



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

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

January 18, 2002

Dear Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has issued final specifications for the 2002 fishing year for surf clams, ocean quahogs, and Maine mahogany quahogs. NMFS has approved a 10-percent increase for the surf clam fishery from the 2001 quota level and is maintaining the quota at status quo levels for the 2002 ocean quahog and Maine mahogany quahog fisheries. In addition, NMFS has extended the suspension of the minimum size limit for surf clams in the 2002 fishing year. The following table summarizes the 2002 fishing year quotas:

FISHERY	2002 QUOTA (bushels)
Surf Clam ¹	3,135,000
Ocean Quahog ¹	4,500,000
Maine Mahogany Quahog ²	100,000

¹1 bushel = 1.88 cubic feet

²1 bushel = 1.2448 cubic feet

These final specifications are effective January 16, 2002. You are encouraged to obtain further information or a copy of the final specifications by calling (978) 281-9278. 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 final specifications can also be obtained through the NMFS Northeast Regional Office's Web Site: www.nero.nmfs.gov

NOTE: All 2002 Ocean Quahog cage tags are embossed with a misspelling "02 GUAHOG". In order to have cage tags in the allocation holders possession for January 1, 2002, it was decided to utilize the misspelled cage tags for the 2002 year.

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

