



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National
Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

January 9, 2002

Dear Red Crab Vessel Owner and Commercial Dealer:

This letter is to inform you that the commercial quota for the red crab fishery established by extension of the red crab emergency interim action on November 15, 2001, is projected to be harvested prior to the completion of the 180-day extension of the emergency action (through May 14, 2002).

Therefore, effective 0001 hours, January 18, 2002, through May 14, 2002, vessels may not fish for, possess, or land red crab in or from the exclusive economic zone in waters of the western Atlantic Ocean from 35/15.3' N. Lat., the latitude of Cape Hatteras Light, North Carolina, northward to the U.S.-Canada border, in excess of 100 lb per trip. Federally permitted vessels are reminded that they must continue to complete and submit vessel logbooks. Additionally, dealers are advised that they may not purchase red crab in excess of 100 lb per vessel, per trip, for the remainder of the emergency action (through May 14, 2002). Federally permitted dealers must continue to report **all** fish purchases from **any** vessel.

The Northeast Regional Office has established two automated systems to provide faster notice to the fishing industry of management actions. You may receive permit holder letters, including closure notices, by requesting to be notified through one of the following systems: (1) You may request e-mail notices by clicking on "What's New" on our website at <http://www.nero.nmfs.gov/ro/doc/nero.html>; or (2) you may be notified via fax by providing a fax number through a written request to the above address, or by faxing your request to 978-281-9135. Regardless of whether you choose to receive notification of management actions through one of the above automated systems, you will still continue to receive notices through the mail. *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

