



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

September 10, 2009

### Small Entity Compliance Guide

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, including vessels issued Letters of Authorization fishing under appeal effective 0001 hours, September 15, 2009.** The IFQ scallop fleet was allocated 688,504 lb for the third quarter of the 2009 fishing year. This allocation was reduced to 309,320 lb due to an overage of 379,184 lb in the first quarter. The LAGC scallop fishery is scheduled to re-open to IFQ scallop vessels on December 1, 2009. **If an IFQ vessel has provided required notice to the observer program, declared a trip, and crossed the VMS demarcation line prior to 0001 hours, September 15, 2009, the vessel may complete the trip.**

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 third quarter of the 2009 fishing year ending on November 30, 2009. The IFQ scallop fleet was allocated an annual TAC of 4,590,024 lb for the 2009 fishing year.

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.

*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.*

