



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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ATLANTIC SEA SCALLOP FISHERY: **Vessels with Federal Northern Gulf of Maine Permits and State of Maine** **Commercial Licenses**

Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM)-permitted scallop vessels with State of Maine commercial licenses can now fish inside Maine’s state waters even if the Federal NGOM fishery is closed.

Effective Date: November 6, 2015

This exemption only applies to Federal NGOM-permitted vessels, and only those vessels that also have Maine commercial licenses. All other federally permitted scallop vessels (i.e., vessels with limited access, limited access general category (LAGC) individual fishing quota, and LAGC incidental permits) are prohibited from retaining, possessing, and landing scallops from within the NGOM management area, in both Federal and state waters, once the NGOM hard TAC is fully harvested. No vessel may fish for scallops in the Federal portion of the NGOM once the TAC is harvested.

<i>Frequently Asked Questions</i>	
Does this exemption apply to NGOM-permitted vessels in other states?	No. Maine is the only state that applied for this exemption. After review of Maine’s current scallop fishery regulations, we have determined that allowing this exemption would have no impact on the effectiveness of Federal management measures for the scallop fishery overall or within the NGOM management area.
What other state waters exemptions apply to Maine?	In addition to this NGOM exemption, we have exempted Maine from two other Federal regulations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited access scallop vessels may fish in state waters outside of scallop days-at-sea; and • Limited access and LAGC individual fishing quota and NGOM vessels are exempt from Federal minimum twine top mesh size regulations.

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, Northeast Region.