



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

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

February 27, 2002


Dear Scup Dealer
and Commercial Vessel Permit Holder:

The 2002 specifications for the summer flounder, scup and black sea bass fisheries require the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to monitor commercial landings and to reduce the Winter I scup possession limit from 10,000 lb to 1,000 lb, when 80 percent of the commercial quota is projected to be harvested.

This letter is to inform you that NMFS has determined that 80 percent of the scup Winter I commercial quota is projected to be harvested by March 7, 2002. Therefore, effective 0001 hours March 7, 2002, fishing vessels issued a Federal moratorium permit **may not possess more than 1,000 lb of scup**. This restriction applies to federally permitted vessels whether they fish in Federal or state waters.

Scup dealers and commercial vessel permit holders will be subsequently notified when the Winter I quota is projected to be harvested and the fishery is closed to landings.

Sincerely,


for Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

