

<VES_NAME>, Permit # <PERMIT>
<CORP_NAME>
<NAME_FIRST> <NAME_MIDDLE> <NAME_LAST> <NAME_SUFFIX>
<STRT1>
<STRT2>
<CITY>, <ST> <ZIP1>

Dear Full or Part-time Scallop Permit Holder:

A provision in Framework 14 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan allows NMFS to authorize additional trips and/or possession limit increases for full and part-time limited access sea scallop vessels that declared into and began a trip under the Sea Scallop Area Access Program (Area Access Program) prior to September 1, 2001, if it is determined that the additional trips and/or possession limit increase will likely allow the scallop total allowable catch (TAC) to be reached without exceeding it.

Based on the most recent Area Access Program monitoring information regarding the sea scallop catch levels, I have determined that two additional trips for the access areas are warranted for October 1 through the end of the fishing year. Therefore, **your vessel has been allocated an additional two Area Access Program trips of up to 17,000 pounds of scallop meats per trip, provided you have enough scallop days-at-sea (DAS) remaining (10 DAS/trip) for each trip.** These trips may be taken in either the Hudson Canyon or the Virginia Beach Sea Scallop Access Areas. As a reminder, a vessel planning to fish in the Area Access Program must comply with the declaration procedures outlined on the reverse side of this letter.

All Area Access Program rules, as specified in 50 C.F.R. § 648.58, apply to the additional allocation of trips. The ability to take any remaining trips and/or additional trips in either access area is contingent upon the scallop catch remaining below the respective TAC for that area.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

Declaration Procedure

Failure to comply with all of the following declaration procedures will prohibit vessels from participating in the Area Access Program. Please thoroughly read the following requirements:

- ▶ A vessel issued a valid limited access scallop permit and planning to fish in the Area Access Program must submit a report through the VMS e-mail messaging system (**NEC.Observers@noaa.gov**) of its intention to fish in one or both of the Sea Scallop Access Areas prior to the 25th of the month before the month in which the anticipated trip(s) are to be taken. The report must include the following information: Vessel name and permit number; owner and operator's names; owner and operator's phone numbers; and number of trips anticipated for each Sea Scallop Access Area in which the vessel intends to fish.
- ▶ In addition to the above advance notice for accessing the Sea Scallop Access Areas, for the purpose of randomly selecting vessels to carry an observer, a vessel must also submit a report through the VMS e-mail messaging system (**NEC.Observers@noaa.gov**) of its intention to fish in the Area Access Program at least 5 **working** days (Saturday, Sunday, and Federal holidays are not considered working days) prior to the date it intends to depart on each trip into a Sea Scallop Access Area. For each of these reports, vessels must submit the following information: Vessel name and permit number; owner and operator's names; owner and operator's phone numbers; date and time of departure; port of departure; **and new with this program, the specific Sea Scallop Access Area to be fished.**
- ▶ **A vessel chosen to carry an observer must have a valid Coast Guard Inspection Sticker. Any such vessel that does not have an inspection sticker will be prohibited from participating in the Area Access Program until the vessel is inspected by the Coast Guard and receives its inspection sticker.**
- ▶ On the day that the vessel leaves port to fish under the Area Access Program, the vessel owner or operator must declare the vessel into the Area Access Program through the VMS prior to leaving port. Please see the attached instructions, titled "Sending in the "Vessel Activity" Marco", on how to declare into this program through VMS.