



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
NORTHEAST REGION  
55 Great Republic Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

Small Entity Compliance Guide DEC 29 2008

Dear Scallop Permit Holder:

**This letter is to inform you that the limited access general category (LAGC) scallop fishery is closed to individual fishing quota (IFQ) scallop vessels effective 0001 hours, December 31, 2008.** This action is being taken in accordance with the Atlantic sea scallop regulations at 50 CFR 648.53(a)(8)(iii) to prevent the IFQ scallop vessels from exceeding the total allowable catch (TAC) during the fourth quarter of the 2008 fishing year ending on February 28, 2009. The IFQ scallop fleet was allocated an annual TAC of 4,352,500-lb for the 2008 fishing year.

The permit holder letter dated November 25, 2008, stated that approximately 250,000 lbs remained for the fourth quarter and that number would increase/decrease based on landings updates that occur regularly. The quota has been harvested, based on reports of landings this quarter and late reports from previous quarters.

Therefore, beginning 0001 hours on **December 31, 2008**, no IFQ scallop vessel fishing under LAGC regulations may declare its intent to enter the fishery and may not fish for, possess, or retain any scallops. This closure applies to vessels issued an IFQ permit and to vessels issued Letters of Authorization to fish under appeal. The LAGC scallop fishery is scheduled to re-open to IFQ scallop vessels on March 1, 2009.

The current status of LAGC fishery scallop landings can be found at the following website:  
<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/ro/fso/scal.htm>

For questions about this closure, please call the Sustainable Fisheries Division at 978-281-9315.

This notice is authorized by the Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Region.

*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.<sup>1</sup>*

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul  
Regional Administrator

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

