



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Northeast Fisheries Science Center  
166 Water Street  
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

April 24, 2015

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

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

*Sara Weeder  
for Amy Martins  
4/24/15*

SUBJECT: **2015 Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishing Year:  
Updated Scallop Program Code and Scallop Framework (FW) 26 Management Measures**

Scallop Framework 26 will be implemented on May 01, 2015 and a new scallop access area will be available for Limited Access (LA) and Limited Access General Category (LAGC) scallop permit holders. This area will be referred to as the 'Mid-Atlantic Access Area' (MAAA) and will be comprised of the Hudson Canyon Rotational Closed Area, a portion of the Elephant Trunk Rotational Closed Area and the Delmarva Sea Scallop Access Area. The MAAA will be officially open as of 0001 May 1, 2015.

FSB has developed a new program code for observers for use on all trips into the MAAA effective as of May 01, 2015. The new program code will be **208**. As always, observers can obtain the program code from FSB staff when calling in for required pre-trip briefings.

Major highlights of FW 26 include adjusted days-at-sea for LA vessels, adjusted quota allocations for LAGC vessels, modified Nantucket Lightship Rotational Closed Area to protect juvenile scallops, spatial and temporal alignment of the turtle deflector dredge (TDD) area and turtle chain mat area, modified U-shaped TDD flaring bar and dredge modifications to reduce finfish bycatch (effective as of May 21, 2015).

Linked below are the complete Scallop Bulletins issued by the Greater Atlantic Regional Office with a map highlighting the spatial changes in Scallop Framework 26 and the Final Rule publication of Framework 26 in the Federal Register.

<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2015/April/15scallagc2015specsphl.pdf>  
<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/nr/2015/April/15scalla2015specsphl.pdf>  
<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/regs/2015/April/15scalfw26fr.pdf>

Please contact us if you have any questions.  
Thank You.

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