



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

September 8, 2003

SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE

Dear Maine Mahogany Quahog Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you that the Maine mahogany quahog quota for the 2003 fishing year is projected to be harvested, based upon dealer reports and other available information.

Therefore, effective 0001 hrs local time, on **September 12, 2003**, fishing vessels holding Federal Maine mahogany quahog permits are prohibited from landing Maine mahogany quahogs harvested from within the Maine mahogany quahog area* through December 31, 2003.

The 2004 fishing year quota for limited access Maine mahogany quahog vessels will be available at the start of the 2004 fishing year on January 1, 2004.

You may also receive permit holder letters, including closure notices, by e-mail by clicking on "NOAA Fisheries News Releases" on our website at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>; or via fax by providing a fax number through a written request to the above address, or by faxing your request to 978-281-9135.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

* The Maine mahogany quahog area is defined as an area of the Atlantic Ocean bounded on the east by the U.S.-Canada maritime boundary, on the south by a straight line at 43/50' N. latitude, and on the north and west by the shoreline of Maine.

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

