

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

January 30, 2007

Small Entity Compliance Guide

2007 ATLANTIC BLUEFISH SPECIFICATIONS

Dear Atlantic Bluefish Permit Holder:

This letter announces the Atlantic bluefish specifications for the fishing year 2007, including coastwide and state quotas, and the recreational possession limit.

Effective March 2, 2007, the bluefish TAL is 27.762 million lb. After transferring 3,969,220 lb from the recreational to the commercial sector, and accounting for a research set-aside quota of 363,677 lb, the final 2007 specifications are as follows:

- The commercial quota equals 8,574,939 lb
- The recreational harvest limit equals 18,823,384 lb.

The individual state commercial allocations are shown in the table on the reverse, and are based on the percentages specified in the Atlantic Bluefish Fishery Management Plan. The commercial quota for New York has been adjusted to account for an overage of 6,238 lb in fishing year 2006. A separate <u>Federal Register</u> notice will be published in the event that further adjustments to the quota are necessary. There is a 15-fish per person recreational possession limit in 2007, the same as in 2006.

This letter does not contain all the regulatory provisions that pertain to the bluefish fishery, and consequently, has no legal force or effect. A copy of the regulations can be obtained through a link to the Office of the Federal Register at the NOAA Fisheries Services' Northeast Regional Office website: http://www.nero.noaa.gov.

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

Sincerely,

🔗 Patricia A. Kurkul

Regional Administrator



State Commercial Allocations—2007 Atlantic Bluefish Fisheries

| State | Percent of Quota | 2007 Commercial Quota (lb) (with RSA deducted) |
|-------|---------------------|--|
| ME | 0.6685 | 57,323 |
| NH | 0.4145 | 35,543 |
| MA | 6.7167 | 575,953 |
| RI | 6.8081 | 583,790 |
| СТ | 1.2663 | 108,584 |
| NY | 10.3851 | 884,278* |
| NJ | 14.8162 | 1,270,480 |
| DE | 1.8782 | 161,055 |
| MD | 3.0018 | 257,403 |
| VA | 11.8795 | 1,018,660 |
| NC | 32.0608 | 2,749,194 |
| SC | 0.0352 | 3,018 |
| GA | 0.0095 | 815 |
| FL | 10.0597 | 862,613 |
| Total | 100.0001 | 8,574,939 |

^{*} Reflects deduction of 6,238 lb overage in 2006.