

# Federal Register

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1977

PART VI



---

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration



### SURF CLAM AND OCEAN QUAHOG INDUSTRIES

Fishery Management Plan



[ 3510-12 ]

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration**SURF CLAM AND OCEAN QUAHOG  
FISHERIES****Fishery Management Plan**

A fishery management plan for the Surf Clam and Ocean Quahog Fisheries has been reviewed and approved in accordance with Section 304 of the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976, 16 U.S.C. 1801, as amended. The plan was prepared and submitted by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. This action has been taken under a delegation of authority from the Secretary of Commerce to the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The plan has been found to be consistent with the national stand-

ards in § 301 of the Act, the other provisions of the Act and other applicable law.

An emergency is found to exist and therefore emergency regulations will be published to implement the plan immediately for a period of 45 days, pursuant to § 305(e) of the Act. In the near future, regulations will be proposed in the FEDERAL REGISTER to implement the plan on a permanent basis. These proposed permanent regulations will be open for public comment for a period of 45 days from the date of publication.

We also wish to announce that the Plan contains a moratorium provision which prohibits additional vessels from entering the surf clam fishery for a one-year period from the date of this notice. For the moratorium not to apply to a particular vessel, that vessel must:

1. During the year immediately preceding this notice, have landed surf clams in the course of a directed fishery for surf clams;

2. Be under construction for, or in the process of being re-rigged for, the surf clam fishery on the date of this notice, or

3. Be a replacement for a vessel of substantially similar harvesting capacity which involuntarily leaves the surf clam fishery during the moratorium.

Persons who may deem themselves affected may contact: Mr. William G. Gordon, Regional Director, Northeast Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, 14 Elm Street, Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930. Telephone 617-281-3600.

This action was taken under a delegation of authority from the Secretary to the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Signed at Washington, D.C. this 17th day of November, 1977.

WINFRED H. MEIBOHM,  
*Associate Director for Fisheries.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Mid-Atlantic Council greatly appreciates the assistance and cooperation of several individuals and groups that participated in the preparation of this plan. Major contributions included:

Biological Analysis - Dr. Brad Brown, Dr. Frederic Serchuk and Steve Neuraski of Northeast Fisheries Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

Economic Analysis - Joe Mueller, Regional Economist National Marine Fisheries Service, Gloucester, Massachusetts.

Preparation of Regulations - Brooks Bowen, Attorney, NOAA Washington, D.C.

Initiation of Surf Clam/Ocean Quahog Management (starting in 1972) - Surf Clam Sub-board composed of Directors of Marine Fisheries from Coastal States of Maine through Virginia Industry Representatives and the Regional Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Region, Gloucester, Massachusetts.

Preparation of the First Draft - Ronald Rinaldo, Project Manager of the State-Federal Fisheries Management Program for Surf Clams and Ocean Quahogs, Annapolis, Maryland.

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN  
FOR SURF CLAM AND OCEAN  
QUAHOG FISHERIES

MID ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
in consultation with  
NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

October, 1977

Responsible Federal Agency:

U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service

