



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

November 28, 2003

SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE

Dear **Scup** and/or **Black Sea Bass** Commercial Vessel Permit Holder:

This letter is to advise you that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) is taking action to return unused research set-aside (RSA) allocations to the 2003 scup and black sea bass Total Allowable Landings (TAL).

Two projects that received RSA allocations for 2003 were unable to use significant portions of their allocations. They have requested that these remaining amounts be returned to the TAL for each species. Accordingly, NOAA Fisheries will restore 18,665 pounds of RSA to the overall 2003 scup TAL, and 25,000 pounds of RSA to the overall 2003 black sea bass TAL. The net effect of this action will be a 14,559-lb increase to the scup Winter II commercial quota, a 4,106-lb increase to the scup recreational harvest limit, a 12,250-lb increase to the black sea bass coastwide commercial quota, and a 12,750-lb increase to the black sea bass recreational harvest limit. The increase to the recreational harvest limits will not change any current recreational management measures.

You may also receive permit holder letters, including closure notices, by e-mail by clicking on "What's New" on our website at <http://www.nero.nmfs.gov/ro/doc/nero.html>; or via fax by providing a fax number through a written request to the above address, or by faxing your request to 978-281-9135.¹

Sincerely,

for Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

¹*This small entity compliance guide complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996.*

