001. Specifically, NMFS *revises the conversion factor* used to determine compliance with the trip limit when red crab parts (referred to as "butchered") are landed instead of whole crabs or meat only. Industry provided information to NMFS after the publication of the emergency rule that indicated that the conversion ratio used, which presumed a 58 percent recovery rate for butchered red crab, was unnecessarily restrictive. Upon observation of a recent sample in which red crab were butchered, NMFS determined that, where crabs are landed shelled and cut only, with the gills and viscera more or less intact, a 64 percent recovery rate is more in keeping with current industry practices.

Accordingly, NMFS revises the conversion ratio to **1.56** from 1.72. This change means that to determine your appropriate trip limit, you must multiply your catch times the conversion ratio. For example, to be in compliance with the 65,000 lb. trip limit, you may land up to approximately 41,667 lbs. ( $41,667 \times 1.56 = 65,000$ ) of butchered crab, as compared to the approximately 37,791 lbs. allowed with the 1.72 multiplier. This change is effective upon the date of this letter.

Vessels that land red crab whole and alive or fully processed (meat only) are unaffected by this action. This letter is only a summary of the regulations. For a complete copy of the rule, visit <http://www.nero.nmfs.gov/ro/doc/nero.html> or call (978)281-9315.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul  
Regional Administrator

