



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
 One Blackburn Drive
 Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

February 8, 2001

Dear Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you that an interim rule to extend, in time, the Hudson Canyon South and Virginia Beach Scallop Closed Areas has been approved. The closures are effective from March 2, 2001, through August 8, 2001. **Please note that the current closure of the areas extends through March 1, 2001.** This action was necessary to prevent an uncontrolled re-opening of the areas. An action to open these areas, with controls, is under review and, if approved, will supercede this closure.

No vessel may fish for, possess, or retain sea scallops in or from the Hudson Canyon South and Virginia Beach Closed Areas through August 08, 2001. Vessels may transit these areas, and vessels may fish for other species in the areas, provided scallop dredge gear on board is properly stowed and not available for immediate use. For scallop dredges, "not available for immediate use" means that the towing wire is detached from the scallop dredge, the towing wire is completely reeled up onto the winch, the dredge is secured and the dredge or the winch is covered so that it is rendered unusable for fishing.

The Hudson Canyon South and Virginia Beach Closed Areas are defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated and a chart depicting these areas is attached:

Hudson Canyon South Closed Area

Point	Latitude	Longitude
H1.....	39E30' N.	73E10' W.
H2.....	39E30' N.	72E30' W.
H3.....	38E30' N.	73E30' W.
H4.....	38E40' N.	73E50' W.

Virginia Beach Closed Area

Point	Latitude	Longitude
V1.....	37E00' N.	74E55' W.
V2.....	37E00' N.	74E35' W.
V3.....	36E25' N.	74E45' W.
V4.....	36E25' N.	74E55' W.

This letter is only a summary of the regulations that have been implemented. To read these regulations in their entirety, you are encouraged to obtain a complete copy by calling (978) 281-9278, or by accessing the Northeast Regional Office's web page at: <http://www.wh.who.edu/ro/doc/nero.html>

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul
 Regional Administrator



Atlantic Sea Scallop Closed Areas

