

SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE

This letter supersedes our letter dated November 4, 2002.

Dear Black Sea Bass Dealer and Commercial Vessel Permit Holder:

Please disregard the black sea bass Quarter 4 period closure notice dated November 4, 2002. Based upon consideration of additional information, we have revised the closing date for the 2002 Quarter 4 period (October - December) commercial quota for the black sea bass fishery.

Effective **0001 hours** November 20, 2002, fishing vessels issued a Federal moratorium permit for the black sea bass fishery may no longer land black sea bass for the remainder of the Quarter 4 period. Vessel owners issued Federal permits are reminded that they must continue to complete and submit vessel logbooks. Additionally, dealers issued Federal dealer permits for black sea bass are advised that they may not purchase black sea bass from federally permitted vessels that land for the remainder of the Quarter 4 period (through December 31, 2002). Federally permitted dealers must continue to report **all** fish purchases from **any** vessel.

The owners of vessels issued valid commercial permits for both the Northeast Region black sea bass fishery and the Southeast Region snapper-grouper fishery may surrender their Northeast Region permit by certified mail to the address shown above, and may then fish pursuant to their Southeast Region snapper-grouper permit, provided all fishing is conducted in waters, and all landings are made, south of 35E15.3' N. latitude. The vessel owner may request reissuance of the Northeast Region permit, but reissuance cannot be made until 6 months following that permit cancellation.

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.

Sincerely,

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.*