



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

JUL 25 2003

SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE

Dear Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Party/Charter Vessel Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) has approved final 2003 recreational measures for the summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass fisheries. This rule will be published in the Federal Register on July 28, 2003. All measures are in effect July 28, 2003, and will remain in effect until further notification. The following table summarizes the minimum size limits, possession limits, and open seasons for these fisheries. Please note that, for summer flounder, each vessel is governed by the regulations in effect for the state in which it lands.

2003 Recreational Measures

	Minimum Size (total length)	Possession Limit	Open Season
Summer Flounder	Varies According to State of Landing		
Scup	10 inches (25.4 cm)	50 fish	January 1 through February 28, and July 1 through November 30
Black Sea Bass	12 inches (30.5 cm)	25 fish	January 1 through September 1, and September 16 through November 30

In cases where state recreational measures for scup and black sea bass are different from those listed above, federally permitted party/charter vessels are required to abide by the more restrictive state or Federal measure. For example, if a state has adopted a possession limit of 100 fish for scup, a federally permitted party/charter vessel is required to abide by the 50-fish per person possession limit when landing recreationally-caught fish in that state.

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

