



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

NOAA Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

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

<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov>
Date Issued: 5/3/2016

ATLANTIC SEA SCALLOP FISHERY: **LIMITED ACCESS GENERAL CATEGORY (LAGC) SCALLOP VESSELS**

Updated Allocations for the Remainder of the 2016 Fishing Year
and Other New Measures
Effective Date: May 4, 2016

The following information describes new measures implementing Framework 27 and a summary of how they may affect your fishing plans and activities for the remainder of the 2016 fishing year. We have also included reminders of some current requirements. Please read through each section carefully, and distribute this letter to your vessel operators. This summary is not a substitute for the actual regulations, and we encourage you to review the full text of the regulations, available at <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov>.

We have posted additional information on our website at:
<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sustainable/species/scallop/>.

Final 2016 Allocations for all LAGC vessels

Updated Fishing Year 2016 Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Allocations: The table below includes the LAGC fleet IFQ allocations effective May 4, 2016, through the remainder of fishing year 2016. We will send you a separate letter that specifies your vessel’s updated 2016 IFQ, which we set based on the following allocations.

LAGC Fleet Allocations

LAGC IFQ only	1,845 mt (4,067,529 lb)
LAGC IFQ with limited access scallop permit	184 mt (405,651 lb)

IFQ Overage Payback (accountability measure): Please remember that it is unlawful to exceed your IFQ allocation at any point in the year. You can balance an overage within a fishing year through temporary IFQ leases and/or permanent allocation transfers completed before the applicable fishing year ends. We will deduct any overages that remain at the end of the fishing year from the following year’s IFQ allocation on a pound-for-pound basis.

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.

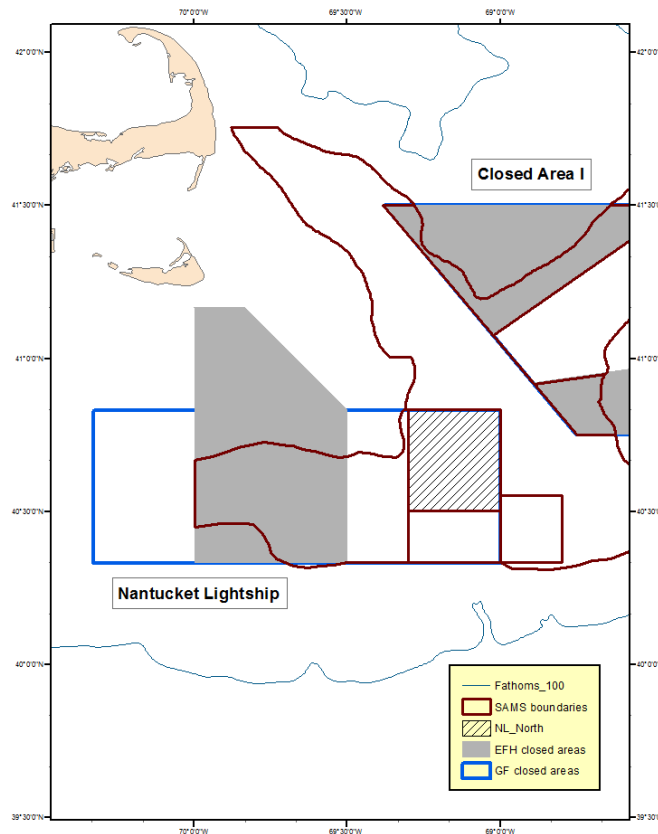
2016 Access Area Closures:

- Closed Area I and Closed Area II Access Areas are closed for fishing year 2016.
- The northwest corner of the Elephant Trunk Access Area, known as the Elephant Trunk Closed Area, remains closed to scallop fishing. (a map and coordinates for the Elephant Trunk Access Area are included in Appendix B)
 - NOTE: Vessels are prohibited from transiting the Elephant Trunk Closed Area when on a declared scallop trip.

2016 Access Area Trip Allocations:

- The Mid-Atlantic Access Area (MAAA) and the Nantucket Lightship North Access Area (NLSN) are open to scallop fishing in fishing year 2016. (coordinates for the MAAA and NLSN are included in Appendix B)
- IFQ vessels are allocated 2,068 fleet-wide trips into the MAAA and 485 fleet-wide trips into the NLSN.
- The MAAA and the NLSN will be open for the remainder of the 2016 fishing year (i.e., there are no seasonal closures).
- Once we project that all trips have been taken in an area, we will close that area to IFQ vessels.

Nantucket Lightship North Access Area **IFQ ONLY******



Point	Latitude	Longitude
NLNAA1	40°50' N.	69°00' W.
NLNAA2	40°30' N.	69°00' W.
NLNAA3	40°30' N.	69°30' W.
NLNAA4	40°50' N.	69°30' W.
NLNAA1	40°50' N.	69°00' W.

LAGC Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) Management Area Scallop Possession Limit and Total Allowable Catch (TAC):

Vessels issued an LAGC NGOM scallop permit are restricted to 200 lb shucked or 25 U.S. bu in-shell scallops per trip.

The NGOM TAC for fishing year 2016 is 67,454 lb. Please note that this is slightly lower than the recent TAC which has been 70,000 lb annually. We had to reduce the TAC for 2016 because the NGOM catch in the fishing year 2015 NGOM fishery was 2,546 lb over the 70,000-lb NGOM TAC. We are required to implement an accountability measure that reduces the fishing year 2016 NGOM TAC by the amount of the overharvest. If the NGOM fleet harvests this TAC from the NGOM area, we will close the NGOM to all scallop vessels for the remainder of the fishing year.

LAGC Incidental Scallop Target TAC: The incidental scallop target TAC for fishing year 2016 is 50,000 lb. Vessels issued an LAGC Incidental Catch scallop permit may only land up to 40 lb shucked or 5 U.S. bu of in-shell scallops per trip.

Fishing Year 2016 Groundfish Annual Catch Limits (ACL) in the Scallop Fishery:

Stock	Scallop sub-ACL
Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder	42.0 mt (92,594 lb)
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	32.0 mt (70,548 lb)
SNE/MA Windowpane Flounder	209.0 mt (460,766 lb)

These limits are for both the LAGC fleet and limited access fleet combined. For more information about yellowtail flounder and windowpane flounder catch limits in the scallop fishery, go to <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/regs/info.html>

Important LAGC Program Reminders

Observer Set-Aside Compensation: LAGC IFQ vessel owners must call in weekly to the NMFS's Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (see attachment for call-in instructions) to report scallop IFQ trips you expect to take during the week. Vessel operators must call by Thursday if they expect to make any open area (or access area) trips from Sunday through Saturday of the following week. Observer service providers should charge dock-to-dock, where a "day" is considered a 24-hr period and portions of other days should be pro-rated at an hourly charge.

If NMFS selects your IFQ vessel for an open area or access area observed trip, you will receive observer compensation credit of 175 lb per trip if the observer set-aside has not been fully harvested. You can fish those additional pounds on the observed IFQ trip above the regular possession limit or on a subsequent trip that fishing year (but you must harvest these pounds within the current possession limit if you fish them on a future trip).

NMFS monitors the compensation rates and the observer set-aside use in each area very closely throughout the year. If information suggests that a different rate is necessary to account for unexpected fishery conditions, NMFS will change the compensation rate as appropriate.

LAGC Calendar Day Landing Restriction: LAGC vessels may not land scallops more than once per calendar day. For example, an LAGC vessel that lands scallops on Monday may depart on a second trip on the same day it landed scallops (Monday), but cannot land scallops again until Tuesday or later.

Scallop Pre-Landing Notification: LACG IFQ and NGOM vessels must send a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Scallop Pre-Landing Notification form at least 6 hours before arrival on the way back to port, or immediately after fishing ends if less than 6 hours before arrival. In addition, you must submit this form on trips that are not declared as scallop trips, but on which scallops are kept incidentally. Forms must include:

- Operator's permit number
- VTR serial number recorded from that trip's VTR
- Estimated Amount of scallop meats and/or bushels to be landed
- Estimated time and date of arrival in port
- Port City and State at which the scallops will be landed
- Whether any scallops were caught in the NGOM.

Daily Scallop Catch Reports: Scallop catch reports are required to be submitted daily for vessels that fish for, possess, or retain scallops and not also fishing under a NE multispecies DAS or sector allocation. These reports must be submitted in 24-hour intervals for each day of fishing that begins at 0000 hours and ends at 2400 hours. The reports must be submitted before 9:00 a.m. local time each day for the previous day's catch. Each report must include the Operator's permit number, VTR serial number, the date fish were caught, the total pounds of scallop meats kept, and the total pounds of all other fish kept.

MAAA Declaration Instructions: To declare a MAAA trip, please use the Mid-Atlantic SAA declaration (SES-SCG-MAXXXX).

- NOTE: Do not declare a Hudson Canyon, Elephant Trunk or Delmarva access area trip.

Shell Stock Restrictions:

- Vessels fishing in the Georges Bank paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) closure area may not retain in-shell scallops.
- Vessels fishing in or transiting the area south of 42°20'N. lat. at any time during a trip may possess no more than 75 bu of in-shell scallops shoreward of the VMS demarcation line.
- A vessel declared into the Sea Scallop Area Access Program may not possess more than 75 bu of in-shell scallops outside of the access area.

Appendix A Industry-Funded Scallop Observer Program Call-In Guide

All vessels must call (508) 495-2100 to notify the observer program of their intent to fish.

Limited Access (LA) Vessels MUST provide 72 hours' notice before the intended sail date. Notice should be no more than 10 days prior to sail date. Date requests within the 72 hours' notice window will not be granted.

LA General Category Vessels (LAGC) MUST notify weekly by Thursday for the upcoming calendar week (Sunday through Saturday.) Calls will not be back-dated if received after the calendar week has begun.

STEP I – CALL (508) 495-2100

1. **Press 1** to report a trip and follow the telephone message prompts.

2. **Gear type:**

1	Scallop Dredge	2	Scallop Trawl
---	----------------	---	---------------

3. **Permit type:**

1	Limited Access	2	General Category
---	----------------	---	------------------

4. **Fishing Area:**

1	Nantucket Lightship (LAGC Only)
4	Mid-Atlantic Open Area
5	Georges Bank Open Area
9	Mid-Atlantic Access Area

5. **Phone Number:** enter your 10 digit phone number (DO NOT use '1' before the area code)

6. **Permit number:** enter your 6 digit permit number

7. **Name:** please speak clearly, first and last name, then press # key

8. **Port sailing from:** please speak clearly the port name, including city and state, then press # key

9. **Date of sailing:** please speak clearly the month, day, and year, then press # key.

(General Category Vessels should indicate the Sunday date the upcoming calendar week begins, as one call per calendar week is sufficient for LAGC vessels.)

You will receive a **trip confirmation number** for each call which must be retained. An email transmission from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will be sent to your VMS email address(es) within 24 hours which will either issue a 'waiver' or an observer selection notification. If you are issued a waiver, you may begin your trip(s).

If you receive an observer notice, please follow the instructions in Step II.

If you do not receive VMS notification within 24 hours, contact the Vessel Call-in Coordinator at (508) 495-2188

STEP II - OBSERVER PROVIDER 48-HOURS PRIOR TO TRIP

If selected for observer coverage you MUST provide at least 48 hours' notice to observer providers.

Please note you are required to call ALL three of the observer providers in an attempt to obtain coverage, but you may choose to hire any provider that is available.

Current Industry Funded Scallop Observer providers are:

A.I.S. Inc. (774) 200-1688

East West Technical Services Inc. (860) 910-4957

Fathom Research LLC. (508) 990 - 0997

Please call the NMFS Vessel Call-in Coordinator at (508) 495-2188 or (508) 560-3550 (after-hours cell) if:

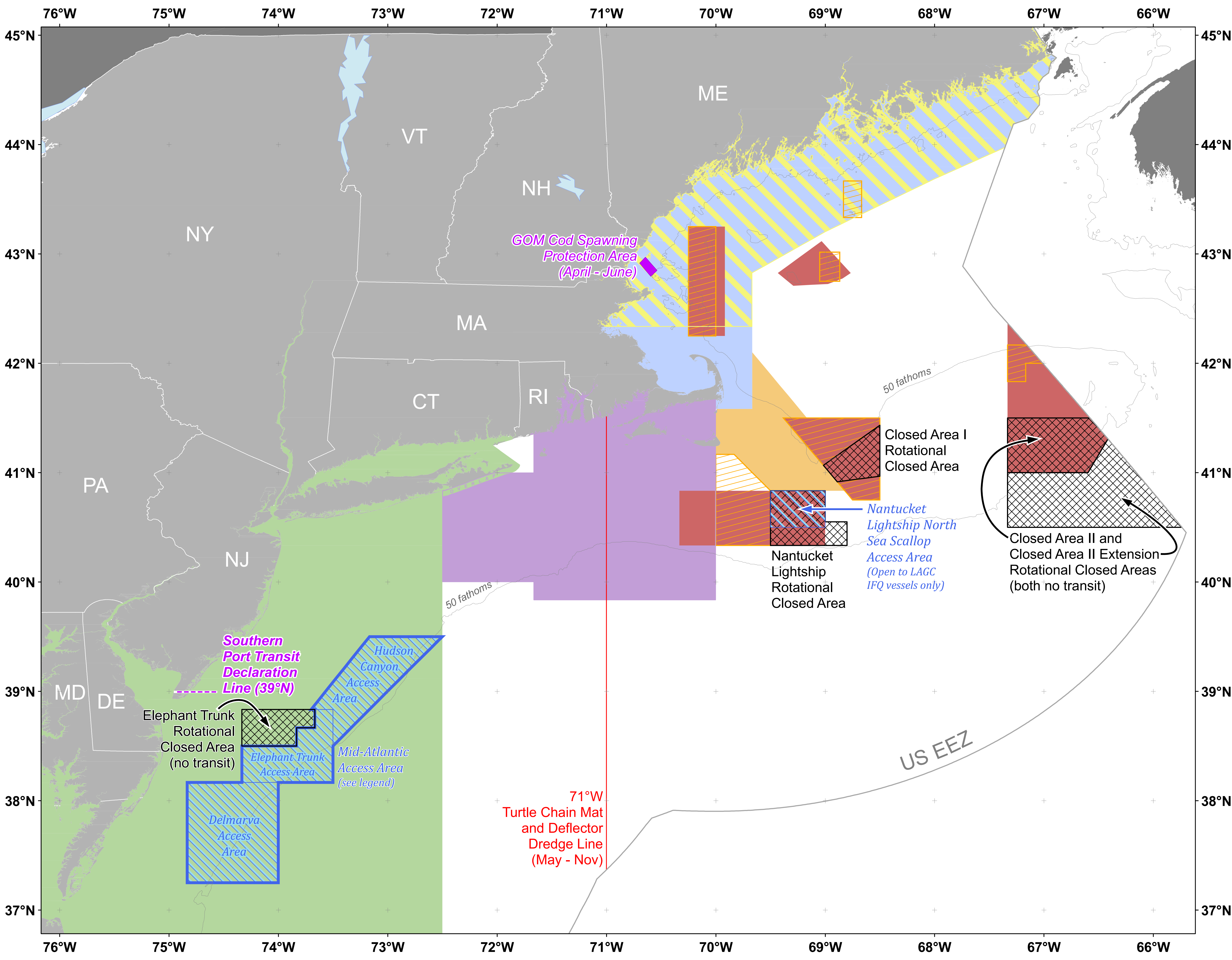
1. There are no observers available from any of the providers and you would like to request a waiver. (Limited Access vessels MUST obtain a formal waiver; General Category vessels DO NOT need a formal waiver.

2. You are cancelling your trip or your trip has been delayed more than 48 hours beyond the intended sail date.




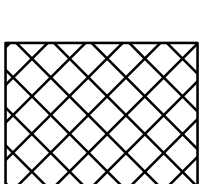





3. Any other extenuating circumstances.

This summary is not a substitute for the actual regulations. The full text of the regulations is available at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov> or call the Northeast Regional Office at (978) 281-9315.

OMB Control No: 0648-0593, Expires: October 31, 2018. Notwithstanding any provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number



Atlantic Sea Scallop Managed Waters Fishing Year 2016

-  Groundfish Closed Area
-  Essential Fish Habitat Closed Area
-  Scallop Access Area (AA)
Mid-Atlantic AA (thick outline) includes Hudson Canyon, Elephant Trunk, & Delmarva AAs
-  Scallop Rotational Closed Area
-  Northern Gulf of Maine Scallop Management Area (*Overlaps GOM SDEA*)
-  Gulf of Maine Scallop Dredge Exemption Area
-  Great South Channel Scallop Dredge Exemption Area
-  Southern New England Scallop Dredge Exemption Area
-  Mid-Atlantic Exemption Area

50 fathoms

Closed Area I Rotational Closed Area

Nantucket Lightship North Sea Scallop Access Area
(Open to LAGC IFQ vessels only)

Nantucket Lightship Rotational Closed Area

Closed Area II and Closed Area II Extension Rotational Closed Areas (both no transit)

Southern Port Transit Declaration Line (39°N)

Elephant Trunk Rotational Closed Area (no transit)

Elephant Trunk Access Area

Mid-Atlantic Access Area (see legend)

Elephant Trunk Access Area

Hudson Canyon Access Area

Delmarva Access Area

71°W Turtle Chain Mat and Deflector Dredge Line (May - Nov)

US EEZ

Appendix B: Scallop Area Coordinates

Closed Areas

Closed Area 1

Point	Latitude	Longitude	Note
CAIA1	41°26' N.	68°30' W.	
CAIA2	40°58' N.	68°30' W.	
CAIA3	40°54.95' N.	68°53.37' W.	(¹)
CAIA4	41°04' N.	69°01' W.	(¹)
CAIA1	41°26' N.	68°30' W.	

¹From Point CAIA3 to Point CAIA4 along the western boundary of Closed Area I, defined in § 648.81(a)(1).

Closed Area 2

Point	Latitude	Longitude	Note
CAIIA1	41°00' N.	67°20' W.	
CAIIA2	41°00' N.	66°35.8' W.	
CAIIA3	41°18.45' N.	(¹)	(²)
CAIIA4	41°30' N.	(³)	(²)
CAIIA5	41°30' N.	67°20' W.	
CAIIA1	41°00' N.	67°20' W.	

¹The intersection of 41°18.45' N. lat. and the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary, approximately 41°18.45' N. lat. and 66°24.89' W. long.

²From Point CAIIA3 connected to Point CAIIA4 along the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary.

³The intersection of 41°30' N. lat. and the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary, approximately 41°30' N. lat., 66°34.73' W. long.

Closed Area 2 Extension

Point	Latitude	Longitude	Note
CAIIE1	40°30'N	67°20' W.	
CAIIE2	41°00' N.	67°20' W.	
CAIIE3	41°00' N.	66°35.8' W.	
CAIIE4	41°18.45' N.	(¹)	(²)
CAIIE5	40°30' N.	(³)	(²)
CAIIE1	40°30'N	67°20' W.	

¹The intersection of 41°18.45' N. lat. and the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary, approximately 41°18.45' N. lat. and 66°24.89' W. long.

²From Point CAIIE4 to Point CAIIE5 following the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary.

³The intersection of 40°30' N. lat. and the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary, approximately, 65°44.34'W. long.

Nantucket Lightship Closed Area*

Point	Latitude	Longitude
NLAA1	40°50' N.	69°30' W.
NLAA2	40°50' N.	69°00' W.
NLAA3	40°33' N.	69°00' W.
NLAA4	40°33' N.	68°48' W.
NLAA5	40°20' N.	68°48' W.
NLAA6	40°20' N.	69°30' W.
NLAA1	40°50' N.	69°30' W.

*includes the additional closure area

Elephant Trunk Closed Area

Point	Latitude	Longitude
ETCA 1	38°50' N.	74°20' W.
ETCA 2	38°50' N.	73°40' W.
ETCA 3	38°40' N.	73°40' W.
ETCA 4	38°40' N.	73°50' W.
ETCA 5	38°30' N.	73°50' W.
ETCA 6	38°30' N.	74°20' W.
ETCA 1	38°50' N.	74°20' W.

Scallop Access Areas

The **Mid-Atlantic Access Area** is the combination of these three areas:

Delmarva Scallop Access Area

Point	Latitude	Longitude
DMV1	38°10' N.	74°50' W.
DMV2	38°10' N.	74°00' W.
DMV3	37°15' N.	74°00' W.
DMV4	37°15' N.	74°50' W.
DMV1	38°10' N.	74°50' W.

Elephant Trunk Scallop Access Area

Point	Latitude	Longitude
ETAA1	38°30' N.	74°20' W.
ETAA2	38°30' N.	73°50' W.
ETAA3	38°40' N.	73°50' W.
ETAA4	38°40' N.	73°40' W.
ETAA5	38°50' N.	73°40' W.
ETAA6	38°50' N.	73°30' W.
ETAA7	38°10' N.	73°30' W.
ETAA8	38°10' N.	74°20' W.
ETAA1	38°30' N.	74°20' W.

Hudson Canyon Scallop Access Area

Point	Latitude	Longitude
H1	39°30' N.	73°10' W.
H2	39°30' N.	72°30' W.
H3	38°30' N.	73°30' W.
H4	38°50' N.	73°30' W.
H5	38°50' N.	73°42' W.
H1	39°30' N.	73°10' W.

Nantucket Lightship North Sea Scallop Access Area - **IFQ only**

Point	Latitude	Longitude
NLNAA1	40°50' N.	69°00' W.
NLNAA2	40°30' N.	69°00' W.
NLNAA3	40°30' N.	69°30' W.
NLNAA4	40°50' N.	69°30' W.
NLNAA1	40°50' N.	69°00' W.