



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

July 12, 2006

Small Entity Compliance Guide

Dear Scallop Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you that **the Nantucket Lightship Scallop Access Area (NLCA) is closed to general category scallop vessels effective 0001 hours on July 13, 2006.** This action is being taken in accordance with the Atlantic sea scallop regulations at 50 CFR 648.59(d)(5)(ii) to prevent the general category scallop fleet from exceeding trip allocations in the NLCA during the 2006 fishing year. The general category scallop fleet was allocated 577 trips in the NLCA for the 2006 fishing year.

Therefore, effective 0001 hours on July 13, 2006, no scallop vessel fishing under general category regulations may declare its intent to enter or fish in the NLCA.

Vessels that have complied with the observer notification requirements, have declared a trip into the NLCA under the general category using Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) code SES-SCG-NS and have crossed the VMS demarcation line before 0001 hours on July 13, 2006, may complete their trip and retain and land scallops caught from the NLCA, consistent with existing regulations.

The NLCA is scheduled to reopen on June 15, 2007, unless the schedule for scallop access areas is modified by the New England Fishery Management Council. For questions, please call 978-281-9315.

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

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

