



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

February 20, 2008

Dear Atlantic Sea Scallop Permit Holder:

This letter informs Atlantic sea scallop (scallop) vessel owners of the 2008 fishery specifications for the Atlantic sea scallop fishery that will be effective on March 1, 2008. Please note that the specifications may be replaced by specifications proposed by the New England Fishery Management Council (Council) in Framework 19 to the FMP (Framework 19). NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) is currently reviewing Framework 19, which, if approved, will replace the interim measures described in this letter.

THE FOLLOWING SCALLOP MEASURES WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2008, AND WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

2008 Limited Access Days-at-Sea (DAS) Allocations

DAS allocations effective March 1, 2008: Full-time vessels -- 51 DAS; Part-time vessels -- 20 DAS; Occasional vessels -- 4 DAS.

If Framework 19 as proposed by the Council is approved by NOAA Fisheries, and a vessel exceeds its DAS allocated under Framework 19 between March 1, 2008, and the effective date of Framework 19, the excess DAS will be deducted from the vessel's 2009 DAS allocation.

2008 Scallop Access Area Schedule and Trip Allocations

Access Area Schedule

Access Area Schedule effective March 1, 2008

Access Area	Status
Elephant Trunk (ETAA)	Opens March 1
Hudson Canyon (HCAA)	Reverts to open area March 1
Closed Area I (CAI)	Opens June 15
Closed Area II (CAII)	Closed
Nantucket Lightship (NLCA)	Closed
Delmarva	Closed

Please note that the Council has proposed under Framework 19 that the NLCA Access Area open on June 15, 2008, instead of the CAI Access Area.

Access Area Trip Allocations

A Full-time scallop vessel will be allocated three trips in the ETAA beginning March 1, 2008, and one trip in the CAI Access Area (or NLCA Access Area if Framework 19 is approved by NOAA Fisheries) beginning June 15, 2008. The possession limit for a full-time scallop vessel on an access area trip



is 18,000 lb (unless there is a fishery observer on board or the trip is a compensation trip from a prior broken trip).

A Part-time scallop vessel will be allocated two trips that may be taken in the ETAA beginning March 1, 2008, or the vessel may take one trip in the ETAA beginning March 1, 2008, and one trip in the CAI Access Area (or NLCA Access Area if approved by NOAA Fisheries) beginning June 15, 2008. The possession limit for a part-time scallop vessel on an access area trip is 18,000 lb (unless there is a fishery observer on board or the trip is a compensation trip from a prior broken trip).

An Occasional scallop vessel will be allocated one trip that can be taken in the ETAA beginning March 1, 2008, or the CAI Access Area (or the NLCA Access Area if approved by NOAA Fisheries) beginning June 15, 2008. The possession limit for an occasional scallop vessel on an access area trip is 7,500 lb (unless there is a fishery observer on board or the trip is a compensation trip from a prior broken trip).

General category scallop vessels will be allocated a cumulative total of 865 trips in the ETAA beginning March 1, 2008, and a total of 216 trips in the CAI Access Area beginning June 15, 2008. The possession limit for a general category scallop vessel on an access area trip is 400 lb (unless there is a fishery observer on board).

Access Area trips during interim measures

Any limited access or general category access area trip(s) taken between March 1, 2008, and the implementation of Framework 19, if approved as proposed by the Council, would be deducted from the access area trip allocations implemented under Framework 19.

Access area trip charge policy during transition from 2007 to 2008 fishing year

A vessel with an unused 2007 ETAA trip (including broken trips) that properly declares an ETAA trip and crosses the demarcation line prior to 0001 hours, March 1, 2008, will have that trip charged against its 2007 ETAA trip allocation and not its 2008 ETAA trip allocation. A vessel with an unused 2007 HCAA trip (including broken trips) that properly declares an HCAA trip and crosses the demarcation line prior to 0001 hours, March 1, 2008, will have that trip charged against its 2007 HCAA trip allocation, and will not be charged 2008 open area DAS.

A vessel that does not have remaining 2007 ETAA trips may declare and depart on a 2008 ETAA trip prior to 0001 hours, March 1, 2008, but may not enter the ETAA prior to 0001 hours, March 1, 2008.

Vessels that broke an ETAA trip on or after January 1, 2008, may initiate the compensation trip for that broken trip (if filed properly and authorized) no later than April 29, 2008.

Scallop Trip Notification Requirements

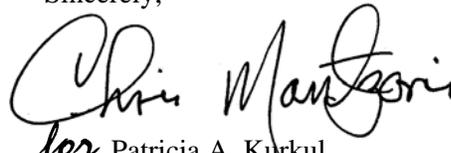
All scallop access area and open area trip notification requirements, including Northeast Fisheries Observer Program and vessel monitoring system trip notification requirements, remain in effect. All scallop vessel owners or operators must comply with these requirements. Questions on these requirements should be directed to the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315.

Amendment 11 Update

The proposed rule for Amendment 11 to the FMP, which would establish a limited entry program for the general category scallop fishery, was published on December 17, 2007, with a comment period that ended on January 31, 2008. NOAA Fisheries will consider public comments on Amendment 11 before making a decision to approve, partially approve, or disapprove Amendment 11. To review the Amendment 11 proposed rule and the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Amendment 11, please visit the Hot News feature on the NOAA Fisheries Northeast Region web page (<http://www.nero.noaa.gov>) or contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at 978-281-9315. Scallop permit holders will be notified when NOAA Fisheries has made a final determination on Amendment 11.

This letter summarizes the management measures that will take effect on March 1, 2008, and is not a substitute for the actual regulations. In addition, some proposed measures in Framework 19 are described in this letter only to disclose their possible effect, if approved. This disclosure does not preclude NMFS from approving, partially approving, or disapproving any of the measures proposed in Amendment 11 and Framework 19. The full text of the current regulations is available on our website: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>, or you may request a copy by calling the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315.

Sincerely,


for Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

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>.

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