



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

July 16, 2009

Small Entity Compliance Guide

Dear Scallop Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you that the limited access general category (LAGC) scallop fishery is closed to individual fishing quota (IFQ) scallop vessels, including vessels issued Letters of Authorization fishing under appeal effective 0001 hours, July 19, 2009. Therefore, effective 0001 hours on **July 19, 2009**, an IFQ scallop vessel fishing under LAGC regulations may not declare a trip and may not fish for, possess, or retain any scallops. The LAGC scallop fishery is scheduled to re-open to IFQ scallop vessels on September 1, 2009. **If an IFQ vessel has declared a trip and crossed the VMS demarcation line prior to 0001 hours, July 19, 2009, the vessel may complete the trip.**

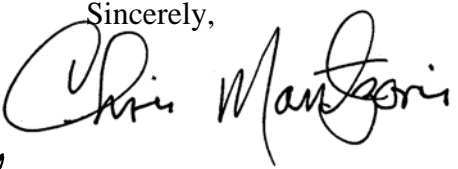
This action is being taken in accordance with the Atlantic sea scallop regulations at 50 CFR 648.53(a)(8)(iii) to prevent the IFQ scallop vessels from exceeding the total allowable catch (TAC) during the second quarter of the 2009 fishing year ending on August 31, 2009. The IFQ scallop fleet was allocated an annual TAC of 4,590,024 lb for the 2009 fishing year.

The current status of LAGC fishery scallop landings can be found at the following website:
<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/ro/fso/scal.htm>

For questions about this closure, please call the Sustainable Fisheries Division at 978-281-9315.

You may also receive permit holder letters, including closure notices, by e-mail by clicking on "Permit Holder Letters" on our website at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>; or via fax by providing a fax number through a written request to the above address, or by faxing your request to 978-281-9135.¹

Sincerely,


for Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

This small entity compliance guide complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996.

