



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

July 11, 2003

Dear Spiny Dogfish Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you that the spiny dogfish commercial quota available to the coastal states from Maine to Florida for the fishing year 2003 has been harvested.

Therefore, effective **0001 July 18, 2003**, fishing vessels issued a Federal permit for the spiny dogfish fishery may no longer land spiny dogfish. This closure will remain in effect for the duration of the fishing year (through April 30, 2004). This restriction applies to federally permitted vessels, whether they are fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone (Federal waters) or state waters.

Vessel owners issued Federal permits are reminded that they must continue to complete and submit vessel logbooks. Additionally, dealers issued Federal dealer permits for spiny dogfish are advised that they may not purchase spiny dogfish from federally permitted spiny dogfish vessels for the duration of the fishing year (through April 30, 2004). Federally permitted dealers must continue to report **all** fish purchases from **any** vessel.

Further information concerning this action may be obtained by calling 978-281-9315.

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

