

**AMENDMENT #10 TO THE
FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR ATLANTIC SURFCLAM AND OCEAN QUAHOG FISHERIES**

December 1997

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
in cooperation with the
National Marine Fisheries Service,
the
New England Fishery Management Council
and the
Maine Dept. of Marine Resources

Draft adopted by MAFMC: 29 October 1997
Final adopted by MAFMC: 16 December 1997
Final approved by NOAA: *4 May 1998*

16 December 1997



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

MAY - 4 1998

Dr. James Gilford
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Room 2115 Federal Building
300 South New Street
Dover, Delaware 19901-6790

Dear Jim:

I have approved Amendment 10 (Amendment) to the Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Surf Clams and Ocean Quahogs.

Consistent with authority granted to me under Amendment 10, I have determined, based on advice from NMFS Law Enforcement, that notification requirements are not necessary for this fishery and, therefore, have suspended them. However, if a future analysis concludes that there are enforcement benefits from imposing notification requirements in this fishery I will rescind the suspension.

I remain concerned with the provision regarding future replacement of a vessel issued a Maine mahogany quahog permit. The measure is inconsistent with similar measures in other FMPs in the region, including recent plans enacted by the Council for the black sea bass and summer flounder fisheries. However, because the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils have expressed their intent to address this issue in upcoming amendments, I have approved this measure as proposed by the Council with the understanding that this issue will be resolved in the near future.

Sincerely,

Andrew A. Rosenberg, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator

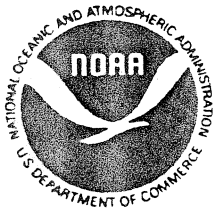


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