



# Northeast Region Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Regional Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

For Information Contact:  
Sustainable Fisheries Division  
(978) 281 – 9315

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/>  
Date Issued: 5/11/2012

## **SCALLOP VESSELS**

### Closure of the Delmarva Scallop Access Area for 2012 Fishing Year and Full-Time Vessel Trip Reallocation

*Effective Date: June 13, 2012*

The Delmarva Scallop Access Area (Delmarva) will be closed to scallop fishing for the remainder of the 2012 fishing year (FY). This closure was done through NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service's authority to take emergency actions and was requested by members of the scallop industry and by the New England Fishery Management Council. This closure prevents high levels of fishing effort in this area, which could reduce long-term scallop biomass and yield from Delmarva, and could compromise the overall success of the scallop area rotational management program.

For the 156 full-time vessels with unused FY 2012 Delmarva trips, including compensation trips, we have reallocated your trips to Closed Area I. We have posted an updated list of FY 2012 "split trip" allocations at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfdscallop.html>. If you have already taken your FY 2012 Delmarva trip, you cannot fish an additional trip in Closed Area I. If you have gained a Delmarva trip through a trip exchange and have not used it, that trip will be converted to a Closed Area I trip. The remaining observer set-aside allocated to Delmarva will also be applied to Closed Area I to account for the increase in fishing activity in that area.

Limited access part-time vessels and limited access general category vessels already have the flexibility to fish their allocated trips or individual fishing quota in other areas. As a result, these vessels' trip and quota allocations remain unaffected by this closure.

*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.*