

SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE

REVISION TO THE 2003 COMMERCIAL QUOTAS FOR SUMMER FLOUNDER, SCUP, AND BLACK SEA BASS

Dear Permit Holder:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) has revised the 2003 commercial quotas for the summer flounder (fluke), scup (porgy), and black sea bass fisheries, which were published as part of the final rule, final specifications, and preliminary quota adjustments for the 2003 summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass fisheries on January 2, 2003 (68 FR 60).

Following publication of the final commercial quotas, NOAA Fisheries found discrepancies in how certain landings were attributed and subsequently used for quota monitoring, and has revised the affected commercial quotas accordingly. The revisions were effective February 25, 2003, and are further described in the Federal Register notice, which will be published on March 3, 2003.

The 2003 commercial summer flounder quotas have been revised for Connecticut (314,306 lb), Rhode Island (2,183,907 lb), and Virginia (2,968,429 lb). The scup quota for the 2003 Summer period is now 4,521,879 lb. The commercial black sea bass quotas for Quarters 2 and 3, 2003, have been revised to 755,704 lb and 406,747 lb, respectively. See the back of this page for the final quotas as published on January 2, 2003, the amounts restored, and the revised 2003 quotas, for the affected states or time periods; note that these are the only changes made at this time to the final 2003 summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass quotas.

This letter does not contain all the regulatory provisions that pertain to these species, and consequently, has no legal force or effect. A copy of the regulations can be obtained through a link to the Office of the Federal Register at NERO's website: <http://www.nero.nmfs.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

Summary of commercial quota revisions (in lb).

(Note that these are the only changes to the final 2003 quotas. All other quotas remain as published in the January 2, 2003, Federal Register notice.)

Fishery	Affected State/ Quota Period	2003 Adjusted Quota, less the 2003 Research Set-Aside ¹	Amount Restored to the 2003 Adjusted Quota ²	Revised 2003 Quota, less the 2003 Research Set-Aside
Summer Flounder	Connecticut	301,123	13,183	314,306
Summer Flounder	Rhode Island	1,979,786	204,121	2,183,907
Summer Flounder	Virginia	2,892,405	76,024	2,968,429
Scup	Summer	4,434,691	87,188	4,521,879
Black Sea Bass	Quarter 2	750,902	4,802	755,704
Black Sea Bass	Quarter 3	401,288	5,459	406,747

1 As published January 2, 2003 (68 FR 60), in the last column of the final quota allocations tables (Tables 2, 5, and 8 for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass, respectively).

2 For summer flounder, the amount restored was calculated to correct for: 1) 2002 landings that were made under the research set-aside (RSA) program but counted as commercial landings; 2) landings reported late (for the 2001 fishing year) that were misattributed as 2002 landings; and 3) some trip-level data from Connecticut dealers that already had been summarized in monthly landings data reports. For scup and black sea bass, the amount restored was calculated to correct for the 2002 RSA landings that were counted as commercial landings.