



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

July 31, 2008

Dear Atlantic Sea Scallop Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you that **the Nantucket Lightship Scallop Access Area (NLCA) is closed to scallop vessels effective 0001 hours, August 4, 2008.** This action is being taken in accordance with the Northeast multispecies regulations at 50 CFR 648.59(a)(5)(ii)(C) to prevent the scallop fleet from exceeding the NLCA yellowtail flounder total allowable catch (TAC) allocated to the scallop for the 2008 scallop fishing year. Therefore, effective 0001, August 4, 2008, no scallop vessel may fish for scallops in the NLCA. Vessels on an NLCA trip at the time 0001, August 4, 2008, of the closure announcement must leave the NLCA prior to the effective closure.

If a limited access vessel has an unused trip into an access area closed by a yellowtail flounder TAC, it will be allocated additional 7.7 open areas days-at-sea (DAS) for each unused trip. If a vessel has been allocated a broken trip compensation trip(s) that cannot be made, it will be allocated prorated open area DAS based on the remaining allocation and the above listed access area DAS conversion rate.

The NLCA is scheduled to reopen on June 15, 2010, unless the schedule for scallop access areas is modified by the New England Fishery Management Council. For questions, please call 978-281-9315.

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

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.

