



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

June 14, 2007

Dear Scallop Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you that Amendment 13 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan published in the Federal Register on June 13, 2007, and is effective immediately. Amendment 13 continues the Sea Scallop Observer Program, including trip notification requirements for vessel owners participating in the scallop fishery. There is no longer the requirement to notify the Observer Program by the 25th day of the month preceding the month in which a vessel will fish. All other Observer Program requirements remain in effect, including specific trip notification.

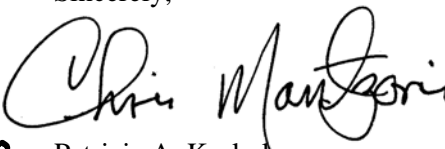
Specific trip notification requirement: Limited access vessel owners or operators must contact the Observer Program for both open area days-at-sea and access area trips. General category vessel owners or operators must contact the Observer Program for access area trips only. The vessel owner or operator shall notify the Observer Program by telephone, **(508) 495-2100**, and provide the following information: Vessel name; contact name and number; date and time of departure; port of departure; and area to be fished, either open areas or the specific scallop access area.

The Observer Program will notify the vessel owner, operator, or vessel manager whether the vessel must carry an observer, or if a waiver has been granted, within 24 hours of the notification of the prospective trip as specified above. All waivers for observer coverage will be issued to the vessel by VMS so waiver verification will be on the vessel.

If a vessel owner, operator, or vessel manager is selected to carry an observer on a specified trip, as determined by the Observer Program, they must arrange for carrying a certified observer from an approved observer service provider. The provider must be given at least 72 hours to arrange for observer deployment for a specified trip.

If you have questions about this notice, please call the Northeast Region's Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315. Additional information on the Observer Program can be found at www.nefsc.noaa.gov/femad/fsb/ and www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfdscallop.html.

Sincerely,


for Patricia A. Kurkul

Regional Administrator

