

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

November 25, 2008

Small Entity Compliance Guide

Dear Scallop Permit Holder:

This letter provides an update on the total allowable catch (TAC) available for the fourth quarter limited access general category (LAGC) scallop fishery. The LAGC scallop fishery will re-open on December 1, 2008, for vessels issued an individual fishing quota (IFQ) permit. Vessels that carry a valid letter of authorization (LOA) to fish under IFQ permit restrictions while an appeal of the vessel's IFQ permit qualification is pending can also fish in the LAGC scallop fishery beginning December 1, 2008.

The LAGC TAC for the 2008 fishing year is 4,352,500 lb, of which approximately 4,101,374 lb have been harvested. Therefore, approximately 251,126 lb remains available for harvest after December 1, 2008. This remaining TAC may increase or decrease prior to the December 1, 2008, reopening based on landings updates that occur regularly.

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

The information on this website is generally updated on Friday of each week.

For questions about the fourth quarter LAGC scallop fishery, please call the Sustainable Fisheries Division at 978-281-9315.

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.

