



May 15, 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR: A.I.S., Inc.,  
East West Technical Services, and  
Fathoms Research LLC, and  
Industry Funded Scallop Observers

FROM: Amy S. Van Atten   
Branch Chief, Fisheries Sampling Branch (FSB)

SUBJECT: 2013 Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishing Year:  
Industry Funded Scallop Updates and Framework 24 Management Measures

This memo is intended to make observers aware of several changes regarding scallop sampling protocols and the approval of FW 24 management measures to the Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP) that are effective as of May 1 and May 20, 2013, respectively.

### Scallop Protocol Changes

Observer protocol changes were made to make scallop data collection procedures uniform throughout the scallop fishery and improve catch and bycatch data for near real time monitoring of scallop, yellowtail flounder and other species.

- Call in for a pre-brief for all trips, regardless of area fished.
- For all scallop trips (open and access areas) record the total weight of kept scallop meats as a dressed weight, see 2013 OBS Manual page 170.
- Volumetric measurements of scallops and meat weights will be comprised of 1 basket of kept scallops, not 100 individuals, see procedures in your Biological Sampling Manual (BSM), page 17.
  - Please remember to ask a crew member to shuck the scallops for you so that the measurements represent an industry cut basket.
- Collect scallop shell height length frequencies for both kept and discarded scallops at least after every other observed haul. Measure 100 scallops, in the shell, from both nets/dredges combined, for each disposition (BSM page 17).
- Photograph all dredges (turtle chain mats and dredge frames) on all trips

### Off Watch Log Changes

The Off-Watch Haul Log has been replaced by a simplified version. Off-watch data will be collected per watch instead of per haul by the observer with help from the Captain/Mate. Multiple off-watch periods will be recorded on one Off-Watch Log. Observers should record haul begin data for the first off-watch haul at the start of their off-watch period and subsequently record haul end data for the last haul of their off-watch period. Ask the Captain/Mate prior to

each off-watch period to record the number of hauls conducted and the average number of bushels kept per haul during that time.

Electronic Data Upload Changes – OBPRELIM website replacing OBSCON

Beginning May 1, 2013 the OBSCON program was replaced with a web based system where you will enter preliminary data, referred to as OBPRELIM. The web address for OBPRELIM is <https://fish.nefsc.noaa.gov/obprelim>. OBPRELIM is very similar to OBSCON with added fields and outdated fields removed.

Added fields are:

Date and Time Boarded – Date and Time the observer arrives at the vessel and puts gear onboard.

Date and Time Disembarked – Date and Time the observer disembarks from the vessel and removes gear.

EMS used? – Was there an electronic monitoring system onboard the vessel?

\*Note that these 3 fields are on the new Vessel and Trip logs for May 2013, outdated logs should no longer be used.

Due to changes in yellowtail flounder monitoring, we will need to receive near real time scallop haul data for both open areas and access areas. Uploading to OBPRELIM is a similar process to the former requirements for entering SAP data on scallop access area trips. OBPRELIM will require entry of all haul data for **BOTH ACCESS AND OPEN AREA TRIPS** with the following information:

Haul Number – also required for unobserved hauls

Haul Observed? – also required for unobserved hauls

Catch Exist?

Lat/Lon Haul Begin

Lat/Lon Haul End

Scallop kept – (DRESSED WEIGHT FOR ALL AREAS)

Any KEPT species

Yellowtail DISCARD

The OBPRELIM website has extensive help built in and should help answer any questions you may have. If questions regarding OBPRELIM persist please contact Erin Kupcha at (508) 495-2031 (office) or, call the IT cell phone at (508) 367-8256.

Observer Pre-briefing

Prior to deployment on a scallop trip, all observers must call the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (NEFOP) office for a pre-briefing prior to **all** trips, regardless of area to review sampling protocols.

During office hours, please call:

Shannah Jaburek (508) 495-2188

Tyler Staples (508) 495-2129

Chad Keith (508) 495-2067

Giovanni Gianesin (508) 495-2157

After hours, please call: Scallop VCIC (508) 560-3550

## **Framework 24 Management Measures**

FW 24 sets specifications for the Atlantic sea scallop fishery for the fishing year 2013 which includes the number of days-at-sea (DAS) per permit type, individual fishing quotas (IFQs) and scallop access area trip allocations. This framework also adjusts the seasonal management of the Georges Bank scallop access areas, protects areas with high juvenile scallop recruitment in the Elephant Trunk and Delmarva scallop access areas, refines yellowtail flounder accountability measures, expands the Industry Funded Scallop IFS Observer Program to open area LAGC vessels, and allows for more flexibility in the transfers of quota for IFQ vessels.

Observer coverage rates in the Industry Funded Scallop Observer Program are currently set at:

### **Observer Coverage Rates**

|            |     |
|------------|-----|
| CAIAA:     | 9%  |
| CAIIAA:    | 12% |
| NLAA:      | 20% |
| HCAA:      | 12% |
| Open LA:   | 13% |
| Open LAGC: | 8%  |

Further details regarding Framework 24 management measures may be found in the attachments.

If you have additional questions, please contact Chad Keith at (508) 495-2067 or email [charles.keith@noaa.gov](mailto:charles.keith@noaa.gov).

Thank you.

***The regulation information contained in this memo was summarized from FW24 proposed regulations and should not be used as a substitute for the actual regulations.***

### Attachments:

Northeast Regional Bulletin. "Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery: Limited Access Vessels. Updated Allocations for the Remainder of the 2013 Fishing Year", May 8, 2013.

Northeast Regional Bulletin. "Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery: Limited Access General Category (LAGC) Vessels. New Framework 24 Management Measures for the LAGC Fishery and Updated Allocations for the Remainder of the 2013 Fishing Year", May 8, 2013.



# Northeast Region Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Regional Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

For Information Contact:  
Sustainable Fisheries Division  
(978) 281-9315

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/>  
Date Issued: 5/8/2013

## **ATLANTIC SEA SCALLOP FISHERY:** **LIMITED ACCESS VESSELS**

Updated Allocations for the Remainder of the 2013 Fishing Year  
*Effective Date: May 20, 2013*

This is a summary of new measures implemented through Framework 24 and a guide to how they may affect your fishing plans and activities for the remainder of the 2013 fishing year (FY). Please read through each section carefully, and distribute this letter to your vessel operators. This summary is not a substitute for the actual regulations, and we encourage you to review the full text of the regulations, available at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>.

If you would like to learn more about these and other measures, or details about recent actions, we have posted additional information on our website at:  
<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfdscallop.html>.

If you have a question about any of the measures, please call our Sustainable Fisheries Division staff at (978) 281-9315. They can answer your questions or direct you to other Northeast Regional Office staff that can help you.

### **Mid-Year Allocation Adjustments and Payback Measures**

We have approved Framework 24 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan, which included final FY 2013 allocations, as well as other management measures. Outlined below are the updated FY 2013 allocations set by Framework 24, as well as payback measures that will affect vessels that have gone over their final FY 2013 allocations.

#### Days-at-Sea (DAS) Allocations

The final FY 2013 open area DAS allocations for full-time, part-time, and occasional vessels are listed below.

#### Scallop Open Area DAS Allocations

| Permit Category | FY 2013 DAS |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Full-Time       | 33          |
| Part-Time       | 13          |
| Occasional      | 3           |

*For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin 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.*

### Access Area Trip Allocations

- Full-time vessels are allocated two access area trips of 13,000 lb each in two of the access areas available for fishing (See table below). We have already notified full-time vessels of their Framework 24 access area allocations, but we have updated that list with any changes in permit information, which is available at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfdscallop.html>.

Scallop Access Area Allocations for FY 2013

|                     | Number of Full-Time Limited Access Trips per Area |
|---------------------|---|
| Hudson Canyon       | 210 (Open)  |
| Delmarva            | 0 (Closed)  |
| Elephant Trunk      | 0 (Closed)  |
| Closed Area 1       | 118 (Open)  |
| Closed Area 2       | 182 (Open)  |
| Nantucket Lightship | 116 (Open)  |

- Part-time vessels are allocated one FY 2013 access area trip allocation equivalent to 10,400 lb, which can be fished in any one of the open access areas (i.e., Hudson Canyon, Closed Area 1, Closed Area 2, or Nantucket Lightship).
- Occasional vessels are allocated one FY 2013 access area trip allocation equivalent to 2,080 lb, which can be fished in any one of the open access areas (i.e., Hudson Canyon, Closed Area 1, Closed Area 2, or Nantucket Lightship).

Update Seasonal Closures of Georges Bank Access Areas: Beginning this year, Closed Area 1 and Nantucket Lightship Access Areas are open year-round, and Closed Area 2 will close annually from August 15 – November 15.

### Georges Bank Access Area Trips Broken after December 2, 2012

You may take your compensation trips into Closed Area 1, Closed Area 2, and Nantucket Lightship beginning May 20, 2013. Compensation trips must begin no later than 60 days from the date the area opens. All compensation trips in Closed Area 1, Closed Area 2, and Nantucket Lightship from trips broken after December 2, 2012, if not taken, will expire 60 days from the date the area opens (i.e., July 19, 2013).

Hudson Canyon FY 2012 compensation trips have already expired (i.e., those trips had to start by April 30, 2013).

### FY 2013 Payback Measures

As you were alerted to in our bulletin announcing March 1, 2013, interim measures, in order to minimize access area trip overages in Hudson Canyon due to higher FY 2013 default measures that were in place starting March 1, 2013, Framework 24 includes payback measures for full-time and part-time vessels that fished over their ultimate Framework 24 FY 2013 allocations. These payback measures are summarized below:

*Full-time vessels:* If you do not have an FY 2013 Hudson Canyon trip allocated to you under Framework 24 and you landed scallops from that area during FY 2013, or if you landed more than 13,000 lb from Hudson Canyon on an allocated trip, you will forfeit all your remaining FY 2013 access area trips and lose 12 DAS. This deduction will occur soon after May 20, 2013. These penalties do not apply FY 2012 Hudson Canyon compensation trips taken in the first 60 days of FY 2013.

*Part-time vessels:* If you have fished more than one 10,400-lb trip in Hudson Canyon during FY 2013, your vessel will forfeit five DAS with the implementation of Framework 24. This deduction will occur soon after May 20, 2013. These penalties do not apply to FY 2012 Hudson Canyon compensation trips taken in the first 60 days of FY 2013.

#### Observer Set-Aside Compensation

The compensation rate for all four open access areas for limited access vessels is 150 lb per day, in addition to the vessel's possession limit for the trip for each day or part of a day an observer is on board.

The compensation rate for open areas for limited access vessels fishing under DAS is 0.08 DAS per DAS fished (the vessel is charged 0.92 DAS for each DAS fished with an observer onboard).

We monitor the compensation rates and the observer set-aside use in each area very closely throughout the year. If information suggests that a different rate is necessary to account for unexpected fishery conditions, we will change the compensation rate as appropriate and necessary. Further, Framework 24 now allows us to shift available observer set-aside from one area to another in the event that one area is using set-aside quickly and another is well below expected use rates.

For details on how we calculated these compensation rates, and our expectation of how it will impact compensation and observer coverage rates, please go to:

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nr/2013/March/fy13obscomratecalsum.pdf>

#### FY 2013 Yellowtail Flounder sub-Annual Catch Limits (sub-ACL) in the Scallop Fishery

The FY 2013 yellowtail flounder sub-ACLs are as follows:

Georges Bank: 83.4 mt (183,866 lb)

Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic: 61 mt (134,482 lb)

For more information about yellowtail flounder catch limits in the scallop fishery, go to

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/regs/info.html>.

#### SNE/MA Windowpane Flounder sub-ACLs in the Scallop Fishery

- Framework Adjustment 50 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (effective May 1, 2013) allocates the scallop fishery a new sub-ACL for SNE/MA windowpane flounder.
- For FY 2013, the scallop fishery's sub-ACL of SNE/MA windowpane flounder is 183 mt (403,446 lb).
- The New England Fishery Management Council is developing AMs for the scallop fishery related to this sub-ACL in an upcoming management action, which may apply retroactively to FY 2013 if an overage occurs.

## Reminders

Northeast (NE) Multispecies Possession Limits on Access Area Trips: Unless otherwise prohibited, limited access scallop vessels, also issued a valid NE multispecies permit, that have declared into a trip and that are fishing within the Sea Scallop Access Areas may possess and land, per trip, up to a maximum of 1,000 lb of all NE multispecies combined, excluding yellowtail flounder. Additionally, the restrictions for Atlantic cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder are:

- ***Atlantic cod*** - Vessels may possess up to 100 lb (45.4 kg) of Atlantic cod per trip, provided such fish is for personal use only (you cannot sell, trade, or barter cod caught in access areas).
- ***Haddock*** - Vessels may possess and land haddock up to the overall possession limit of all NE multispecies combined, except that vessels cannot possess or land haddock from January 1 through June 30.
- ***Yellowtail flounder*** - Vessels must retain and land all yellowtail flounder that meet the minimum size restrictions.

NE Multispecies Possession Limits on Scallop DAS Trips: Unless otherwise prohibited, limited access scallop vessels also issued a valid NE multispecies permit that have declared into the scallop DAS program may possess and land, per trip:

- ***NE multispecies*** - A maximum of 300 lb of all NE multispecies combined, excluding yellowtail flounder.
- ***Yellowtail flounder*** - Vessels must retain and land all yellowtail flounder that meet the minimum size restrictions.

## Shell Stock Restrictions:

- Vessels fishing in areas that are closed due to paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP).
- Vessels fishing in or transiting the area south of 42°20'N. lat. at any time during a trip may possess no more than 50 bu of in-shell scallops shoreward of the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) demarcation line, unless fishing under the state waters exemption.
- A vessel declared into the Sea Scallop Area Access Program may not possess more than 50 bu of in-shell scallops outside of the access area.

Attachment 1 – Updated Access Area Coordinates

Closed Area 2 Sea Scallop Access Area

Updated coordinates in **bold**.

| Point  | Latitude    | Longitude      |
|--------|-------------|----------------|
| CAIIA1 | 41°00' N.   | 67°20' W.      |
| CAIIA2 | 41°00' N.   | 66°35.8' W.    |
| CAIIA3 | 41°18.6' N. | <b>(1) (2)</b> |
| CAIIA4 | 41°30' N.   | <b>(3)</b>     |
| CAIIA5 | 41°30' N.   | 67°20' W.      |
| CAIIA1 | 41°00' N.   | 67°20' W.      |

**(1) The intersection of 41°18.6 N. lat. and the U.S.-Canada maritime boundary**

**(2) From Point CAIIA3 connected to Point CAIIA4 along the U.S.-Canada maritime boundary**

**(3) The intersection of 41°30 N. lat. and the U.S.-Canada maritime boundary**



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## **ATLANTIC SEA SCALLOP FISHERY:** **LIMITED ACCESS GENERAL CATEGORY (LAGC) VESSELS**

New Framework 24 Management Measures for the LAGC Fishery and Updated  
Allocations for the Remainder of the 2013 Fishing Year

*Effective Date: May 20, 2013*

This is a summary of new measures implemented through Framework 24 and a guide to how they may affect your fishing plans and activities for the remainder of the 2013 fishing year (FY). Please read through each section carefully, and distribute this letter to your vessel operators. This summary is not a substitute for the actual regulations, and we encourage you to review the full text of the regulations, available at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>.

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If you would like to learn more about these and other measures, or details about recent actions, we have posted additional information on our website at:  
<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfdscallop.html>.

If you have a question about any of the measures, please call our Sustainable Fisheries Division staff at (978) 281-9315. They can answer your questions or direct you to other Northeast Regional Office staff that can help you.

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## Mid-Year Allocation Adjustments and Payback Measures

Updated FY 2013 Fleet Allocations: The table below includes the LAGC fleet individual fishing quota (IFQ) allocations effective May 20, 2013, through the remainder of FY 2013. We will send you a separate letter that specifies your vessel's updated 2013 IFQ, which we set based on the following allocations.

### LAGC Fleet Allocations

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| LAGC IFQ only                               | 2,227,142 lb |
| LAGC IFQ with limited access scallop permit | 222,714 lb   |

Important IFQ leasing information: Any IFQ allocation permanently transferred or leased to you, after March 1, 2013, but prior to the implementation of Framework 24, will be subject to a pound-for-pound payback reduction to the extent that the amount of such IFQ allocation exceeds the Framework 24 IFQ allocation of the vessel transferring the IFQ. This provision is described in more detail in letters we sent you at the start of FY 2013. These adjustments will be made as soon as possible following Framework 24's May 20, 2013, implementation.

IFQ Overage Payback (accountability measure): Please remember that it is a violation to exceed your yearly IFQ allocation, but you can balance an overage within a FY through temporary IFQ leases and/or permanent allocation transfers completed before the applicable FY ends. We will deduct any overages that remain at the end of the FY from the following year's IFQ allocation on a pound-for-pound basis.

### Access Area Trip Allocations

Framework 24 sets the following fleet-wide access area trips for LAGC IFQ vessels:

|                     | LAGC IFQ Trips |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Hudson Canyon       | 317            |
| Delmarva            | 0              |
| Elephant Trunk      | 0              |
| Closed Area 1       | 212            |
| Closed Area 2       | 0              |
| Nantucket Lightship | 206            |

We will close an access area to LAGC vessels when we project that the fleet will take the specified number of trips.

Update Seasonal Closures of Georges Bank Access Areas: Beginning this year, Closed Area 1 and Nantucket Lightship Access Areas are open year-round, and Closed Area 2 will close annually from August 15 – November 15.

LAGC Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) Management Area Scallop Total Allowable Catch (TAC): Vessels issued an LAGC NGOM scallop permit are restricted to 200 lb shucked or 25 U.S. bu in-shell scallops per trip. The NGOM TAC for FY 2013 is 70,000 lb. If the NGOM fleet harvests 70,000 lb of scallops from the NGOM area, we will close the NGOM to all scallop vessels for the remainder of the FY.

LAGC Incidental Scallop Target TAC (TTAC): The incidental scallop TTAC for FY 2013 is 50,000 lb. Vessels issued an LAGC Incidental Catch scallop permit may land up to 40 lb shucked or 5 U.S. bu of in-shell scallops per trip.

LAGC Calendar Day Landing Restriction: LAGC vessels may not land scallops more than once per calendar day. For example, an LAGC vessel that lands scallops on Monday may depart on a second trip on the same day it landed scallops (Monday), but cannot land scallops again until Tuesday or later.

### **New LAGC Yellowtail Flounder (YTF) Accountability Measures (AMs)**

- YTF AMs are now part of the LAGC fishery's management program for the Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) area.
- There are separate AMs for LAGC IFQ vessels using dredge gear and for LAGC IFQ vessels using trawl gear.
- These AMs are seasonal closures that would be implemented either the year following a SNE/MA sub-annual catch limit (sub-ACL) overage, or 2 years following such an overage, depending on availability of reliable data.
- The YTF AM closure areas for LAGC vessels using dredges are statistical areas 537, 539, and 613, and the YTF AM closure areas for LAGC vessels using trawls are statistical areas 612 and 613.
- The length of any potential YTF AM closure depends on the extent of a YTF SNE/MA sub-ACL overage.
- The FY 2013 yellowtail flounder sub-ACLs are as follows:
  - Georges Bank: 83.4 mt (183,866 lb)
  - Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic: 61 mt (134,482 lb)
- For a full explanation of YTF AMs in the scallop fishery, go to <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/regs/info.html>

### **SNE/MA Windowpane Flounder sub-ACLs in the Scallop Fishery**

- Framework Adjustment 50 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (effective May 1, 2013) allocates the scallop fishery a new sub-ACL for SNE/MA windowpane flounder.
- For FY 2013, the scallop fishery's sub-ACL of SNE/MA windowpane flounder is 183 mt (403,446 lb).
- The New England Fishery Management Council is developing AMs for the scallop fishery related to this sub-ACL in an upcoming management action, which may apply retroactively to FY 2013 if an overage occurs.

## **Adjustments to the IFQ Transfer Program**

Beginning on **May 20, 2013**, IFQ permit holders that do not also have limited access scallop permits will now be able to:

- Transfer IFQ, permanently or temporarily, to another vessel after you have already landed part of your IFQ allocation in a given FY.

For example, if a vessel has a base allocation of 1,000 lb and lands 600 lb of scallops, it can permanently transfer or lease its remaining 400 lb of scallops to another IFQ vessel.

- Permanently transfer in IFQ and then temporarily transfer (i.e., lease out) that same IFQ to another vessel(s) within the same fishing year.

For example, if a vessel has a base allocation of 1,000 lb and permanently transfers its allocation to another vessel, that vessel can lease out 1,000 lb of its recently transferred in IFQ to another vessel(s).

Beginning on **March 1, 2014**, IFQ permit holders that do not also have limited access scallop permits will also be able to:

- Re-transfer IFQ, both permanently and temporarily, that they obtained through a permanent or temporary transfer in the same fishing year. At this point, there will be no limit on the number of times an IFQ may re-transferred in a given FY.

For example, if a vessel has a base allocation of 1,000 lb, and leases in an additional 1,000 lb, it may lease out up to 2,000 lb of its IFQ.

For questions on these adjustments, call the Industry Support Line at (978) 282-8483.

## **Modifications to the Observer Set-Aside Program**

Framework 24 expands the observer set-aside program to include LAGC vessels in open areas in order to increase the amount of coverage of that fleet compared to current levels.

LAGC IFQ vessels will now have to call in to NMFS's Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (see Attachment 2 for call-in instructions) for all open area trips, identical to how they call in to access area trips: All LAGC vessels are required to call weekly with their expected trip usage. Vessel operators must call by Thursday if they expect to make any open area (or access area) trips from Sunday through Saturday of the following week. In addition, observer providers should charge LAGC IFQ vessels on open area trips in the same way that they charge LAGC access area trips: Providers should charge dock-to-dock, where a "day" is considered a 24-hr period, and portions of other days should be pro-rated at an hourly charge.

For the remainder of FY 2013, if NMFS selects an IFQ vessel for an open area or access area observed trip, that vessel will receive observer compensation credit of 150 lb per trip, so long as the observer set-aside has not been fully harvested. Those additional pounds can be fished on the observed IFQ trip above the regular possession limit, or can be fished on a subsequent trip that

FY (but must be harvested within the current possession limit requirements if fished on a future trip).

NMFS monitors the compensation rates and the observer set-aside use in each area very closely throughout the year. If information suggests that a different rate is necessary to account for unexpected fishery conditions, NMFS will change the compensation rate as appropriate and necessary. Further, Framework 24 now allows us to shift available observer set-aside from one area to another in the event that one area is using set-aside quickly and another is well below expected use rates.

### Updated Access Area Coordinates

#### Closed Area 2 Sea Scallop Access Area

Updated coordinates in **bold**.

| Point  | Latitude    | Longitude        |
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| CAIIA1 | 41°00' N.   | 67°20' W.        |
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**(2) From Point CAIIA3 connected to Point CAIIA4 along the U.S.-Canada maritime boundary**

**(3) The intersection of 41°30 N. lat. and the U.S.-Canada maritime boundary**

# Industry-Funded Scallop Observer Program Call-In Guide

**Limited Access (LA) Vessels:** Call for **BOTH** Open Area and Access Area trips. 72 hours notice before the intended sail date is required and notice should be no more than 10 days prior to sail date.

**LA General Category Vessels:** Call for **BOTH** Open and Access Area trips. Notify weekly by Thursday if you intend to make any trips from Sunday through Saturday of the following week.

## **STEP I – CALL (508) 495-2100**

1. Press 1 to report a trip and follow the telephone message prompts.

2. Gear type:

|   |                |   |               |
|---|----------------|---|---------------|
| 1 | Scallop Dredge | 2 | Scallop Trawl |
|---|----------------|---|---------------|

3. Permit type:

|   |                |   |                  |
|---|----------------|---|------------------|
| 1 | Limited Access | 2 | General Category |
|---|----------------|---|------------------|

4. Fishing Area:

|   |                                 |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 1 | Nantucket Lightship Access Area | 4 | Mid-Atlantic Open Area    |
| 2 | Closed Area II Access Area      | 5 | Georges Bank Open Area    |
| 3 | Hudson Canyon Access Area       | 7 | Closed Area I Access Area |

5. **Phone Number:** enter your 10 digit phone number (DO NOT use '1' before the area code)

6. **Permit number:** enter your 6 digit permit number

7. **Name:** please speak clearly, first and last name, then press # key

8. **Port sailing from:** please speak clearly the port name, including city and state, then press # key

9. **Date of sailing:** please speak clearly the month, day, and year, then press # key; for General Category, use the date for Sunday starting that week.

You will receive a **trip confirmation number** for each call (trip calls for limited access trips, and weekly calls for general category trips). An email transmission from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will be sent to your email address(s) within 24 hours and will either issue a 'waiver' or notify you that an observer must be hired for the trip. If you are issued a waiver, you may begin your trip(s). If you receive an observer notice, please follow the instructions in Step II. **If you do not receive VMS notification within 24 hours, contact the NMFS Vessel Call-in Coordinator at (508) 495 – 2188 or (508) 560 – 3550 (cell) as soon as possible.**

## **STEP II - OBSERVER PROVIDER 48-HOURS PRIOR TO TRIP**

**If selected for observer coverage you MUST provide 48 hours notice to observer providers. The 48 hour notice is required for each provider when contacting them to hire an observer for your trip.** The observer provider may take up to 18 hours to notify you on observer availability. General Category vessels that are selected for coverage are required to carry an observer and may be selected for up to 2 trips during the week per NMFS discretion.

**It is required to call all observer providers before requesting a waiver from NMFS.**

Current Industry Funded Scallop Observer providers are:

**A.I.S. Inc. (774) 200-1688**

**East West Technical Services Inc. (860) 910-4957**

**Fathom Research LLC. (508) 990 - 0997**

**Please call the NMFS Vessel Call-in Coordinator at (508) 495-2188 or (508) 560-3550 (cell) if:**

1. There are no observers available from any of the providers and you would like to request a waiver.
2. You are cancelling your trip or your trip has been delayed more than 48 hours beyond the intended sail date.
3. Any other extenuating circumstances.

*This summary is not a substitute for the actual regulations. The full text of the regulations is available at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov> or call the Northeast Regional Office at (978) 281-9315.*