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

January 31, 2003

SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE

2003 ATLANTIC HERRING SPECIFICATIONS

Dear Atlantic Herring Permit Holder:

This letter announces final specifications for the 2003 fishing year for Atlantic herring, which are summarized in Attachment 1. This action specifies two changes from the specifications approved by NMFS for the 2002 fishery: A transfer of 10,000 mt from the Area 2 TAC reserve to the Area 3, TAC resulting in an Area 3 TAC of 60,000 mt and an Area 2 TAC reserve of 70,000 mt; and a restriction on USAP vessels to fish in Areas 2 and 3 only.

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

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

ATTACHMENT 1

Final Specifications and Area TACs
for the
2003 Atlantic Herring Fishery

FISHING YEAR JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2003 (METRIC TONS)	
Specifications	**Allocation**
ABC	300,000
OY	250,000
DAH	250,000
DAP	226,000
JVPt	20,000
JVP	10,000 (Area 2 and 3 only)
IWP	10,000
USAP	20,000 (Area 2 and 3 only)
BT	4,000
TALFF	0
TAC - Area 1A	60,000
TAC - Area 1B	10,000
TAC - Area 2	50,000 (TAC reserve:70,000)
TAC - Area 3	60,000

Optimum yield (OY), Domestic Annual Harvest (DAH), Domestic Annual Processing (DAP), Total Foreign Processing (JVPt), Joint Venture Processing (JVP), Internal Waters Processing (IWP), U.S. At-sea Processing (USAP), Border Transfer (BT), Total Allowable Level of Foreign Fishing (TALFF), and Total Allowable Catch (TAC).