



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

April 18, 2003

Small Entity Compliance Guide

FISHING YEAR 2003 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 fishing year that begins on May 1, 2003. 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, 2003 are separated into two semi-annual periods as follows:

	<i>QUOTA PERIOD I</i>	<i>QUOTA PERIOD II</i>
	May 1 - Oct 31, 2003	Nov. 1, 2003 - April 30, 2004
Quota Allocation	2,316,000 lb	1,684,000 lb
Possession Limit	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

The Northeast Regional Office has established an automated system to provide faster notice to industry of management actions. You may receive permit holder letters, including closure notices, by requesting you be notified through e-mail notice. To request e-mail notices, click "NOAA Fisheries News Releases" on our website at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>. If you choose to receive notification of management actions through e-mail, you will continue to receive notices through the mail, as well.

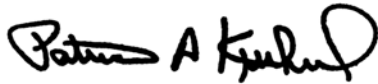
During a closure, it is prohibited for any vessel issued a Federal commercial spiny dogfish permit to fish for, possess, or land spiny dogfish. In addition, no one may purchase spiny dogfish from a vessel with a Federal spiny dogfish vessel permit during a fishery closure period.

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,



Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator