



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

August 3, 2001

Dear Red Crab Vessel Owner and Commercial Dealer:

This letter is to inform you that the commercial quota for the red crab fishery established by the red crab emergency interim action on May 8, 2001, is projected to be harvested prior to the completion of the 180-day emergency action (through November 14, 2001).

Pursuant to 50 CFR 648.264, notwithstanding any other regulations of Subpart M of 50 CFR 648, **effective 0001 hours, August 17, 2001, through November 14, 2001, vessels may not fish for, or possess, red crab harvested from the EEZ in excess of 100 lb per trip.** Federally permitted vessels are reminded that they must continue to complete and submit vessel logbooks. Additionally, dealers are advised that they may not purchase red crab in excess of 100 lb per vessel, per trip, for the remainder of the emergency action (through November 14, 2001). Federally permitted dealers must continue to report **all** fish purchases from **any** vessel. If NMFS decides to recommend a 180-day extension of the emergency rule to the Secretary, and the Secretary approves, a notification will be published in the Federal Register to inform the industry.

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/ro/doc/nero.html>; 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. Regardless of whether you choose to receive notification of management actions through one of the above automated systems, you will still continue to receive notices through the mail.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

