



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

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Small Entity Compliance Guide

Monkfish Possession Limit in Sea Scallop Access Areas

Dear Limited Access Scallop Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you of the monkfish possession limit applicable to limited access scallop vessels when fishing under the Sea Scallop Access Area Program. Changes to this program, implemented through Framework 18 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP) on June 15, 2006, resulted in a monkfish possession limit that is less than the possession limit previously authorized.

The regulations implementing Framework 18 removed the requirement for limited access sea scallop vessels to be fishing under a scallop day-at-sea (DAS) when fishing in a Sea Scallop Access Area. Rather than being charged a specified number of scallop DAS per trip, these vessels are now authorized a specified number of trips and a per trip possession limit in each access area based upon permit category (i.e., full-time, part-time, or occasional). As a result, the monkfish possession limit applicable to these vessels is no longer based on a scallop DAS.

Limited access scallop vessels fishing under the Sea Scallop Access Area Program are now subject to the 50-lb tail weight per day, up to 150-lb tail weight per trip possession limit, which is the possession limit applicable to all monkfish vessels (limited access and open access) fishing with dredge gear and not under a scallop DAS.

If you have any questions concerning the information contained in this notice, please contact the Northeast Region's Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315.

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

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

