



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

March 20, 2001

Dear Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has approved final 2001 specifications for the summer flounder fishery. This rule will be published on March 23, 2001, and implements a total allowable landings (TAL) of 17.91 million lb (10.75 million lb commercial, 7.16 million lb recreational), consistent with the emergency action on August 2, 2000, taken to comply with a Court Order. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has adopted a higher TAL of 20.5 million lb (12.3 million lb commercial, 8.2 million lb recreational). However, the more restrictive TAL (17.91 million lb) implemented by this final rule will apply to all Federal permit holders, regardless of whether they fish in Federal or state waters.

Under the emergency regulations at § 648.100(d)(2), any landings in excess of a state's commercial quota allocation in 2000 are to be deducted from that state's annual quota allocation for 2001. In addition, any under-harvest of an individual state's summer flounder commercial quota in 2000 is to be added to that state's annual quota allocation for 2001.

The following table summarizes the initial and adjusted 2001 commercial summer flounder quotas, by state. These quotas are preliminary, and subject to change if additional 2000 landings data becomes available. All landings made since January 1, 2001, count toward the state quotas.



Preliminary Adjusted 2001 Summer Flounder State Commercial Quotas

State	Percent	Initial 2001	Adjusted 2001 ¹	2001 Landings ²
ME	0.04756	5,112	2,146	22,771
NH	0.00046	49	100	0
MA	6.82046	733,031	645,663	24,755
RI	15.68298	1,685,534	1,733,817	460,337
CT	2.25708	242,580	247,037	121,563
NY	7.64699	821,863	797,551	220,098
NJ	16.72499	1,797,524	1,438,191	683,702
DE	0.01779	1,912	(41,708)	0
MD	2.03910	219,153	184,514	37,046
VA	21.31676	2,291,026	2,358,244	1,172,702
NC	27.44584	2,949,751	2,651,470	1,783,990
Total	100.00	10,747,535	10,058,733⁴	4,526,964

¹Quotas reflect adjustments due to overages or underages in 2000.

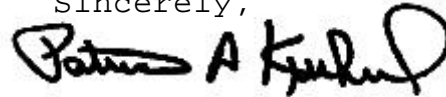
²As of March 10, 2001.

³Parentheses indicate a negative number. States with a negative number have a quota allocation of zero

⁴Total accounts for DE as zero.

For further information please call 978-281-9278.

Sincerely,



Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator