



# 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: 12/12/2013

## **Limited Access General Category (LAGC) Scallop IFQ Permit Holders**

Important Reminder about managing your vessel's Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ)

This is a reminder that if you own an LAGC scallop IFQ vessel you cannot land more scallops than you've been allocated. This means that you cannot fish for, possess, or land scallop IFQ if you do not have quota available.

### **What happens if I'm waiting for a lease?**

If you don't have enough available quota to cover an upcoming trip and you've submitted a lease or transfer of IFQ to us, you must wait until we have approved your lease/transfer before that quota can be fished.

### **Can I have a negative IFQ Balance?**

You are responsible for monitoring your available pounds and the amount of scallops harvested during the year. If you have a negative IFQ balance or you exceed your yearly IFQ allocation, you cannot fish for scallops until you either temporarily (lease) or permanently transfer in IFQ to balance an overage. While you can balance an overage within a fishing year through temporary IFQ leases and/or permanent allocation transfers, it is still a violation of the IFQ regulations to have had a negative balance.

If you have a negative IFQ balance as a result of Framework 24 that was implemented on May 20<sup>th</sup> 2013, which reduced your allocation, we will not consider this to be a violation since these pounds were available to you when you used them. Please note, however, that you still cannot fish until we have approved a temporary lease or transfer to balance your overage and to cover future trips.

If we determine that your overage was not the result of a mid-year reduction to your allocation, then your overage will be considered a violation.

### **Year-end accounting for overages**

Any overages that remain at the end of the fishing year will be deducted from the following year's allocation on a pound-for-pound basis. If an overage cannot be deducted from your next year's allocation because you either leased out or fished your pounds prior to us determining your overage or carry-over for the year, the overage will then be deducted from your following year's allocation.

**Before your next trip** - Prior to taking an IFQ trip, please ensure:

- Your VMS is installed and operational

*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.*

- You have called the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program and received either a waiver or notification that you need to carry an observer (this applies to both open and Access Area trips)
- You have IFQ available to cover the expected amount of landings for your trip
- Any temporary (lease) or permanent transfers you have submitted is approved prior to departing if you need the pounds in order to enable to you continue to fish for scallops.

Scallop IFQ allocations are posted on your fish online account and can be accessed under the DAS Reports section. This report monitors scallop IFQ fishing trips as vessel and dealer reports are received and is a tool in assisting you in monitoring your IFQ balance. Please be aware though that vessel owners that hold a scallop IFQ permit are responsible for monitoring their IFQ quota and should not solely rely on the report that is posted on fish online.

Your fish online can be accessed online at: <https://www.nero.noaa.gov/NMFSlogin/login/login>

For questions please call the following:

Fish Online Support:	978-281-9133
Regulations (Sustainable Fisheries):	978-281-9315
IFQ Leasing or Transfers:	978-282-8483
Northeast Fisheries Observer Call In:	508-495-2100