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

April 6, 2001

IMPORTANT NOTICE – Summer Flounder Fishery to Remain Open

Dear Federal Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you of the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) decision not to close the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) to commercial and recreational fishing for summer flounder. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) met on April 3, 2001. At this meeting, the Commission agreed to adopt the lower total allowable landings (TAL) for summer flounder of 17.91 million lb implemented by NMFS in the 2001 Specifications for the Summer Flounder Fishery (March 23, 2001; 66 FR 16151), and consistent with the Settlement Agreement in the 2000 NRDC et al., v Daley case. As a result, closure of the EEZ to summer flounder fishing is no longer necessary.

For your information, a table is provided below listing the initial and, due to overages in 2000, the adjusted 2001 commercial summer flounder quotas by state, as published in the 2001 specifications. Landings will be prohibited in each state when that state's quota is attained.

Preliminary Adjusted 2001 Summer Flounder State Commercial Quotas

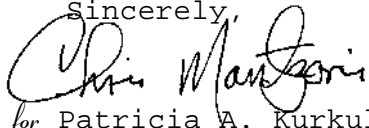| State	Percent	Initial 2001	Adjusted 2001[1]	2001 Landings[2]
ME	0.04756	5,112	2,146	22,771
NH	0.00046	49	100	0
MA	6.82046	733,031	645,663	24,755
RI	15.68298	1,685,534	1,733,817	460,337
CT	2.25708	242,580	247,037	121,563
NY	7.64699	821,863	797,551	220,098
NJ	16.72499	1,797,524	1,438,191	683,702
DE	0.01779	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	10,058,733[4]	4,526,964

[1]Quotas reflect adjustments due to overages or underages in 2000.
[2]As of March 10,2001.
[3]Parentheses indicate a negative number. States with a negative number have a quota allocation of zero.
[4]Total accounts for DE as zero.

For further information please call 978-281-9278.

Sincerely,

for Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator