



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

October 21, 2008

Dear Spiny Dogfish Permit Holder:

NMFS has determined that the annual 2008 Federal quota for spiny dogfish fishery has been harvested. Therefore, **the Period 2 (November 1, 2008 through April 30, 2009) fishery for spiny dogfish will not open.** The Period 1 (May 1, 2008 through October 31, 2008) spiny dogfish fishery has been closed since August 20, 2008. However, spiny dogfish fisheries in state waters have continued since that time and have harvested the remainder of the 4 million pound Federal quota for 2008. Therefore, effective 0001 hours, November 1, 2008, the fishery for spiny dogfish remains closed and vessels issued Federal permits for spiny dogfish may not fish for, possess, transfer, or land any spiny dogfish until 0001 hours, May 1, 2009, at which time the Period 1 quota for the 2009 fishing year becomes available.

Section 648.4(b) provides that Federal spiny dogfish permit holders agree, as a condition of the permit, not to land spiny dogfish in any state after NMFS has published notification in the Federal Register that the commercial quota has been harvested and that no commercial quota for the spiny dogfish fishery is available. **This means vessels issued Federal permits may not fish for, possess, transfer, or land spiny dogfish, whether caught in state or Federal waters.**

You may also receive permit holder letters, including closure notices, by e-mail by clicking on "Permit Holder Letters" on our website at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>; or via fax by providing a fax number through a written request to the above address, or by faxing your request to 978-281-9135.

Sincerely,

for Patricia A. Kurkul

Regional Administrator

This small entity compliance guide complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996.

