

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

July 13, 2007

## **Small Entity Compliance Guide**

Dear Scallop Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you that the Closed Area I Scallop Access Area (CAI) is closed to general category scallop vessels effective 0001 hours, July 15, 2007. This action is being taken in accordance with the Atlantic sea scallop regulations at 50 CFR 648.59(b)(5)(ii) to prevent the general category scallop fleet from exceeding trip allocations in CAI during the 2007 fishing year. The general category scallop fleet was allocated 216 trips in CAI for the 2007 fishing year.

Effective 0001 hours on July 15, 2007, no scallop vessel fishing under general category regulations may declare its intent to fish in CAI. Vessels that have complied with the observer notification requirements, have declared a trip into CAI using the correct Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) code, **and** have crossed the VMS demarcation line before 0001 hours on July 15, 2007, may complete their trip and retain and land scallops caught from CAI, consistent with existing regulations.

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

This notice is authorized by the Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Region.

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

