



# Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

NOAA Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

For Information Contact:  
Sustainable Fisheries Division  
(978) 281 – 9315

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/>  
Date Issued: 4/24/2014

## **Limited Access Scallop Permit Holders**

Prohibition on Landing Yellowtail Flounder

*Effective Date: May 1, 2014*

**Starting on May 1, 2014, all limited access vessels on a declared scallop trip are PROHIBITED from possessing yellowtail flounder.** This prohibition is part of Framework 51 to the Multispecies Fishery Management Plan which will be implemented by NMFS on May 1, 2014.

By removing incentives to target yellowtail flounder, this measure is expected to reduce overall mortality of yellowtail flounder in the scallop fishery compared to measures requiring full retention of legal-sized yellowtail flounder. Although you may no longer retain yellowtail flounder, any catch of yellowtail flounder must be reported and will apply against the scallop fishery's annual yellowtail allocation. Because the yellowtail flounder catch allocated to the scallop fleet for fishing year 2014 is small, especially for Georges Bank yellowtail, it is very important to try to avoid areas with high yellowtail catch. SMAST's Bycatch Avoidance Program can help vessel operators avoid these bycatch hot spots. More information on their program can be found here: <http://www.umassd.edu/smast/bycatch/>

### *Frequently Asked Questions*

<b>Does the scallop fleet still have yellowtail sub-ACLs?</b>	Yes, the scallop fleet still has yellowtail flounder sub-annual catch limits (ACLs) and will be subject to the associated accountability measures if one (or both) sub-ACL is exceeded. This prohibition was designed to remove any incentive to target yellowtail to help reduce mortality. For more information on yellowtail flounder sub-ACLs and accountability measures in the scallop fleet, go to <a href="http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sustainable/species/scallop/">http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sustainable/species/scallop/</a> .
<b>Can I retain yellowtail if I have a multispecies permit?</b>	Not if you are on a declared scallop trip. If you are on a declared multispecies trip you may land yellowtail. Any yellowtail you catch when fishing on a multispecies trip will come off of your sectors annual catch entitlement or the common pool sub-ACL.

*For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Greater Atlantic Region.*