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Atlantic Sea Scallop Permit Holders
Closure of the Elephant Trunk Area for Atlantic Sea Scallop Vessels
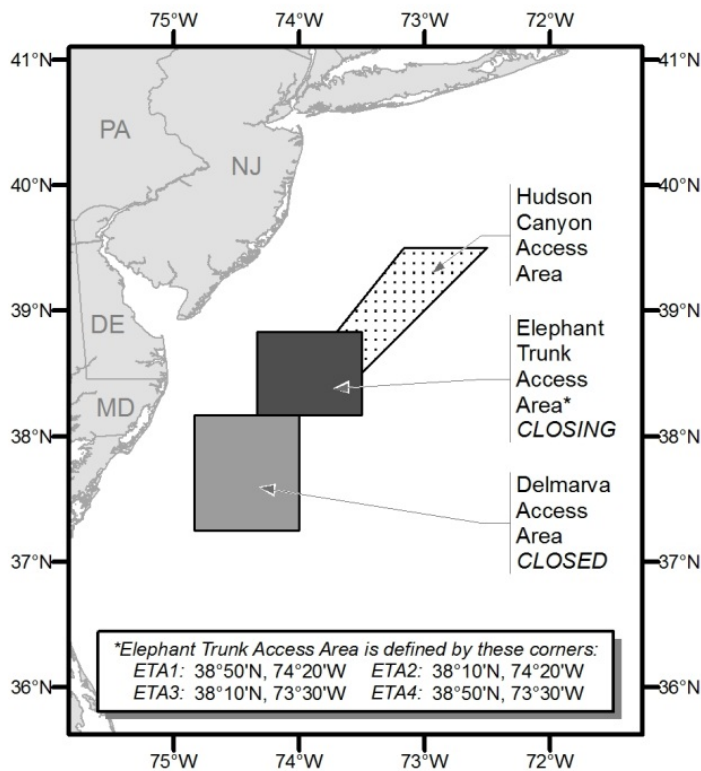*Effective Date: December 12, 2012*

We have closed the Elephant Trunk Area (ETA) to all scallop fishing for 180 days through emergency action, from December 12, 2012, through June 10, 2013. Framework 24 and following actions will likely keep this area closed for up to another 2 years, once this action has expired. This action was requested by the New England Fishery Management Council with the support of the scallop industry. The 2012 scallop survey saw the third highest observed abundance of small scallops in the ETA since 1979. These scallops need to be protected to allow them to grow for their future harvest. The success of the entire scallop area rotation program depends on timely openings and closing of access areas in order to protect scallop recruitment and optimize yield.

Frequently Asked Questions

What will change? Vessels will not be allowed to fish on days-at-sea or IFQ trips inside the ETA through June 10, 2013.

Why has the ETA been closed? The ETA was closed to protect an abundance of small scallops in the area so they can eventually be harvested when they have reached a marketable size.

When will the ETA open? Framework 24 and following actions will likely keep this area closed for up to another 2 years to allow these small scallops to grow. Following the closure, we expect there will be enough marketable scallops in the area to allow Access Area trips.

*Elephant Trunk Access Area is defined by these corners:
ETA1: 38°50'N, 74°20'W   ETA2: 38°10'N, 74°20'W
ETA3: 38°10'N, 73°30'W   ETA4: 38°50'N, 73°30'W