

NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE FACT SHEET

Commonly Asked Questions About 2011 Atlantic Sea Scallop Regulations

Regulated Species: Atlantic Sea Scallops



The following questions and answers provide an overview of the Atlantic sea scallop management measures for Fishing Year (FY) 2011 that are currently in place (including changes based on recently implemented Amendment 15 and Framework 22 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan). For a more detailed explanation of existing scallop fishery regulations please visit our website <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/regs/>.

Q: Why have you made changes to Atlantic sea scallop fishery management measures?

A: We were required to adopt annual catch limits and accountability measures to prevent overfishing under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Other measures are also being implemented to improve overall management of the scallop fishery, and to set allocations for the 2011 and 2012 fishing years.

Q: What is an accountability measure?

A: Accountability measures are intended to help prevent overfishing of a resource and promote sustainable, healthy commercial fisheries. There are two types of accountability measures in the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan: Proactive measures, such as the use of an annual catch target (explained further below), and reactive measures, such as a days-at-sea or individual fishing quota (IFQ) deductions to account for overages incurred in a previous fishing year.

Q: So, how is the scallop fishery allocation divided up?

A: There is an overall annual catch limit, which the fishery as a whole (including limited access and limited access general category (LAGC) landings, incidental scallop catch, and research and observer set-asides) cannot exceed. There are also separate annual catch limits for the limited access and LAGC IFQ fleets.

Q: How is LAGC IFQ fleet's quota derived?

A: LAGC IFQ vessels are allocated 5 percent of the annual catch limit. LAGC IFQ vessels that also have limited access scallop permits are allocated 0.5 percent of the annual catch limit.

Q: How is the limited access fleet quota derived?

A: Limited access vessels are allocated 94.5 percent of the annual catch limit. The limited access fleet's annual catch limit is further reduced to an annual catch target to incorporate management uncertainties (see the next question).

Q: Why is there a difference between the limited access fleet's annual catch limit and its annual catch target?

A: The Council recommends individual days-at-sea and access area trip allocations based on the limited access fleet's annual catch target, not the higher annual catch limit. This is done to account for uncertainty in actual catch estimates -- that is vessels may land more scallops during a days-at-sea trip or carry over more days-at-sea and access area compensation trips into the next fishing year than anticipated. Basing allocations on the annual catch target is an example of a proactive accountability measure.

Q: Does the buffer between the limited access fleet's annual catch limit and annual catch target change from year to year?

A: The buffer changes only if the Council decides to reevaluate this buffer and make adjustments in the future.

Q: How is my allocation determined?

A: If you have a limited access or LAGC IFQ vessel, your allocations are calculated as a percentage of the annual catch target for your vessel category.

Q: How does the limited access fleet's fishing year 2011 annual catch target compare to what the fleet was allocated in FY 2010?

A: In 2011, the annual catch limits for the limited access fleet is 55 M lb of scallops and, after accounting for management uncertainty, the annual catch target (from which actual limited access vessel allocations are determined) is 47 M lb of scallops. Compared to 2010, which set the

limited access fleet's targeted quota at roughly 43 M lb, the FY 2011 allocation is 4 M lb higher.

Q: Why are my days-at-sea lower if the catch limit is higher?

A: For 2011, the estimate of the amount of catch per day-at-sea fished is higher than in 2010, meaning that the total amount of days-at-sea needed to harvest the scallops is lower. Many vessels have been experiencing very high catch per days-at-sea, in particular, in mid-Atlantic waters.

Q: How does the LAGC fleet's 2011 catch limit compare to what the fleet was allocated in 2010?

A: In 2011, the catch limit for LAGC vessels without limited access permits is 2.9 M lb of scallops and the catch limit for LAGC vessels with limited access permits is 291,000 lb of scallops. Compared to 2010 targeted quotas, these 2011 catch limits are more than 580,000 lb and 58,000 lb higher for LAGC IFQ vessels without and with limited access permits, respectively. All LAGC IFQ permit holders will benefit from a near 25 percent increase in IFQ allocations for the remainder of the fishing year.

Limited Access Fleet Accountability Measures

Q: What are the accountability measures for the limited access scallop fleet?

A: Aside from setting the annual catch target lower than the annual catch limit for the limited access fleet, limited access vessels are also subject to a fleetwide days-at-sea reduction if the fleet exceeds its annual catch limit. This days-at-sea reduction would apply to vessels the year after the annual catch limit was exceeded and will be distributed evenly to each vessel.

Q: Would you provide an example of how the limited access scallop fleet accountability measures work?

A: If the limited access fleet harvested 1.5 M lb of scallops above its annual catch limit in 2011, the days-at-sea equivalent would be 625 days-at-sea assuming vessels land on average 2,400 lb per days-at-sea. Divided across 327 full-time vessels, the 2012 days-at-sea reduction per vessel would be 1.9 days-at-sea. Part-time vessel days-at-sea would be reduced by 0.76 days-at-sea (40 percent of the full-time deduction) and occasional vessel days-at-sea would be reduced by 0.16 days-at-sea (8 percent of the full-time vessel's deduction).

Q: Are there any instances when the limited access fleet's accountability measure will not have to be implemented?

A: Yes, even if the limited access fishery exceeds its annual catch limit, it is possible that the excess scallop landings would not cause overfishing. Working with the New England Fishery Management Council, we will review the prior year's landings and scallop resource information to determine if the higher landings resulted in a fishing mortality rate that was low enough to still prevent overfishing. If it was, we will exempt the limited access fleet from the accountability measure for that year.

LAGC IFQ Fleet Accountability Measures

Q: What is the accountability measure for the LAGC IFQ fleet?

A: If a LAGC vessel exceeds its IFQ, the overage will be subtracted from its IFQ allocation the following year. For example, if the vessel landed 300 lb of scallops over its allocation, including any leased-in IFQ, in fishing year 2011; its 2012 allocation would be reduced by 300 lb.

Q: Are there any other penalties for exceeding my IFQ allocation?

A: Exceeding your IFQ allocation is also a violation of fishery regulations. You could be faced with a fine or other penalty if you do not transfer IFQ onto your vessel to balance the overage before the end of the fishing year in which you exceeded the IFQ.

Improvements to the LAGC IFQ Program

Q: What changes have occurred in the LAGC IFQ program this year?

A: A number of improvements have been made to this program, including a possession limit increase, a new IFQ carry over provision for unused IFQ from one fishing year to the next, an increase in the IFQ cap for each vessel, and a more flexible permanent transfer process. Details of these changes follow.

Q: What is the new LAGC IFQ trip possession limit?

A: IFQ scallop vessels may now harvest up to 600 lb of scallops per trip, an increase of 200 lb per trip. This increase is intended to make IFQ trips more economically viable with increasing trip costs.

Q: What is the IFQ carryover?

A: IFQ vessels can carry over a portion of unused IFQ into the subsequent fishing year, up to 15 percent of the allocation you received at the start of the fishing year (i.e., your base allocation).

Q: Does the carryover include IFQ that is transferred onto my vessel?

A: Yes. For IFQ vessels that do not have limited access scallop permits; the carryover also includes any leased-in IFQ that you were unable to use. For example, if you have a base allocation of 1,500 lb and leased in 500 lb, you would be eligible to carry over up to 300 lb of unused scallops in to the next fishing year (i.e., 15 percent of 2,000 lb).

Q: How is my carryover affected if I leased out IFQ to another vessel?

A: If you leased out IFQ to another IFQ vessel, and did not then lease IFQ onto your vessel, you will only be able to carry over up to 15 percent of your allocation that remains after the lease. For example, if you have a base allocation of 1,500 lb and leased out 500 lb, you would be eligible to carry over up to 150 lb of unused scallops in to the next fishing year (i.e., 15 percent of 1,000 lb).

Q: When does this carryover provision become effective?

A: The carryover is effective now. The carryover for unused 2010 fishing year IFQ is available for the 2011 fishing year.

Q: How has the limit on the amount of IFQ that a vessel can be issued changed?

A: An LAGC IFQ vessel without a limited access scallop permit can acquire up to 2.5 percent of the IFQ fleet's scallop landings allocation (i.e., the fleet's annual catch limit), including all IFQ acquired through IFQ transfers. This is a 0.5 increase from the 2 percent cap.

Q: Does IFQ carried over from a previous fishing year count towards the vessel cap?

A: No. IFQ that carries over from the previous fishing year does not count towards this vessel cap.

Q: What are the advantages of the IFQ cap increase?

A: There is also a 5 percent cap on the amount of allocation that any one owner can hold. The increase in the vessel IFQ cap improves economic efficiency for some owners by enabling them to own only two vessels to meet the 5 percent ownership cap, rather than having to own more than two vessels.

Q: Why are you allowing permanent IFQ transfers separate from the LAGC IFQ permit?

A: Under prior restrictions, if a vessel held an IFQ scallop permit and limited access permits for other fisheries, to transfer its IFQ allocation to another vessel all of those permits would have to be transferred through a vessel replacement. The change enables LAGC IFQ permit holders to permanently transfer some or all of their quota allocation, to another LAGC IFQ permit holder, and still retain the IFQ permit and other limited access permits. Only IFQ vessels without limited access scallop permits are eligible to participate in the IFQ transfer program.



Revised 2011 IFQ Allocations

Q: Why was there an error in the first letter sent to me with this year's allocation?

A: Individual allocations are calculated by multiplying the total IFQ allocation for the fishery by each vessel's contribution percentage, which is based on vessel fishing history. A slight rounding error was made when this year's allocations were calculated. When determining contribution percentages, they were mistakenly rounded to the nearest 1/100th of a percent rather than 1/10,000th of a percent. For a small number of vessels, an additional error was made related to permanent transfers.

Q: How have you addressed this problem?

A: We have sent all federal scallop permit holders a second letter containing this year's revised allocations based on the adjustments to their percentage contribution. We have personally contacted those individuals with permanent transfers to make necessary adjustments to their records.

Catch Limits and Days-At-Sea Allocations

Q: What are the days-at-sea and access area trip allocations for FY 2011?

A: A full-time vessel's open area days-at-sea allocation is 32 days. For part-time vessels the open area days-at-sea allocation is 13 days, and for occasional vessels it is 3 days. Even with the proposed decrease in days-at-sea allocations from 2010 DAS, total landings are projected to be slightly higher than 2010 landings.

Q: Why do you expect landings to be higher?

A: The limited access fleet's annual catch target, which is the basis for the individual days-at-sea and access area trip allocations, is 4 M lb higher than the targeted quota set for fishing year 2010. Catch rates in open areas are higher than ever and the Council took this fact into consideration when setting the appropriate days-at-sea allocations.

Q: How will the change in days-at-sea allocations in 2011 affect fishing vessels?

A: Because the final 2011 days-at-sea allocations, which became effective on August 1, 2011, are less than what the fleet was allocated at the start of the fishing year, a full-time and part-time vessel that used more than 32 days-at-sea or 13 days-at-sea, respectively, between March 1 and August 1 of this year will have any overages deducted from its 2012 allocation. It is a violation for a vessel to use more than its allocated DAS after August 1 this year.

Q: What about fishing year 2012 and beyond?

A: Although we are summarizing the management measures that are most relevant to you for the remainder of this fishing year, catch limits and other similar management measures were also set for 2012 and 2013. More information on these future years' measures is available on our website.

Q: Are the 2013 measures final?

A: The 2013 measures are final but are considered default measures that will be replaced by measures developed by the Council in 2012. The default allocations will go into place on March 1, 2013, if the management measures for that fishing year are not put in place prior to the start of the fishing year.

Q: Why are you establishing third-year default measures?

A: Catch regulations in the scallop fishery are generally set every two years. Third year default measures will now be included that would be effective if subsequent management plan revisions are delayed. Currently, measures from

the prior year roll over to the next fishing year, while the implementation of the new set of management measures is pending. By setting the measures for the third year, the measures are more likely to be appropriate for the condition of the fishery and resource.

Access Area Trips



Q: What happened to the Elephant Trunk Access Area?

A: The Elephant Trunk area is now part of the open area. After seven years as a scallop access area, the biomass levels in the area are no longer high enough to justify it having access area status. Vessels can continue to fish there using open area days-at-sea or IFQ.

Q: Which access areas are open this year?

A: For fishing year 2011, Closed Area I, Closed Area II, and Hudson Canyon are opening and Delmarva remains open. However, not all LAGC IFQ and full-time limited access vessels have been allocated trips into each area, for reasons described below.

Q: When are these access areas open this year?

A: Delmarva has been open since the March 1 start of the fishing year and will remain open until vessels harvest their allocations. Closed Area I, Closed Area II, and Hudson Canyon opened on August 1 (0001 hours). Closed Area I and Closed Area II close on January 31, 2012, but will close sooner if the yellowtail flounder quota in these areas is harvested. Like Delmarva, Hudson Canyon will also remain open until all vessels harvest their allocations.

Q: How many access area trips have been allocated to full-time limited access vessels in FY 2011?

A: All full-time vessels are allocated four trips with a possession limit of 18,000 lb of scallops per trip, the same number of access area trips as they had in 2010. However, half of the full-time vessels have been allocated two trips in Closed Area I and the other half have been allocated one Closed Area I and one Closed Area II trip.

Q: Why are some full-time vessels allocated two Closed Area I trips and no Closed Area II trips?

A: The scallop biomass in Closed Area I could not support two trips for every vessel in the fleet, and the scallop biomass in Closed Area II could not support one trip for every vessel in the fleet. In order to allocate enough trips into each area to harvest all available scallops, two trips were allocated in Closed Area I to half of the fleet and one trip in Closed Area II to half of the fleet. All full-time vessels will get the same three trips: A trip into Hudson Canyon, a trip into Delmarva, and a trip into Closed Area I. For the fourth trip, a full-time vessel will either receive an additional trip into Closed Area I, or one trip into Closed Area II.

Q: If I have a full-time vessel, how do I find out my access area trip allocation for this year?

A: We've put a list of vessels and their allocations on our website (www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfdscallop.html). This list will also help you know what other vessels are allocated to assist permit holders with trip exchanges.

Q: How many access area trips have been allocated to part-time and occasional limited access vessels in FY 2011?

A: Part-time and occasional vessels have the same number of access area trips as in 2010 (two trips and one trip, respectively). Part-time vessels can either fish both their trips in Closed Area I, or fish up to one trip in any open access area. An occasional vessel can fish its trip in any one open access area.

Q: What are the fleetwide access area trip allocations for LAGC vessels?

A: In 2011, LAGC vessels receive a fleetwide allocation of access area trips for Delmarva, Closed Area I, and Hudson Canyon. Because it is unlikely that IFQ vessels would travel so far from shore, no IFQ trips are allocated into Closed Area II. Table 1 provides a breakdown of the areas and number of trips per area for the LAGC fleet.

Table 1. Access Area Trips

Access Area	FY 2011
Closed Area I	890
Closed Area II	0
Nantucket Lightship	--
Hudson Canyon	593
Delmarva	593

Yellowtail Flounder Annual Catch Limit and Accountability Measures for the Scallop Fishery

Q: What is the yellowtail flounder annual catch limit for the scallop fishery?

A: To account for yellowtail flounder catch, the Council set annual catch limits for Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder for the scallop fishery. The Georges Bank yellowtail annual catch limit is 442,688 lb and the Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail annual catch limit is 180,779 lb.

Q: How will the yellowtail flounder allocation be monitored?

A: In order to more effectively monitor yellowtail flounder catch in open areas, the daily vessel monitoring system (VMS) catch report that has been required in access areas only is now required for all scallop trips in all areas for limited access and LAGC IFQ vessels. You'll notice these changes to the catch report form on your current VMS unit onboard your vessel.

Q: How much of the allocation can be used in each of the closed areas?

A: Vessels can catch up 306,000 lb of yellowtail in Closed Area I and Closed Area II access areas, with the rest available to open area fishing.

Q: What happens if the access area yellowtail flounder total allowable catch is fully harvested?

A: If the access area yellowtail flounder quota is fully harvested, the access areas close and some vessels that have unharvested trips in those areas will get compensated with open area days-at-sea.

Q: What happens if scallop vessels exceed their yellowtail allocation in either Georges Bank or Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic?

A: If this occurs, there will be an accountability measure that would go into place the following fishing year to account for the overage. Statistical areas that have high catch rates of yellowtail flounder by the scallop fishery within stock areas would close to scallop fishing the following year.

Q: What is the corresponding statistical area for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder?

A: The closure for the Georges Bank yellowtail stock will be in statistical area 562, which extends from just west of Closed Area II, through that closed area, and to the southeast of that closed area. We will also close a small portion of statistical area 525 within the access area.

Q: What is the corresponding statistical area for Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder?

A: If the Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic allocation is exceeded, statistical areas 537, 539, and 613 will be closed.

Q: When do the closures go into place?

A: We will determine by mid-January each year whether the yellowtail allocation is expected to be exceeded or not. If it is projected to be exceeded, the applicable statistical areas described above will be closed on March 1.

Q: How long do the closures last?

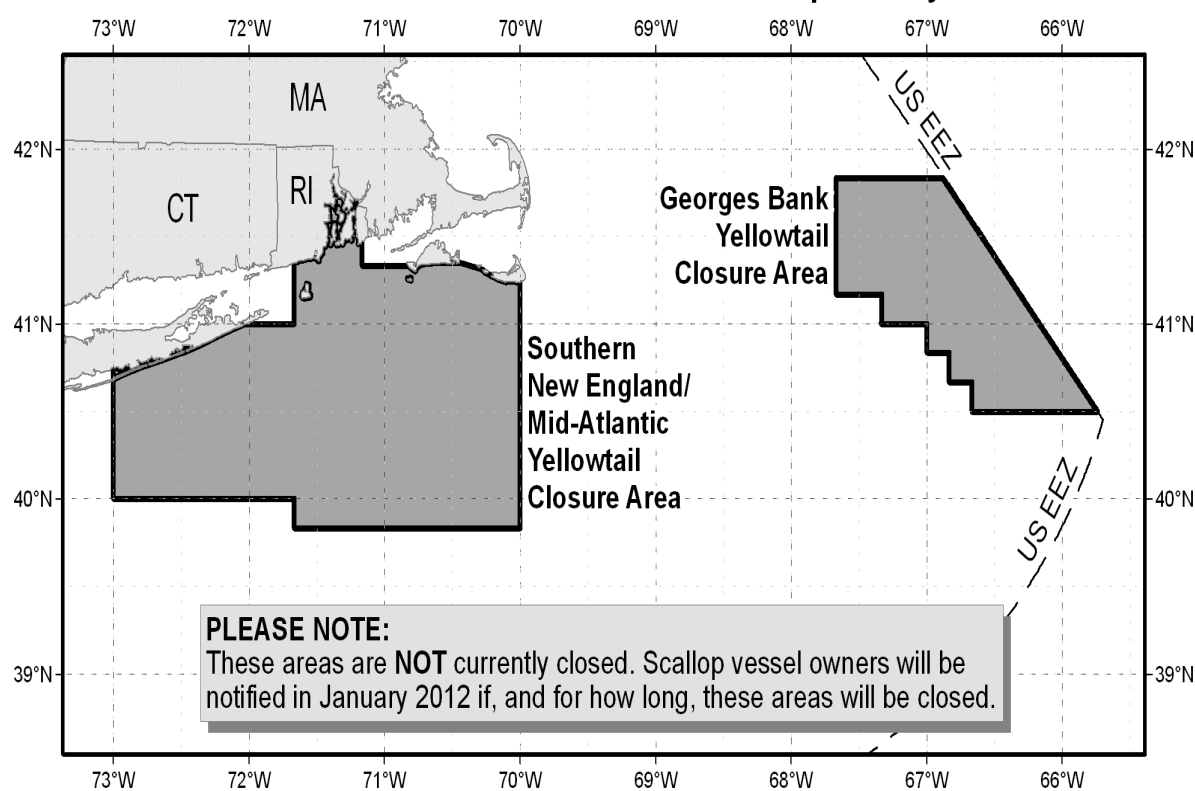
A: The length of the closure depends on how much yellowtail was landed relative to the allocation. The closure will last for at least one month. The tables below show the length of the closures for a given percent overage.

Percent Overage of YTF Annual Catch Limit	Length of Closure
1-2	March
3-5	March and April
6-8	March-May
9-12	March-June
13-14	March-July
15	March-August
16	March-September
17	March-October
18	March-November
19	March-January
20 and higher	March-February

Percent Overage of YTF Annual Catch Limit	Length of Closure
1	March-May
2-24	March-June
25-38	March-July
39-57	March-August
58-63	March-September
64-65	March-October
66-68	March-November
69	March-December
70 and higher	March-February

Percent Overage of YTF Annual Catch Limit	Length of Closure
1	March-May
2	March-June
3	March-July
4-5	March-August
6 and higher	March-February

Potential Yellowtail Closure Areas for the Scallop Fishery



Q: What vessels do these closures apply to?

A: These seasonal closures only apply to limited access vessels. LAGC vessels are exempt from these closures if they are fishing in an exempted area authorized under the Northeast multispecies fishery management plan.

Q: Why are LAGC vessels exempt from the yellowtail flounder closure?

A: LAGC vessels have historically had low yellowtail flounder bycatch. However, any yellowtail flounder catch by LAGC vessels as they continue to fish would count toward that stock area's allocation for the scallop fishery (and would contribute to an overage).

Q: Doesn't the exemption for LAGC IFQ vessels from the yellowtail flounder accountability measure give these vessels an unfair competitive advantage?

A: IFQ vessels fishing opportunities are much more restricted than LA vessels. This exemption would prevent closures and substantially reduced fishing opportunities for the IFQ fleet.

Q: Aren't you concerned that the IFQ vessels are catching as much as 20 percent of the yellowtail flounder allocation in Southern New England?

A: Yes, we are concerned about this recent bycatch analysis. The Council is evaluating this exemption.

Essential Fish Habitat

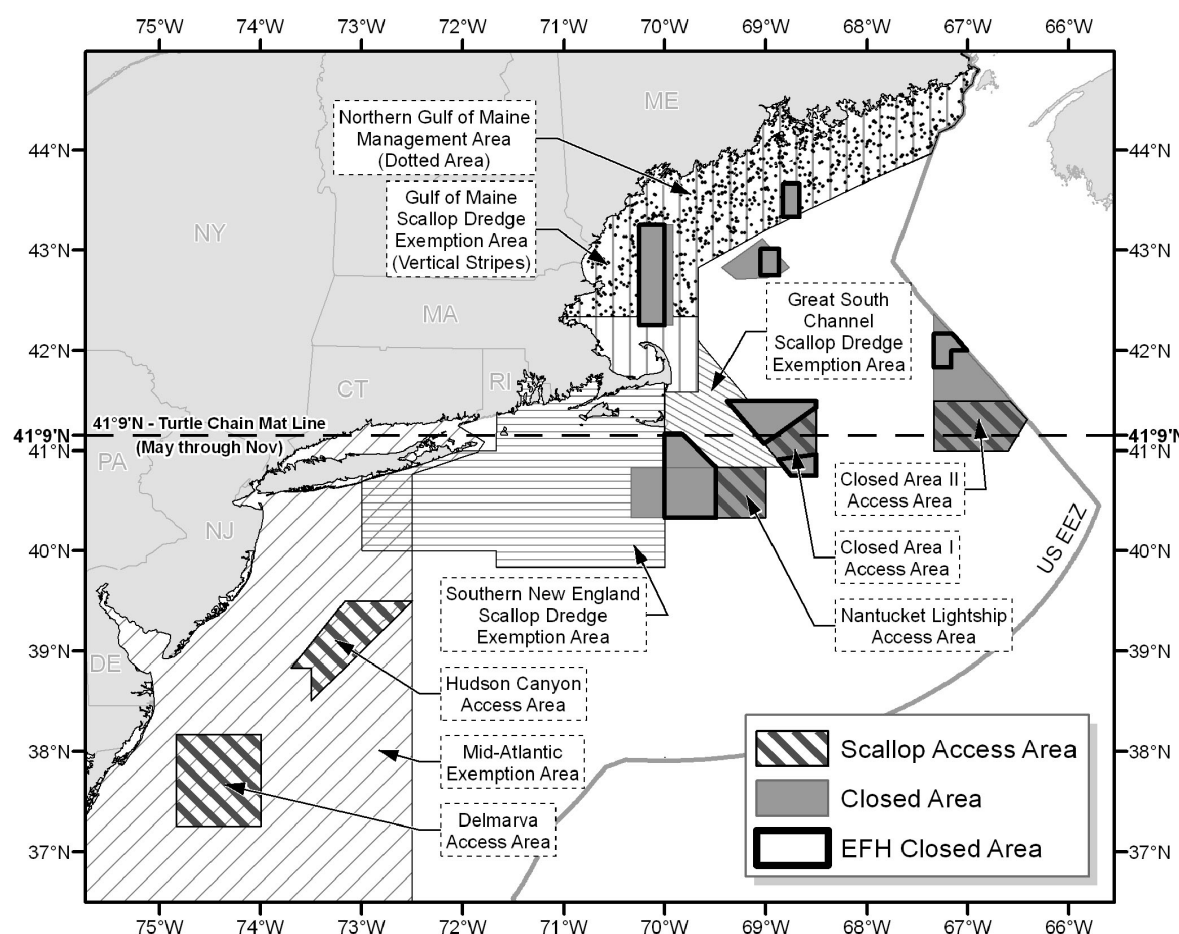
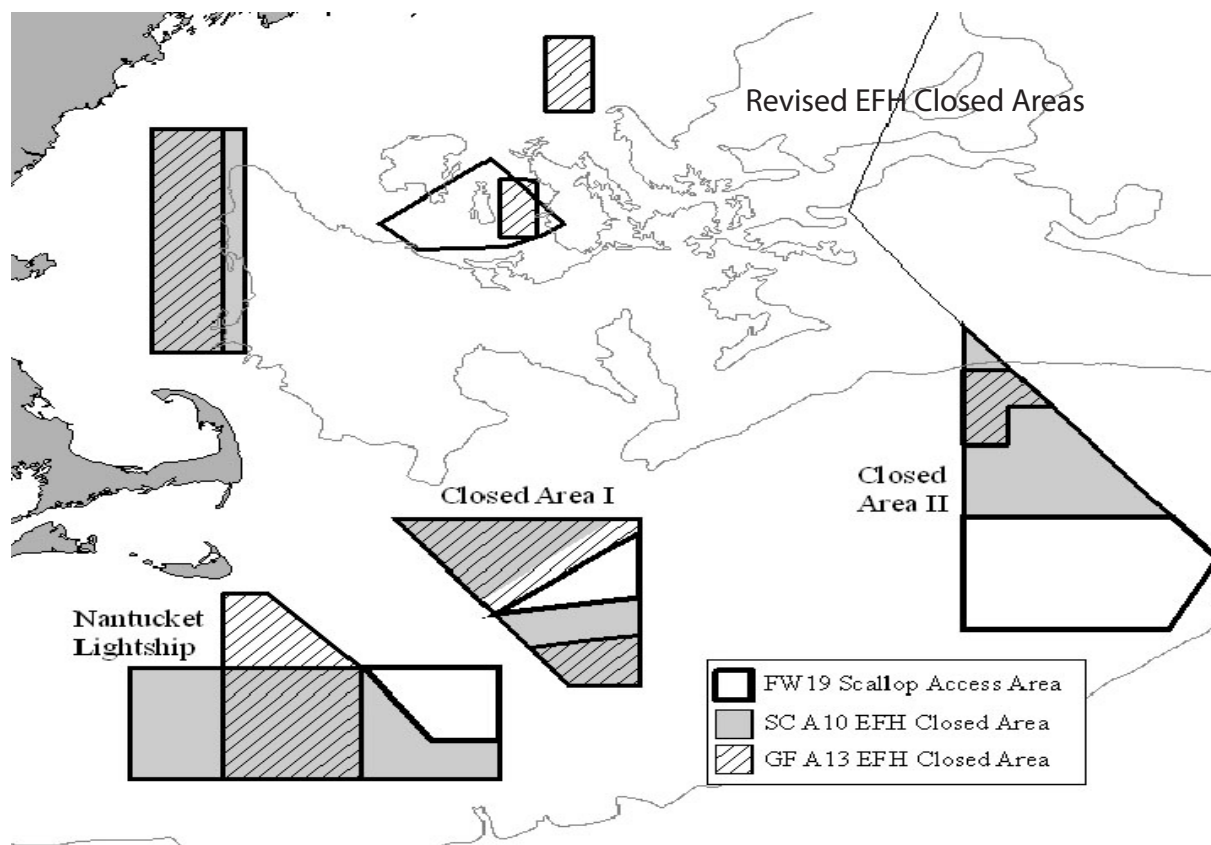
Q: What revisions are being made to the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Closed Areas?

A: The Council modified the EFH Closed Areas in the scallop fishery management plan to make them consistent with the Northeast multispecies fishery management plan. The chart in the upper right section of this page depicts the new scallop EFH closed areas as hatched areas and the previous scallop EFH closed areas as shaded areas.

Q: What does this mean for the access areas?

A: As a result of the EFH Closed Area boundary adjustments, the Closed Area I and Nantucket Lightship Access Areas are slightly larger. The access area within Closed Area II remains the same. The adjacent chart shows the new access area boundaries for Closed Area I and Nantucket Lightship. Updated coordinates were recently sent to permit holders and are available at: (www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfdscallop.html).

Q: Wouldn't it have been better to wait and make modifications to the EFH closed areas through the Council's Essential Fish Habitat



Omnibus Amendment because it uses updated analytical models?

A: This is an appropriate first step to make EFH consistent between the scallop and Northeast multispecies fishery management plans and does not affect any final decisions that may result from the Essential Fish Habitat Omnibus Amendment.

Fishermen-Dealer Transactions

Q: Can a scallop vessel hold catch and sell multiple trips to a dealer in a single transaction?

A: Yes, but each trip must be separated when being delivered to the dealer and the corresponding vessel trip report (VTR) must accompany the landings from each trip.

Q: Can a scallop dealer buy multiple trips from a scalloper in a single transaction?

A: Yes, but each trip must be reported separately to NOAA Fisheries with the corresponding species and pounds from each trip and the VTR serial number for that trip.

Sea Turtle Interactions

Q: What is being required of limited access scallop vessels to protect sea turtles?

A: The number of trips that full-time and part-time limited access vessels can take in the Mid-Atlantic Access Areas (i.e., Hudson Canyon and Delmarva) from June 15 through October 31 of each fishing year is restricted to the equivalent of one trip per vessel (i.e., one full trip at 18,000 lb or 14,400 pounds, for full-time and part-time vessels, respectively, or compensation trips that equal these possession limits).

Q: How does this differ to measures implemented in 2010?

A: This measure is similar to the trip-restriction implemented in fishing year 2010, but differs in that it does not include a seasonal closure of Delmarva and restricts vessels to one access area trip, rather than two.

Q: Are there any exceptions to the requirement to take only one access area trip?

A: Yes, a full-time vessel can fish up to two trips during this period if the vessel has a total allocation of four trips in the Mid-Atlantic access areas through trading access area trips with another vessel.

Q: Does the exception apply to part-time vessels as well?

A: No, because each part-time vessel is only allocated two access area trips to begin with. Occasional vessels only have one access area trip. LAGC vessels are not affected.

Q: Because the 2010 measures were in effect at the beginning of the 2011 fishing year, the access area requirements were different than they are now, so what happens if a vessel took more than one trip this year?

A: Since the 2011 fishing year measures were implemented after June 15, 2011, a full-time vessel that legally took more than one trip, between June 15, 2011 and August 1, 2011 when the new regulations were implemented, would be prevented from taking an access area trip in FY 2012 in the Mid-Atlantic during the trip-restriction period.

Q: For vessel that took more than one trip between June 15 and August 1, 2011, is there any way to avoid having to decrease its number of trips into Mid-Atlantic access areas in 2012?

A: Yes, by trading in trips, so that it has a total of four Mid-Atlantic trips in 2011 as explained above.

Q: What happens if part-time vessels exceed their FY 2011 access area trip limits?

A: Part-time vessels have the same requirements as full-time vessels. If they exceed their FY 2011 access area trip limits, they may not take a trip in FY 2012 in the Mid-Atlantic between June 15th and October 31st. This cannot be avoided by trading in trips.

Cost Recovery Program

Q: Why do IFQ fishermen have to pay a fee to fish?

A: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) requires NOAA Fisheries Service to collect fees to recover the “actual costs directly related to the management, data collection, and enforcement” of an IFQ program.

Q: What is the cost to fishermen?

A: The law provides that the fee be paid by IFQ allocation holders, based on the ex-vessel value of scallops landed under the program. Ex-vessel value is landed value of scallops, determined by the price paid by the seafood dealer to the vessel at time of landing. The fee may be up to, but cannot exceed, 3 percent of the ex-vessel value of the scallops harvested under the IFQ program, where ex-vessel value is calculated as the price paid to the vessel per pound multiplied by the total weight landed.

Q: When did the cost recovery fee period start?

A: The cost recovery fee period started on October 1, 2010, and ends on September 30, 2011, and it will start and end on the same dates each year. So, if you land scallops under the IFQ program at any time during that period, you will be charged a cost recovery fee for those landings each year.

Q: What is the recoverable costs percentage rate this year? Is it 3 percent?

A: Because the fee is based on actual costs of managing, collecting data, and enforcing the IFQ program, we will not know our costs until the end of the cost recovery period (September 30, 2011). In other words, as the fishery continues through September 2011, we continue to have costs that we need to account for in the fee.

Q: How do you determine this “recoverable costs percentage rate each year?”

A: We determine the “recoverable costs percentage” by adding up only the expenditures that were directly related to the management, data collection, and enforcement of the LAGC

IFQ program for the 2011 fee period. Then we divide that total by the ex-vessel value of all scallop landings for the same time period.

Q: Will you know what the fee is for next year before the fishing year starts so I can plan my finances better?

A: We will be able to estimate the fee percentage based only on the prior year’s fee percentage, but the final amount will not be known until the end of the cost recovery fee period (that is, after September 30 each year).

Q: How are actual fishermen’s fees determined this year?

A: Each individual vessel’s landings between October 1, 2010, and September 30, 2011, are calculated using Northeast Federal dealer, vessel trip, and vessel pre-land reports. The ex-vessel value of the landings is determined using an average price for scallops in the LAGC IFQ fishery as reported by dealers. An owner’s fee will be calculated by multiplying the value of the vessel’s landings by the recoverable cost percentage.

Q: Can you provide an example of how the fees for 2011 will be calculated?

A: Assuming that the recoverable costs percentage is 3%, and the average price is \$9.30 per pound, the following fee would be assessed for a vessel that lands 10,000 lb of scallops under the IFQ program:

Vessel landing = 10,000 lb

Average scallop price = \$ 9.30

Ex-Vessel value = \$ 93,000.00

Recoverable costs percentage = 3%

Cost recovery bill = \$93,000 X 0.03 = \$2,790

Q: When are bills issued to fishermen?

A: On or about October 31, NOAA Fisheries will mail a cost recovery bill to each IFQ scallop permit holder that has landed scallops during the fee period.

Q: When are fee payments due?

A: Fees are due January 1 each year. Cost recovery payments must be made in order for the vessel’s IFQ permit to be issued for the next fishing year.

Q: How are payments collected?

A: Payments must be made electronically through the federal web portal, www.pay.gov. Instructions on how to make the payment were sent to each permit holder and are also available on the website.

Q: Can I pay by mailing in a check or cash?

A: No. Only electronic payments will be accepted through www.pay.gov.