



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

June 28, 2004

Dear Permit Holder:

This letter is to notify you of a revision to the Small Entity Compliance Guide instructions pertaining to observer coverage compensation for all vessels fishing under the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

Until further notice, vessels carrying an observer while making trips under this FMP to either open areas or access areas will not be charged for observer sea days. The contract between the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and Atlantic Inspection Services which included provisions for this program has lapsed. Until a new contract is awarded, observer coverage in this fishery will be funded by NMFS.

Consequently, vessels carrying an observer on trips fishing in the access area will not receive an additional 300 lbs of sea scallops per day (or 400 lbs after 23 July, 2004) as compensation for carrying the observer; and vessels carrying an observer on trips fishing in open areas will be charged 1.0 day for every day at sea.

Additionally, until mechanisms for externally-funded observer coverage are restored, all vessels carrying an observer will receive a meal reimbursement of \$25 for each day the observer is on the vessel. At the completion of the trip, the observer will provide a copy of the Meal Reimbursement Form for the captain/owner to sign requesting payment.

Sincerely,

for Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

