



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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Atlantic Sea Scallop Vessels

Compensation Trip Requirements for Broken Access Area Fishing Trips

This bulletin provides important information on the program requirements of the Atlantic Sea Scallop Access Area Compensation Trip Program for limited access vessel owners or operators. It is important to read though this entire document so that you are aware of the requirements for requesting and using a compensation trip after terminating an access area scallop trip. Please be aware that this document is a reference only and is not a substitute for the regulations. You are strongly encouraged to read the regulations in conjunction with this bulletin. Regulations regarding the Atlantic Sea Scallop Compensation Trip Program can be found at 50 CFR 648.60(c).

What is an Access Area Compensation Trip?

A compensation trip allows you, as a vessel owner or operator, to enter an access area to harvest the remainder of your possession limit for a previous access area trip that had to be terminated (broken) prior to harvesting the full possession limit.

What am I required to do in order to declare and start an access area trip?

You must declare the appropriate access area prior to leaving port via your Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) unit and start a trip by crossing the VMS demarcation line.

When can I terminate an access trip?

First, you must declare and start an access area trip. Then, prior to entering the access area or when fishing in the access area, you may terminate the trip before the full possession limit is reached.

How do I declare a Broken Trip?

When you determine that your trip must be terminated, fill out and send the 'Limited Access Scallop Broken Trip Notification' form on your VMS unit. Boatrac users will find it at Macro 43.

How do I request a Compensation Trip?

To request approval for a compensation trip, you must submit a completed 'Broken Trip Adjustment' form within 30 days from the date of the broken trip. It is available at: <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/permits/forms/BrokenTripAdjustmentSheet1.pdf>.

You must also, provide us with a copy of the landing slip from the dealer showing the pounds of scallops landed and the observer invoice if applicable.

You can mail all documents to us or fax them to 978-281-9110.

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.

Once we receive the required documents, we will review your request. Our review may take up to 10 days. When approved, we will send you a compensation trip authorization letter.

Do I need to have approval for a compensation trip before I can start my trip again in the Access Area?

Yes. You must first be issued a compensation trip letter of authorization prior to taking a compensation trip in an access area. Each compensation trip letter includes unique vessel-specific VMS instructions which are required to resume your trip.

What are the VMS reporting requirements before I start my compensation trip?

Prior to leaving port, you must (1) declare your access area compensation trip and (2) also send the 'Limited Access Scallop Access Area Compensation Trip' form via your VMS unit; Boatracs users will find it at Macro 44.

How long do I have to complete the compensation trip?

If your access area trip was broken more than 60 days before the area closes, then you have until the area closes to complete the compensation trip.

If the access area trip was broken during the last 60 days of the area opening, then you will have 60 days into the subsequent fishing year to complete the compensation trip.

What if an Access Area is not open in the subsequent fishing year?

Unless otherwise specified, if an access area is not open in the subsequent fishing year, then the additional compensation trip authorization would expire at the end of the access area season in which the trip was broken.

However, this rule does not apply for the 2014 fishing year. For 2014, any access area trip that was broken within the last 60 days of the 2014 open season and has been authorized a compensation trip may complete the broken access area trip within the first 60 days of the 2015 fishing year, even if the access area is not open.

Since this regulation could change from year-to-year, it is always best to check the regulations. You can also call our Sustainable Fisheries Division at 978-281-9315 if you have any questions regarding this provision.

Can I combine compensation trips?

A vessel that is allocated more than one compensation trip in an access area may combine those trips into one access area trip.

Please remember that all terminated trips must occur in the same access area, and the possession limit resulting from the combined compensation trips must not exceed the total possession limit specified for the access area.