

# Yellowtail Flounder Accountability Measures in the Scallop Fishery

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## NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE

This summary provides a broad overview of restrictions and requirements; the regulations summarized here may be found at 50 CFR 648. Please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315 for more information.

The Sustainable Fisheries Division provides stewardship of living marine resources through science-based conservation and management and the promotion of healthy marine ecosystems.

### WHAT ARE THE YELLOWTAIL FLOUNDER CATCH LIMITS IN THE SCALLOP FISHERY?

Each fishing year, the New England Fishery Management Council (Council) and NMFS set the scallop fishery limits on the amount of yellowtail flounder (YTF) that the fishery can catch. These limits are called annual catch limits (ACLs). Because they are part of the total YTF ACL allocated to all fisheries (i.e., the groundfish fishery, the scallop fishery, and other fisheries that catch YTF incidentally), we refer to the scallop fishery's YTF catch limits as a sub-ACLs. There are two YTF sub-ACLs in the scallop fishery: One for the Georges Bank (GB) YTF stock area and one for the Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) stock area.

For the 2013 fishing year (FY), the total YTF ACLs and the scallop fishery's YTF sub-ACLs are as follows:

YTF Stock	Total YTF ACL(mt)	Scallop YTF sub-ACL (mt)
<b>GB</b>	208.5	83.4
<b>SNE/MA</b>	665	61

### WHAT HAPPENS IF THE SCALLOP FISHERY EXCEEDS ITS YTF CATCH LIMITS?

If the scallop fishery exceeds its YTF sub-ACLs, accountability measures (AMs) may be triggered. The Council developed three different YTF AMs in the scallop fishery: One for the limited access scallop fleet; one for the portion of the limited access general category (LAGC) individual fishing quota (IFQ) fleet that uses dredges; and one for the portion of the LAGC IFQ fleet that uses trawls. The limited access fleet has AMs for sub-ACL overages in both GB and SNE/MA, while the LAGC IFQ fishery only has AMs for YTF sub-ACL overages in SNE/MA. A full description of these AMs begins on page 4.

# *Yellowtail Flounder Accountability Measures in the Scallop Fishery*



## WHEN ARE YTF CATCH LIMITS CONSIDERED EXCEEDED?

For both the limited access scallop fleet and the LAGC IFQ fleet, YTF AMs trigger if one of the two scenarios occurs:

- The total YTF ACL for a given stock area in a given FY was exceeded, and the scallop fishery's sub-ACL was exceeded by any amount; or
- The total YTF ACL for a given stock area was not exceeded, but the scallop fishery exceeded its sub-ACL by 50 percent or more.

In addition to those triggers, the LAGC fleet has a few other caveats related to when their SNE/MA YTF AMs will trigger:

For LAGC IFQ vessels fishing with dredges, AMs will only trigger if:

- One of the above two conditions is met and the amount of YTF caught by LAGC vessels fishing with dredges was greater than 3 percent of the SNE/MA YTF sub-ACL (i.e., if LAGC vessels fishing with dredges caught 3 percent or less of the YTF sub-ACL in SNE/MA, AMs for this fleet would not be triggered, even if other scallop fleet AMs were triggered).

For LAGC IFQ vessels fishing with trawls, in addition to the first two conditions listed above, AMs will also trigger if:

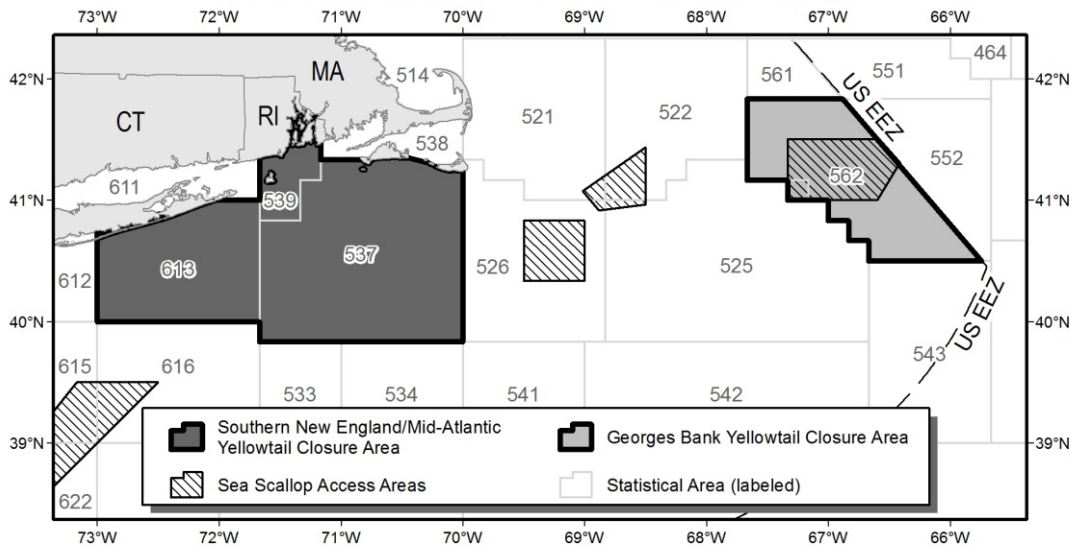
- The estimated catch of SNE/MA YTF by LAGC vessels using trawls is more than 10 percent of the SNE/MA YTF sub-ACL for the scallop fishery. This would trigger an AM regardless of whether or not the total YTF ACL was exceeded or if the scallop fishery exceeded its YTF sub-ACL. If this 10-percent threshold is met, the closure length will be the maximum extent possible (i.e., a 7-month closure). More details about closure areas and lengths are below.

# Yellowtail Flounder Accountability Measures in the Scallop Fishery



## WHAT ARE THE YTF ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES (AMs)?

The AMs are seasonal closures of defined statistical areas. The lengths of such closures, which are based on the time of year when YTF bycatch is the highest, depend on the severity of the YTF sub-ACL overages.



Map 1. AM closure areas for limited access vessels in GB and SNE/MA. Note that the closure areas in SNE/MA are identical to those for the LAGC IFQ fishery when fishing with dredges.

## What are the YTF AMs in Georges Bank (GB)?

If the GB YTF sub-ACL overage results in an AM, the only AM applicable to GB is the limited access AM. Although the YTF catch of LAGC IFQ vessels applies to the GB sub-ACL, their catch is minimal and they do not have an AM for this area.

In GB, the AM is a seasonal closure of statistical area 562, as well as the small portion of 525 that is within the Closed Area II (CA2) scallop access area (see map above). The length of the closure depends on the amount of the overage, as well as whether or not CA2 is open to the scallop fishery.

# Yellowtail Flounder Accountability Measures in the Scallop Fishery



For years when CA2 is open, the AM closure schedule is:

Percent coverage of YTF sub-ACL	Length of closure
3 or less	Oct-Nov
3.1-14	Sep-Nov
14.1-16	Sep-Jan
16.1-39	Aug-Jan
39.1-56	Jul-Jan
Greater than 56	Mar-Feb (All year)

For years when CA2 is closed, the AM closure schedule is:

Percent coverage of YTF sub-ACL	Length of closure
1.9 or less	Sep-Nov
2.0 -2.9	Aug-Jan
3.0 -3.9	Mar-Aug, Feb
4.0 - 4.9	Mar, Jul-Feb
5.0 -5.9	Mar-May, Jul-Feb
6.0 or greater	Mar-Feb (All year)

## What are the YTF AMs in Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA)?

If the SNE/MA YTF sub-ACL overage results in AMs, the limited access fleet, LAGC IFQ vessels using trawls, and LAGC IFQ vessels using dredges would each have specific AMs.

For limited access vessels, the AM is a seasonal closure of statistical areas 537, 539, and 613 (see Map 1 on page 4). The length of the closure depends on the amount of the overage, and all three statistical areas close for the same period of time.

# Yellowtail Flounder Accountability Measures in the Scallop Fishery



The SNE/MA AM limited access closure schedule is:

Percent overage of YTF sub-ACL	Length of closure
2 or less	Mar-Apr
2.1-3	Mar-Apr , Feb
3.1-7	Mar-May, Feb
7.1-9	Mar-May, Jan-Feb
9.1-12	Mar-May, Dec-Feb
12.1-15	Mar-Jun, Dec-Feb
15.1-16	Mar-Jun, Nov-Feb
16.1-18	Mar-Jul, Nov-Feb
18.1-19	Mar-Aug, Oct-Feb
19.1 or more	Mar-Feb (All year )

For LAGC IFQ vessels that fish with dredges, the AM is a seasonal closure of the same statistical areas applicable to the limited access fishery (i.e., 537, 539, and 613; see map on page 4). As with the AM for the limited access fleet, the length of the closure depends on the amount of the overage. However, these areas are not all closed at the same time, and all three areas do not close for the entire FY, no matter how great the overage.

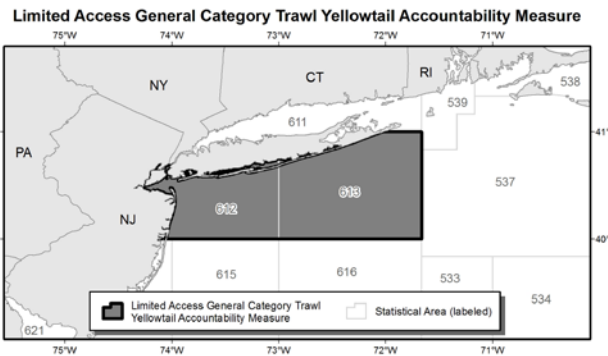
The SNE/MA AM closure schedule for LAGC IFQ vessels that fish with dredges is:

Overage	AM closure area and duration		
	539	537	613
2 percent or less	Mar-Apr	Mar-Apr	Mar-Apr
2.1 - 7 percent	Mar-May, Feb	Mar-May, Feb	Mar-May, Feb
7.1 - 12 percent	Mar-May, Dec-Feb	Mar-May, Dec-Feb	Mar-May, Feb
12.1 - 16 percent	Mar-Jun, Nov-Feb	Mar-Jun, Nov-Feb	Mar-May, Feb
16.1 percent or greater	Mar-Feb (All year )	Mar-Jun, Nov-Feb	Mar-May, Feb

# Yellowtail Flounder Accountability Measures in the Scallop Fishery



For LAGC IFQ vessels that fish with trawls, the AM is a seasonal closure of statistical areas 612 and 613 (see map below). As with the other AMs, the length of the closure depends on the amount of the overage. This area could be closed to LAGC trawl gear for up to 7 months of the FY, but will not be closed for an entire FY.



The SNE/MA AM closure schedule for LAGC IFQ vessels that fish with trawls is:

Overage	AM Closure
2 percent or less	Mar-Apr
2.1-3 percent	Mar-Apr, and Feb
3.1-7 percent	Mar-May, and Feb
7.1-9 percent	Mar-May, and Jan-Feb
9.1-12 percent	Mar-May, and Dec-Feb
12.1 or greater	Mar-June, and Dec-Feb

If the LAGC trawl AM is triggered, a trawl vessel could still covert to dredge gear and continue fishing for scallops. If a vessel chooses to switch gears, it must follow all dredge gear regulations, including that fishery's AM schedule if it has also been triggered.

## WHEN DO YTF AMs GO INTO EFFECT?

- If reliable information is available to make a mid-year determination of the need to implement AMs for the YTF sub-ACLs, the respective AM(s) for each YTF stock area will be implemented at the start of the next FY (e.g., In situations where the ACL for a stock is low, an overage is known early in the FY, and AM determinations are based on actual catch and landings rather than projections).
- If reliable information is not available to make a mid-year determination of the need to implement AMs for the YTF sub-ACLs, NMFS must wait until enough information is available (i.e., when the total observer and catch data is available for that FY for both the groundfish and scallop fisheries) before making a decision to implement any YTF AMs. Under this scenario, NMFS would implement AMs Year 3 (e.g., for an overage in FY 2013, the AM will be implemented in FY 2015).

# Yellowtail Flounder Accountability Measures in the Scallop Fishery



## WHAT ARE THE COORDINATES FOR THE AM SEASONAL CLOSURE AREAS?

For Limited Access Scallop Vessels:

### GB YTF AM Closure Area

Point	N. lat.	W. long.
GBYT AM 1	41°50'	( <sup>1</sup> ) ( <sup>2</sup> )
GBYT AM 2	40°30.75'	( <sup>3</sup> )
GBYT AM 3	40°30'	66°40'
GBYT AM 4	40°40'	66°40'
GBYT AM 5	40°40'	66°50'
GBYT AM 6	40°50'	66°50'
GBYT AM 7	40°50'	67°00'
GBYT AM 8	41°00'	67°00'
GBYT AM 9	41°00'	67°20'
GBYT AM 10	41°10'	67°20'
GBYT AM 11	41°10'	67°40'
GBYT AM 12	41°50'	67°40'
GBYT AM 1	41°50'	66°51.94'

(<sup>1</sup>) The intersection of 41°50 N. lat. and the U.S.-Canada maritime boundary

(<sup>2</sup>) From Point CAIIA3 connected to Point CAIIA4 along the U.S.-Canada maritime boundary

(<sup>3</sup>) The intersection of 41°30.75 N. lat. and the U.S.-Canada maritime boundary

### SNE/MA YTF AM Closure Area

Point	N. lat.	W. long.
LA SNEYT AM 1	( <sup>1</sup> )	73°00'
LA SNEYT AM 2	40°00'	73°00'
LA SNEYT AM 3	40°00'	71°40'
LA SNEYT AM 4	39°50'	71°40'
LA SNEYT AM 5	39°50'	70°00'
LA SNEYT AM 6	( <sup>2</sup> ) ( <sup>3</sup> )	70°00'
LA SNEYT AM 7 ( <sup>4</sup> )	41°16.76'	70°13.47'

# Yellowtail Flounder Accountability Measures in the Scallop Fishery



LA SNEYT AM 8 <sup>(5)</sup>	41°18.01'	70°15.47'
LA SNEYT AM 9 <sup>(6)</sup>	41°20.26'	70°18.30'
LA SNEYT AM 10 <sup>(7)</sup>	41°21.09' <sup>(8)</sup>	70°27.03'
LA SNEYT AM 11	41°20'	<sup>(9)</sup>
LA SNEYT AM 12	41°20'	71°10'
LA SNEYT AM 13	<sup>(10)</sup> <sup>(11)</sup>	71°10'
LA SNEYT AM 14	<sup>(12)</sup>	71°40'
LA SNEYT AM 15	41°00'	71°40'
LA SNEYT AM 16	41°00' <sup>(13)</sup>	<sup>(14)</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup> The south facing mainland coastline of Long Island

<sup>(2)</sup> The southern coastline of Nantucket

<sup>(3)</sup> From Point F to Point G along the southern coastline of Nantucket

<sup>(4)</sup> Point G represents Esther Island, Nantucket, Massachusetts

<sup>(5)</sup> Point H represents Tuckernuck Island, Nantucket, Massachusetts

<sup>(6)</sup> Point I represents Muskeget Island, Nantucket, Massachusetts

<sup>(7)</sup> Point J represents Wasque Point, Chappaquiddick Island, Massachusetts

<sup>(8)</sup> From Point J to Point K along the southern coastline of Martha's Vineyard

<sup>(9)</sup> The western coastline of Martha's Vineyard

<sup>(10)</sup> The southern coastline of Rhode Island

<sup>(11)</sup> From Point M to Point B following the mainland coastline of Rhode Island

<sup>(12)</sup> The southern coastline of Rhode Island

<sup>(13)</sup> From Point P back to Point A along the southern mainland coastline of Long Island

<sup>(14)</sup> Southeast facing coastline of Long Island

## For LAGC IFQ Scallop Vessels Fishing with Dredges:

### SNE/MA YTF AM Closure Areas

#### Closure Area 1 (Statistical Area 537)

Point	N. lat.	W. long.
LAGC Dredge SNEYT AM1 A	41°20'	<sup>(1)</sup>
LAGC Dredge SNEYT AM1 B	41°20'	71°10'
LAGC Dredge SNEYT AM1 C	41°10'	71°10'
LAGC Dredge SNEYT AM1 D	41°10'	71°20'
LAGC Dredge SNEYT AM1 E	40°50'	71°20'



# Yellowtail Flounder Accountability Measures in the Scallop Fishery



LAGC Dredge SNEYT AM1 F	40°50'	71°40'
LAGC Dredge SNEYT AM1 G	39°50'	71°40'
LAGC Dredge SNEYT AM1 H	39°50'	70°00'
LAGC Dredge SNEYT AM1 I	( <sup>2</sup> )( <sup>3</sup> )	70°00'
LAGC Dredge SNEYT AM1 J ( <sup>4</sup> )	41°16.76'	70°13.47'
LAGC Dredge SNEYT AM1 K ( <sup>5</sup> )	41°18.01'	70°15.47'
LAGC Dredge SNEYT AM1 L ( <sup>6</sup> )	41°20.26'	70°18.30'
LAGC Dredge SNEYT AM1 M ( <sup>7</sup> )	41°21.09' ( <sup>8</sup> )	70°27.03'

- (<sup>1</sup>) The western coastline of Martha's Vineyard
- (<sup>2</sup>) The southern coastline of Nantucket
- (<sup>3</sup>) From Point I to Point J along the southern coastline of Nantucket
- (<sup>4</sup>) Point J represents Esther Island, Nantucket, Massachusetts
- (<sup>5</sup>) Point K represents Tuckernuck Island, Nantucket, Massachusetts
- (<sup>6</sup>) Point L represents Muskeget Island, Nantucket, Massachusetts
- (<sup>7</sup>) Point M represents Wasque Point, Chappaquiddick Island, Massachusetts
- (<sup>8</sup>) From Point M back to Point A along the southern coastline of Martha's Vineyard

## Closure Area 2 (Statistical Area 613)

Point	N. lat.	W. long.
LAGC Dredge SNEYT AM2 A	( <sup>1</sup> )	73°00'
LAGC Dredge SNEYT AM2 B	40°00'	73°00'
LAGC Dredge SNEYT AM2 C	40°00'	71°40'
LAGC Dredge SNEYT AM2 D	41°00'	71°40'
LAGC Dredge SNEYT AM2 E	41°00' ( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )

- (<sup>1</sup>) The south facing mainland coastline of Long Island
- (<sup>2</sup>) Southeast facing coastline of Long Island
- (<sup>3</sup>) From Point E back to Point A along the southern mainland coastline of Long Island

## Closure Area 3 (Statistical Area 539)

Point	N. lat.	W. long.
LAGC Dredge SNEYT AM3 A	( <sup>1</sup> )	71°40'
LAGC Dredge SNEYT AM3 B	40°50'N	71°40'
LAGC Dredge SNEYT AM3 C	40°50'N	71°20'
LAGC Dredge SNEYT AM3 D	41°10'N	71°20'

# Yellowtail Flounder Accountability Measures in the Scallop Fishery



LAGC Dredge SNEYT AM3 E	41°10'N	71°10'
LAGC Dredge SNEYT AM3 F	( <sup>1</sup> ) ( <sup>2</sup> )	71°10'

(<sup>1</sup>) The southern coastline of Rhode Island

(<sup>2</sup>) From Point F back to Point A following the southern mainland coastline of Rhode Island

## For LAGC IFQ Scallop Vessels Fishing with Trawls:

### SNE/MA YTF AM Closure Areas (Statistical Areas 612 and 613)

Point	N. lat.	W. long.
LAGC Trawl SNEYT AM A	40°00'	( <sup>1</sup> )
LAGC Trawl SNEYT AM B	40°00'	71°40'
LAGC Trawl SNEYT AM C	41°00'	71°40'
LAGC Trawl SNEYT AM D	41°00'( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )

(<sup>1</sup>)New Jersey mainland coastline

(<sup>2</sup>)From Point D back to Point A along the southern mainland coastline of Long Island and New York, and the eastern coastline of New Jersey.

(<sup>3</sup>)Southeast facing coastline of Long Island, NY