



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

October 29, 2003

## SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE

Dear Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) has implemented Framework Adjustment 3 (Framework 3) to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan. The final rule will be published in the Federal Register on **November 3, 2003**. Framework 3 is intended to improve management of the commercial scup fishery.

The final rule: 1) Allows the rollover of unused commercial scup quota from the Winter I period to the Winter II period (effective **November 1, 2003**); and 2) allows scup landings from April 15 through April 30 in a state by state-only permitted vessels fishing exclusively in that state's waters to be counted against the Summer period quota during years in which the Winter I period is closed by April 15, if authorized by the Regional Administrator (effective April 1, 2004).

For 2003, 1,873,050 lb remain of the Winter I quota. This amount is added to the current Winter II quota of 1,979,689 lb, resulting in the following changes:

- **The 2003 Winter II quota is increased to 3,852,739 lb.**
- **The 2003 Winter II possession limit is increased to 4,000 lb per trip.**

Note: In cases where state possession limits for scup differ from the Federal possession limit, federally permitted vessels are required to abide by the more restrictive state or Federal measure.

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

