



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

October 3, 2007

Dear Scallop Permit Holder:

This letter has been issued to provide information to scallop permit holders on the status of Amendment 11 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP). On June 20, 2007, the New England Fishery Management Council (Council) adopted Amendment 11 to the FMP, and requested that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) review, approve, and implement Amendment 11. The primary objective of Amendment 11, as adopted by the Council, is to control fishery capacity by creating a limited access program and harvest controls for the general category scallop fishery. NMFS is currently developing a proposed rule for Amendment 11, which is expected to publish in the *Federal Register* this fall. NMFS will solicit public comment on the proposed rule and Amendment 11 before a final decision is made to approve, partially approve, or disapprove the amendment.

NMFS is receiving requests for advice regarding the implications of Amendment 11 for vessel owners and individuals interested in buying or selling general category scallop vessels. In addition, some vessel owners are trying to verify their vessel's eligibility for the limited access permit, or the vessel's fishing history for determining the potential level of fishing that would be allowed under Amendment 11. Although I understand that vessel owners are attempting to make important business decisions, NMFS staff cannot speculate on what the final determination on Amendment 11 will be, nor can the staff provide you with any advice concerning the possible impacts of Amendment 11 on your vessel. Amendment 11, as proposed by the Council, will soon be available for review (<http://www.nefmc.org>).

Thank you for your understanding on this matter.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

cc: New England Fishery Management Council

