



# Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov>  
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## **ATLANTIC SEA SCALLOP FISHERY:** **LIMITED ACCESS 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 implemented through 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>.

If you would like to learn more about these and other measures, or details about recent actions, we have posted additional information on our website at:  
<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sustainable/species/scallop>.

### **Updated 2016 Days-at-Sea (DAS) Allocations**

The following table includes final fishing year 2016 open area DAS allocations for full-time and part-time vessels.

#### **Scallop Open Area DAS Allocations**

Permit Category	2016 DAS
Full-Time	34.55
Part-Time	13.82

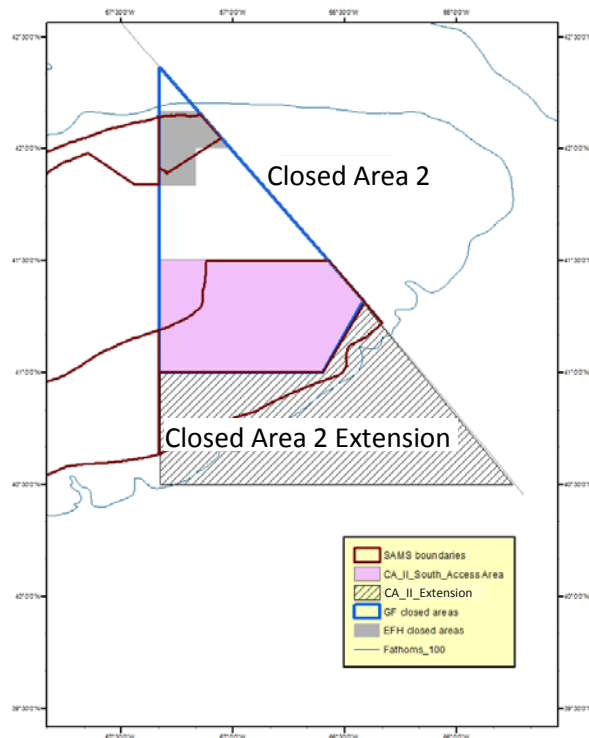
### **2016 Access Area Closures**

- Closed Area I, Closed Area 2, and Nantucket Lightship Access Areas are closed for fishing year 2016. Area coordinates are included in Appendix B.
- 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 Closed Area are included in Appendix B)
  - NOTE: Vessels are prohibited from transiting the Elephant Trunk Closed Area when on a declared scallop trip.

*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.*

- A new area south of Closed Area 2, called the Closed Area 2 Extension, will be closed to protect small scallops located south of the current boundary (Figure 1).
  - NOTE: Vessels are prohibited from transiting both Closed Area 2 and the Closed Area 2 Extension when on a declared scallop trip

**Figure 1. 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.	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
CAIIE5	40°30' N.	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
CAIIE1	40°30' N.	67°20' W.	

<sup>1</sup>The 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.

<sup>2</sup>From Point CAIIE4 to Point CAIIE5 following the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary.

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

### **Fishing Year 2016 Access Area Allocations**

- The Mid-Atlantic Access Area (MAAA) is open to scallop fishing in fishing year 2016. (a map and coordinates for the MAAA are included in Appendix B)
- The MAAA will be open for the remainder of the 2016 fishing year (i.e., there are no seasonal closures).
- **Full-time** vessels are allocated **51,000 lb** of MAAA scallops, which can be landed on as many or as few trips as needed, so long as you do not exceed the **17,000-lb possession limit** on any one trip.
- **Part-time** vessels are allocated **20,400 lb** of MAAA scallops, which can be landed on as many or as few trips as needed, so long as you do not exceed the **10,200-lb possession limit** on any one trip.

### **Important Access Area Program Reminders**

Crew Limits: All access areas now have crew limits. Limited access vessels are restricted to 8 individuals, including the captain. Limited access vessels fishing in the small dredge program are limited to 6 individuals, including the captain.

Reporting Requirements for Access Area Trips: You need to submit a scallop pre-landing notification form through your Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) unit prior to returning to port at the end of each access area trip, including trips where no scallops are landed (more details in the Reminders section below).

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

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

Automatic Access Area Carryover: Your limited access vessel automatically carries over unharvested scallop access area allocation from one fishing year to another. Access area carryover must still be harvested in the first 60 days of the subsequent fishing year and can only be harvested from an area if that area is open for scallop fishing.

This carryover will be effective for this fishing year (2016) into 2017. The Mid-Atlantic Access Area will be open for carryover harvesting in 2017 from March 1, 2017, through April 29, 2017.

Access Area Allocation Monitoring: Although vessel owners are ultimately responsible for tracking their own scallop access area landings and ensuring they do not exceed their annual allocations, NMFS will compile dealer-reported scallop landing records with access area trip declarations and make that information available on the web-based allocation monitoring tool, Fish-On-Line, which each vessel owner can access and review. You can access Fish-On-Line here: <https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/apps/login/login>

### **Observer Set-Aside Compensation**

The access area compensation rate for limited access vessels is 175 pounds per day, in addition to the vessel's possession limit for each day or part of a day an observer is on board.

The open area compensation rate for limited access vessels fishing under DAS is 0.11 DAS per DAS fished (the vessel is charged 0.89 DAS for each DAS fished with an observer onboard).

We monitor 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, we will change the compensation rate as appropriate and necessary.

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

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

These limits apply to both the limited access and Limited Access General Category fleets. 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>

## **Reminders**

### **Shell Stock Restrictions:**

- Vessels fishing in or transiting the area south of 42°20'N. lat. at any time during a trip may not possess more than 50 bu of in-shell scallops shoreward of the VMS demarcation line, unless fishing under the state waters exemption program.
- A vessel declared into the Sea Scallop Access Area Program may not possess more than 50 bu of in-shell scallops outside of the access area.
- Vessels fishing in the Georges Bank paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) closure area may not retain in-shell scallops.

**Scallop Access Area Pre-Landing Notification:** You must send a VMS Scallop Pre-Landing Notification form on any access area trip at least 6 hours before arrival on the way back to port, or immediately after fishing ends if less than 6 hours before arrival. 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

**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 meets kept, and the total pounds of all other fish kept.

**Groundfish Possession Limits on Access Area Trips:** Unless otherwise prohibited, limited access scallop vessels, also issued a valid groundfish permit, that have declared into a trip and that are fishing within the Sea Scallop Access Areas may possess and land, per trip, up to a maximum of 1,000 pounds of all groundfish combined. Additionally, the restrictions for Atlantic cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder are as follows:

- ***Atlantic cod*** - Vessels may possess up to 100 pounds of Atlantic cod per trip, provided such fish is for personal use only (you cannot sell, trade, or barter cod caught from access areas).
- ***Haddock*** - Vessels may possess and land haddock up to the overall possession limit of all NE multispecies combined, except that vessels cannot possess or land haddock from January 1 through June 30.
- ***Yellowtail flounder* - PROHIBITED**

**Groundfish Possession Limits on Scallop DAS Trips:** Unless otherwise prohibited, limited access scallop vessels also issued a valid groundfish permit that have declared into the scallop DAS program may possess and land, per trip:

- ***Groundfish*** - A maximum of 300 pounds of all species combined.
- ***Yellowtail flounder* - PROHIBITED.**

## 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
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3. **Permit type:**

1	Limited Access	2	General Category
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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:**

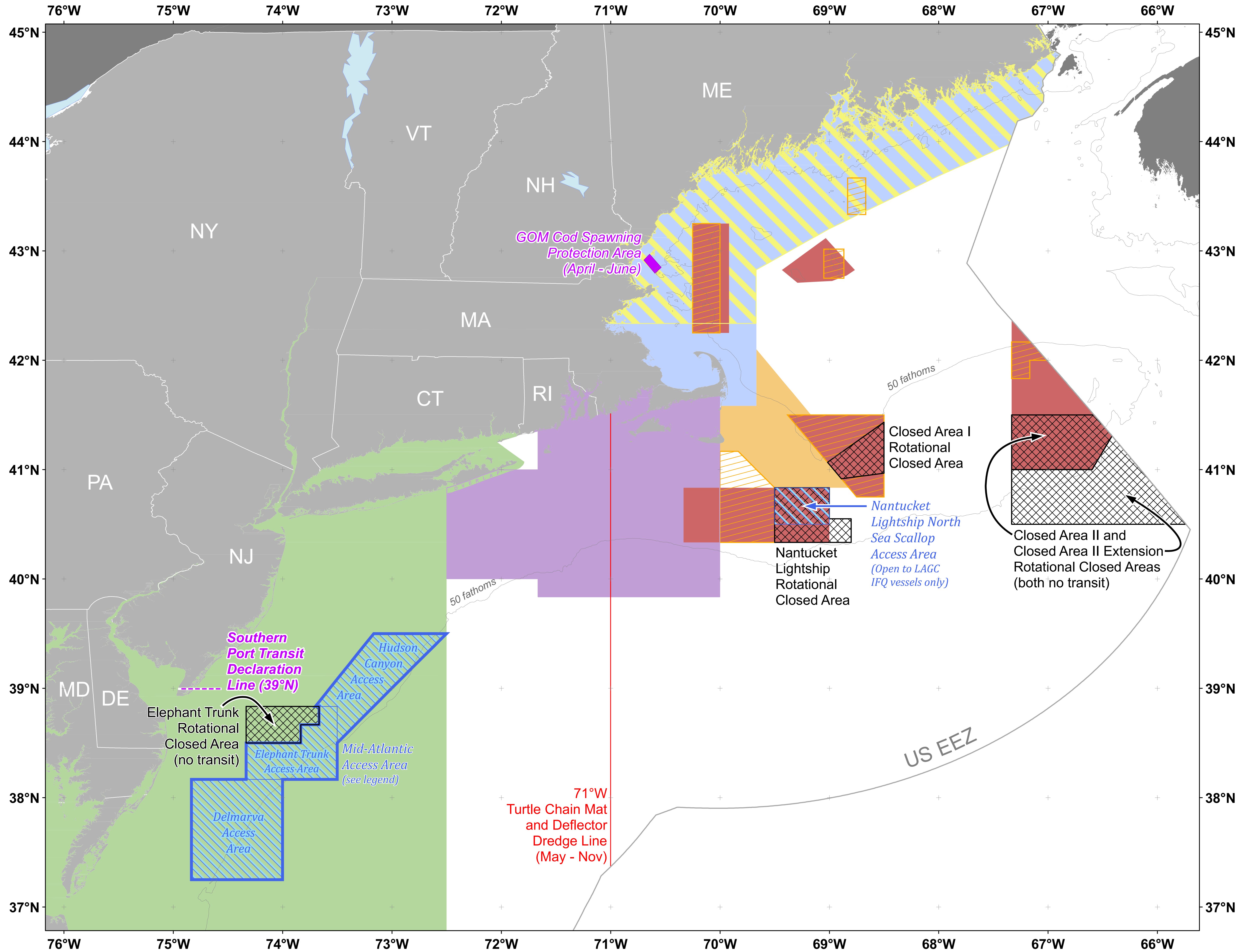
1. There are no observers available from any of the providers and you would like to request a waiver. (Limited Access vessels MUST obtain a formal waiver; General Category vessels DO NOT need a formal waiver.

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




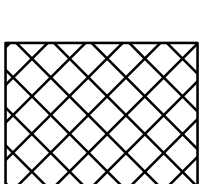





3. Any other extenuating circumstances.

*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.*

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# 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

## 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.	( <sup>1</sup> )
CAIA4	41°04' N.	69°01' W.	( <sup>1</sup> )
CAIA1	41°26' N.	68°30' W.	

<sup>1</sup>From 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.	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
CAIIA4	41°30' N.	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
CAIIA5	41°30' N.	67°20' W.	
CAIIA1	41°00' N.	67°20' W.	

<sup>1</sup>The 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.

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

<sup>3</sup>The 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.	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
CAIIE5	40°30' N.	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
CAIIE1	40°30'N	67°20' W.	

<sup>1</sup>The 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.

<sup>2</sup>From Point CAIIE4 to Point CAIIE5 following the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary.

<sup>3</sup>The 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.