



# Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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Date Issued: 2/28/2014

## Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery

Fishing Year 2014 Observer Set-Aside Compensation Rates

*Effective Date: March 1, 2014*

The Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) and the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service have worked together to calculate the initial observer set-aside compensation rate for fishing year (FY) 2014. We will revisit these rates in June once Framework 25 is implemented, if approved, to see if any mid-year adjustments are necessary.

### **FY 2014 Initial Compensation Rates**

The compensation rate for open areas for limited access vessels fishing under DAS is **0.07 DAS per DAS fished** (the vessel is charged 0.93 DAS for each DAS fished with an observer onboard). This rate is slightly lower than the open area rates from recent years (e.g., 0.08 DAS per DAS fished in FYs 2012 and 2013) due to higher anticipated open area effort in FY 2014, in addition to our attempt to equalize this compensation rate with that for access areas.

Although there are no FY 2014 allocated access area trips at the start of the fishing year, limited access scallop vessels may take FY 2013 compensation trips broken in the last 60 days of FY 2013 in the first 60 days of FY 2014 (i.e., through April 29, 2014). The compensation rate for these compensation trips is **150 lb** in addition to the vessel's possession limit for the trip for each day or part of a day an observer is onboard.

Although limited access general category (LAGC) individual fishing quota (IFQ) vessels will not be able to fish within the access areas at the start of FY 2014, they may possess an additional **150 lb per trip** in open areas when carrying an observer.

We selected these compensation rates because we expect that they provide sufficient compensation for the observer fee while also providing sufficient observer coverage based on anticipated coverage levels needed for the start of FY 2014.

For limited access vessels on access areas trips, the compensation rate provides an average buffer of approximately \$1,010 per day over the \$675 per day cost of the observer at the expected price of scallops. For limited access vessels on open area trips, the buffer is approximately \$1,325. For LAGC vessels, the compensation rate provides an average buffer of approximately \$1,010 per trip over the \$675 per day cost of the observer at the expected price of scallops, assuming trips are one day in length.

*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, Greater Atlantic Region.*

We intend for these excess funds to account for variations in the fishery, such as lower scallop price and landings per day fished (also called landings per unit effort (LPUE)), without creating financial incentive to extend an observed trip.

PLEASE NOTE: These are initial rates because we may consider changing the compensation rate as we gather fishery information throughout FY 2014, such as scallop price, length of trips, LPUE, and overall rate of observer set-aside usage.