



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

April 26, 2005

Dear Federally Permitted Seafood Dealer:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces the publication of a regulatory amendment implementing changes to the electronic reporting requirements for dealers permitted by the Northeast (NE) Region of NMFS under 50 CFR part 648. This action also makes a minor change to vessel operator permitting requirements. All changes are effective May 1, 2005.

Affected Dealers

Summer Flounder	<i>Illex</i> Squid	Atlantic Bluefish
Scup	<i>Loligo</i> Squid	Atlantic Herring
Black Sea Bass	Atlantic Mackerel	Atlantic Deep-sea Red Crab
Atlantic Sea Scallop	Butterfish	Tilefish
NE Multispecies	Spiny Dogfish	Atlantic Surfclam
Monkfish	Skate	Ocean Quahog

Major Changes

- Reporting Schedule: all NE federally-permitted seafood dealers must submit electronic purchase reports weekly, by midnight of the first Tuesday following the end of the reporting week.
- Out-of-Region Purchases: dealers purchasing or receiving fish from a vessel landing outside the NE Region are required to report only those species managed by the NE Region (listed above) and American lobster, to the NE Region.
- Inshore Species: certain inshore species, including bay scallop, blood arc clam, soft clam, razor clam, blood worm, sand worm, blue crab, green crab, hermit crab, Japanese shore crab, spider crab, blue mussel, oyster, and quahog are exempt from Federal reporting requirements. This exemption does not apply to purchases of ocean quahogs (*Arctica islandica*).

Other Measures

- Purchases of Atlantic bluefin tuna are not required to be reported under 50 CFR part 648, however other Highly Migratory Species reporting requirements still apply.
- The option to submit reports via phone-line File Transfer Protocol is eliminated.
- Price and disposition information is due within 16 days of the end of the reporting week.
- Several clarifications to the existing reporting regulations concerning units of measure, cage tag numbers, at-sea receivers, computer acquisition requirements, and annual processor reports.



For More Information

The regulatory amendment and supporting documentation are accessible via the Internet at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>. For further information on dealer reporting requirements or the changes implemented by this amendment, please contact your local port office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Witzig", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

John F. Witzig
Chief, Fisheries Statistics Office