



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

October 30, 2001

Dear Black Sea Bass Dealer and
Commercial Vessel Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you that the Quarter 4 period (October-December) commercial quota for the black sea bass fishery is projected to be harvested.

Therefore, effective 0001 hours **November 6, 2001**, fishing vessels issued a Federal moratorium permit for the black sea bass fishery may no longer land black sea bass for the remainder of the Quarter 4 period. Vessel owners issued Federal permits are reminded that they must continue to complete and submit vessel logbooks. Additionally, dealers issued Federal dealer permits for black sea bass are advised that they may not purchase black sea bass from federally permitted vessels that land for the remainder of the Quarter 4 period (through December 31, 2001). Federally permitted dealers must continue to report **all** fish purchases from **any** vessel.

The owners of vessels issued valid commercial permits for both the Northeast Region black sea bass fishery and the Southeast Region Snapper-Grouper fishery may surrender their Northeast Region permit by certified mail to the address shown above, and may then fish pursuant to their Southeast Region snapper-grouper permit, provided all fishing is conducted in waters, and all landings are made, south of 35E15.3' N. Latitude. The vessel owner may request reissuance of the Northeast Region Permit, but reissuance cannot be made until 6 months following that permit cancellation.

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>, 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. If you choose to receive notification of management actions through one of the above automated systems, you will continue to receive notices through the mail.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

