



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

MAR 15 2006

Dear Limited Access Atlantic Sea Scallop Permit Holder,

The New England Fishery Management Council has proposed revisions to the management program for sea scallops in Framework 18 (Fwk 18) to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP). If approved, these changes would be implemented in early June 2006. This letter is to clarify the allocation of open area days-at-sea (DAS) for the 2006 fishing year and update the status of the Hudson Canyon Access Area in light of the proposed revision.

Open area DAS:

Fwk 18 proposes to reduce the 2006 open area DAS specifications. As of March 1, 2006, the 2006 open area DAS established by Amendment 10 to the FMP are effective. If approved, Fwk 18 specifies that if a vessel uses more DAS in this interim period than Fwk 18 allocates, the overage will be deducted from the vessel's 2007 DAS allocation. The following table summarizes the DAS allocation and the proposed Fwk 18 DAS allocation.

Permit Category	Amendment 10	Framework 18 (proposed)
Full-time	67 DAS	52 DAS
Part-time	27 DAS	21 DAS
Occasional	6 DAS	4 DAS

Hudson Canyon Sea Scallop Access Area:

On March 1, 2006, the Hudson Canyon Access Area became an open area. Fwk 18 proposes to close the Hudson Canyon to all limited access vessels except those that have unused 2005 Hudson Canyon Access Area trips. During the interim period between the start of the fishing year and the implementation of Fwk 18, all limited access vessels intending to fish for scallops in the Hudson Canyon must either use open area DAS by declaring an Open Area Trip or fish under general category regulations. This includes vessels with unused 2005 Hudson Canyon Access Area trips.

If you have questions, please call the Northeast Region's Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315.

