



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

December 23, 2005

-EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY PSP CLOSURE-

Dear Federal Permit Holder or Dealer:

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has requested a continuance of the emergency regulations of October 18, 2005, which were originally implemented due to the presence of high levels of the toxin that causes paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP). *See chart of the closure area on the reverse side.* **This action extends the current closure, as modified on September 9, 2005, and as reinstated on October 18, 2005, through June 30, 2006,** because the FDA has insufficient analytical data to support a reopening of the entire area to all bivalve molluscan shellfish fishing on January 1, 2006. Subsequently, if warranted, the emergency regulations may be terminated at an earlier date by publication in the Federal Register of a notice of termination.

On June 14, 2005, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service), at the request of the FDA, temporarily closed all Federal waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone of the northeastern United States to bivalve molluscan shellfish fishing, with the exception of sea scallop adductor muscles harvested and shucked at sea, in the area bound by the following coordinates in the order stated: (1) 43°00' N. lat., 71°00' W. long.; (2) 43°00' N. lat., 69°00' W. long.; (3) 40°00' N. lat., 69°00' W. long.; (4) 40°00' N. lat., 71°00' W. long., and then ending at the first point.

On September 9, 2005, as a result of tests conducted by the FDA in cooperation with NOAA Fisheries Service and the fishing industry, and at the FDA's request, NOAA Fisheries Service reopened those waters south of 41°39' N. lat., west of 69°00' W. long., north of 40°00' N. lat., and east of 71°00' W. long. Because scallop viscera and roe can retain PSP toxins longer than other species of molluscan shellfish, scallop harvesting was only permitted in the reopened area for the purpose of shucking of the adductor muscle. On October 18, 2005, the entire temporary closure was reinstated (as modified on September 9, 2005) through December 31, 2005.

A copy of the final emergency rule is available at NOAA Fisheries Service's Northeast Regional Office Web Site: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>. If you have any questions on this continuation of the emergency action please call Brian Hooker at (978) 281-9220.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator



Coordinates of Closure Area

Original PSP Closure (remains in effect for whole and roe-on Atlantic sea scallops)

- (1) 43°00' N. lat., 71°00' W. long.;
- (2) 43°00' N. lat., 69°00' W. long.;
- (3) 40°00' N. lat., 69°00' W. long.;
- (4) 40°00' N. lat., 71°00' W. long., and
- (5) then ending at the first point.

Portion re-opened on Sept. 9, 2005 (for harvesting of Atlantic surf clams and ocean quahogs)

- (1) 41°39' N. lat., 69°00' W. long.;
- (2) 41°39' N. lat., 71°00' W. long.;
- (3) 40°00' N. lat., 71°00' W. long.;
- (4) 40°00' N. lat., 69°00' W. long., and
- (5) then ending at the first point.

