



**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, 2004

**Small Entity Compliance Guide**

**FISHING YEAR 2004 SPINY DOGFISH COMMERCIAL QUOTA AND POSSESSION LIMITS**

Dear Permit Holder:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) will implement the following spiny dogfish management measures for the 2004 fishing year. **These measures become effective on May 27, 2004.** Thus, from May 27, 2004, through April 30, 2005, any vessel issued a Federal permit for spiny dogfish is required to comply with these measures when fishing in state or Federal waters.

**QUOTA ALLOCATION AND POSSESSION LIMITS**

An annual quota of 4,000,000 lb, divided into two quota periods as shown below and possession limits of 600 lb for Quota Period I and 300 lb for Quota Period II (vessels are prohibited from landing more than the specified amount in any one calendar day). The quota allocations and possession limits in the fishing year that begins May 1, 2004 are separated into two semi-annual periods as follows:

	<b><u>QUOTA PERIOD I</u></b>	<b><u>QUOTA PERIOD II</u></b>
	May 1 - Oct 31, 2004	Nov. 1, 2004 - April 30, 2005
<b>Quota Allocation</b>	2,316,000 lb	1,684,000 lb
<b>Possession Limit</b>	600 lb	300 lb

**LANDING RESTRICTION**

The commercial quota applies throughout the spiny dogfish management unit, in both state and Federal waters. All spiny dogfish landed for sale in the states from Maine through Florida will be counted towards the commercial quota, regardless of where the spiny dogfish are harvested.

**MONITORING**

NOAA Fisheries will monitor the fishery to determine when the quota for a semi-annual quota period is reached. When NOAA Fisheries projects that the quota will be attained, a notice will be published in the Federal Register, and industry will be notified of the date on which the dogfish fishery will be closed.



**NOTIFICATION OF FISHERY ACTIONS/CLOSURES**

During a closure, it is prohibited for any vessel issued a Federal commercial spiny dogfish permit to fish for, possess, or land spiny dogfish. In addition, no one may purchase spiny dogfish from a vessel with a Federal spiny dogfish vessel permit during a fishery closure period.

**REMINDER**

This letter is only a summary of the regulations. You may obtain a complete copy of the regulations by calling (978) 281-9278, or by accessing the Northeast Regional Office's website:

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov>.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia A. Kurkul". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Patricia A. Kurkul  
Regional Administrator