



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

June 4, 2007

Dear Atlantic Sea Scallop Permit Holder,

This letter has been issued to update and remind Atlantic sea scallop permit holders of the following:

- The Nantucket Lightship Access Area (NLCA) and the Closed Area I Access Area (CAI) will open on June 15, 2007;
- The 2007 NLCA and CAI yellowtail flounder total allowable catches (TACs);
- Finfish possession limits for limited access vessels on an access area trip;
- The turtle excluder chain mat requirement for vessels fishing south of 41°09' North Latitude.

This summary is not a substitute for the actual regulations. The full text of the regulations is available on our website: www.nero.noaa.gov, or you may request a copy by calling (978) 281-9315.

NLCA and CAI Opening

The NLCA and CAI Scallop Access Areas will open on June 15, 2007, to limited access and general category scallop vessels. These areas will remain open until either; (a) January 31, 2008, (b) a trip allocation has been taken, or (c) the yellowtail flounder TAC has been caught, whichever comes first. The following table details the 2007 NLCA and CAI trip allocations according to permit category.

Permit Category	NLCA	CAI
Full-time	1	1
Part-time	1 trip in NLCA or 1 trip in CAI*	
Occasional	1 trip in NLCA or 1 trip in CAI*	
General Category	394**	216**

* Unless the vessel has already used its allocation of 2 trips for part-time or 1 trip for occasional vessels in the Elephant Trunk Access Area.

** When all general category trips in an access area have been taken it will be closed to general category vessels for the remainder of the 2007 fishing year (through February 29, 2008).



Yellowtail Flounder TACs

Scallop vessels fishing in NLCA and CAI are limited to a catch of yellowtail flounder (landed and discarded) that equals 9.8% of the annual yellowtail flounder TACs established in the Northeast multispecies regulations. The yellowtail flounder TACs for NLCA and CAI for the 2007 fishing year are as follows:

Yellowtail flounder TACs for Scallop Fishery	
NLCA	46,018 lb
CAI	194,442 lb

If an access area yellowtail flounder TAC is caught the area will be closed to scallop fishing for the remainder of the fishing year. If a limited access vessel has an unused trip into an access area closed by a yellowtail flounder TAC, it will be allocated additional open areas DAS for each unused trip as follows: NLCA - 4.9 DAS; CA I - 5.5 DAS. If a vessel has been allocated a broken trip compensation trip(s) that cannot be made, it will be allocated prorated open area DAS based on the remaining allocation and the above listed access area DAS conversion rates.

If the groundfish fleet is projected to harvest 100% of the Georges Bank U.S./Canada Management Area yellowtail flounder TAC of 900 mt, scallop vessels will no longer be able to retain yellowtail flounder from CAI.

Possession Limit for Limited Access Vessels

If a vessel has a valid NE multispecies permit, a vessel owner or operator of a limited access scallop vessel fishing in a scallop access area may possess, and land per trip, up to a maximum of 1,000 lb of cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder combined, subject to the seasonal and minimum commercial fish size restrictions. Vessels on a general category scallop trip may land scallops only.

Yellowtail flounder. From January 1 through June 30, limited access scallop vessels fishing in NLCA may possess no more than 250 lb of yellowtail flounder per trip. Otherwise, vessels may possess and land up to the overall possession limit of all NE multispecies combined.

Haddock. From January 1 through June 30, vessels are prohibited from possessing or landing haddock. Otherwise, vessels may possess and land up to the overall possession limit of all NE multispecies combined.

Atlantic cod. Vessels may possess up to 100 lb (45.4 kg) of Atlantic cod per trip for personal use only. Cod caught on access area trips may not be sold, traded, or bartered.

Monkfish. Scallop vessels may possess up to 300 lb of monkfish tails per DAS on any access area trip. Monkfish does not count towards the 1,000-lb groundfish possession limit.

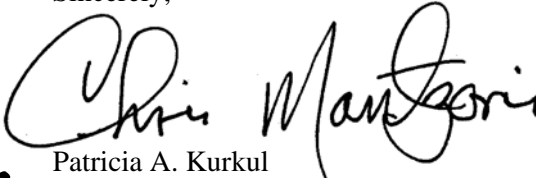
Other species: A vessel may land other species caught during a scallop trip, provided the vessel has a valid permit for the species being retained. Vessels will be held to all regulations governing the species being retained.

Turtle Chain Mat Requirement (click on **red links** for more information)

Scallop vessels fishing south of 41°09' N. Latitude must have a chain mat on the dredge(s). The mat must be comprised of vertical and horizontal chains configured such that the length of each side of the square or rectangle formed by the horizontal and vertical chains is less than or equal to 14 inches.

If you have questions about this notice, please call the Northeast Region's 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.

Closed Area I Access Area (CAI)

<u>Point</u>	<u>N. Latitude</u>	<u>W. Longitude</u>
CAIA1	41°26'	68°30'
CAIA2	41°09'	68°30'
CAIA3	41°04.54'	69°00.9'
CAIA1	41°26'	68°30'

Nantucket Lightship Access Area (NLCA)

<u>Point</u>	<u>N. Latitude</u>	<u>W. Longitude</u>
NLSA1	40°50'	69°00'
NLSA2	40°30'	69°00'
NLSA3	40°30'	69°14.5'
NLSA4	40°50'	69°29.5'
NLSA1	40°50'	69°00'

