



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

September 9, 2002

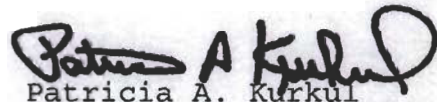
**SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE**

Dear Permit Holder:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) has published in the Federal Register (August 28, 2002: 67 FR 55191) an advance notice of proposed rulemaking announcing a control date of **August 28, 2002**, for the Atlantic hagfish fishery, which serves as notice to any new or speculative entrants to the Atlantic hagfish fishery after the control date that their access to the fishery may be restricted if the New England Fishery Management Council (Council) recommends a limited access permit for the fishery. In the notice, NOAA Fisheries also announced that it has denied a Petition for Rulemaking that requested that NOAA Fisheries immediately implement emergency measures to limit entry into the Atlantic hagfish fishery. After reviewing public comment on the Petition, NOAA Fisheries also announced that, based on these comments, it believes that a Fishery Management Plan should be developed for the Atlantic hagfish fishery by the Council.

If you have any questions regarding the control date, please contact Myles Raizin at 978-281-9104.

Sincerely,

  
Patricia A. Kurkul  
Regional Administrator

*This Small Entity Compliance Guide complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996.*

