



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

August 27, 2001

ATTENTION
FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME SCALLOP
PERMIT HOLDERS

CORRECTION NOTICE

Dear Scallop Permit Holder:

This notice corrects a provision in the letter sent to you on April 27, 2001, regarding the implementation of Framework 14 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan. In that letter, you were notified that full-time and part-time scallop vessels are restricted to a total of three trips each year to the Sea Scallop Access Areas (Access Areas). It was also indicated that full-time and part-time scallop vessels must start at least one of the three allocated trips before September 1 to be eligible to fish the remainder of the trips for the 2001 and 2002 fishing years. That statement does not correctly reflect the intent of this action.

This letter is to inform you that full-time and part-time scallop vessels that do not start one of their three allocated trips to the Access Areas before September 1 are still eligible to fish these trips after September 1. To be eligible to qualify for additional trips (more than three), should additional trips be allocated in the 2001 and 2002 fishing years, vessels must start at least one of their three allocated trips to the Access Areas before September 1.

In addition, this letter also informs you of a modification to the Atlantic sea scallop dredge gear stowage provision for vessels transiting closed areas or transiting to and from exemption or access areas. Due to safety concerns raised by the fishing industry and the U.S. Coast Guard, I have decided to adopt modifications to the current scallop dredge gear stowage provisions as suggested by the New England Fisheries Management Council's (Council) Enforcement Committee and recommended by the Council. Therefore, as of the date of this letter, vessels fishing with scallop dredge gear will be subject to the following gear stowage provisions and considered under the definition of "not available for immediate use" [§ 648.23(b)(2)]:



Scallop Dredges. The tow wire should be detached from the dredge and attached to a bright colored poly ball no less than 24 inches in diameter with the towing wire left in its normal operating position (through the various blocks) and wound back (1) to the first block (in the gallows) or (2) is suspended at the end of the lifting block where its retrieval does not present a hazard to the crew and where it is readily visible from above.

If you have any questions, please call 978-281-9278.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia A. Kurkul". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "P" and a distinct "K" and "A".

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator