



# Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

NOAA Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

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

<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/>  
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## **ATLANTIC SEA SCALLOP FISHERY:** **LIMITED ACCESS GENERAL CATEGORY (LAGC) SCALLOP VESSELS**

### Updated Allocations for the Remainder of the 2018 Fishing Year and Other New Measures *Effective Date: April 19, 2018*

The following information describes new measures implementing Framework 29 and a summary of how they may affect your fishing plans and activities for the remainder of the 2018 fishing year. We have also included reminders of some current requirements. 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.greateratlantic.fisheries.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.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sustainable/species/scallop>.

**Updated Fishing Year 2018 Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Allocations:** The table below includes the LAGC fleet IFQ allocations effective April 19, 2018, through the remainder of fishing year 2018 (through March 31, 2019). We will send you a separate letter that specifies your vessel’s updated 2018 IFQ, which we set based on the following allocations.

**LAGC Fleet Allocations**

LAGC IFQ only	1,273 mt (2,806,485 lb)
LAGC IFQ with limited access scallop permit	127 mt (279,987 lb)

**IFQ Overage Payback (accountability measure):** Please remember that you are prohibited from exceeding your IFQ allocation at any time during the fishing year. If you have exceeded your IFQ, you can balance an overage through temporary IFQ leases and/or permanent allocation transfers, and must do so prior to any additional fishing activity. However, even if you balance an IFQ overage, it does not negate any potential violation related to exceeding your IFQ. If you exceed your yearly IFQ allocation we will deduct any unresolved overages that remain at the end of the fishing year from the following year’s IFQ allocation on a pound-for-pound basis.

*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, Greater Atlantic Region.*

### 2018 Access Area Closures

The following areas are closed for scallop fishing year 2018 (see attached map and coordinates):

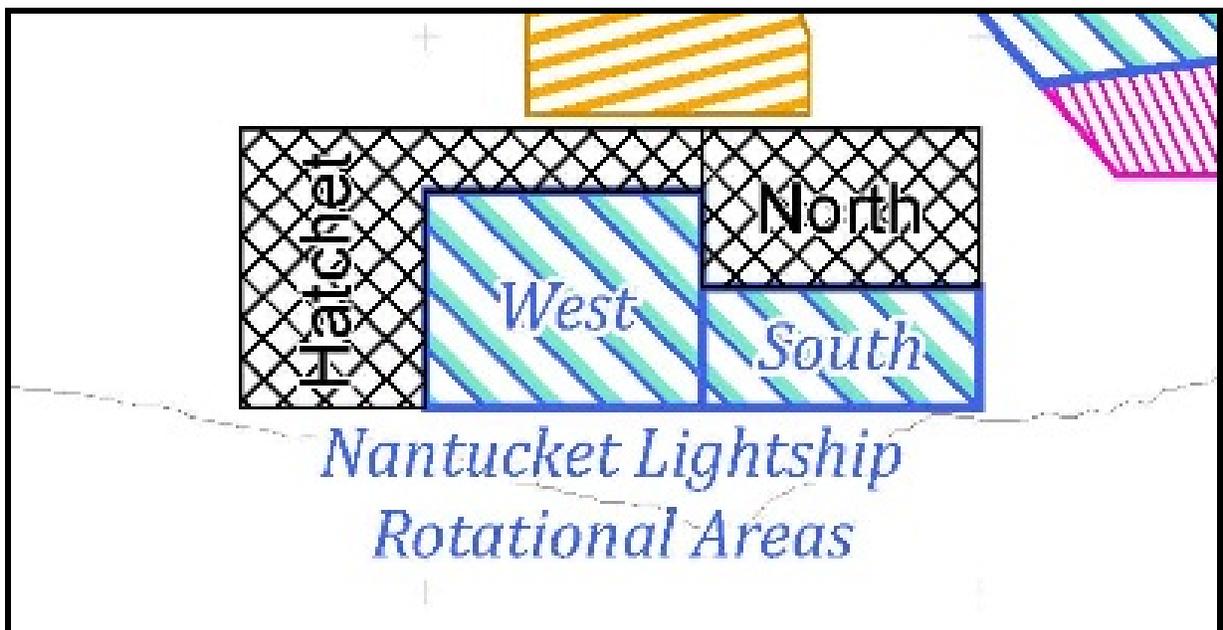
- Closed Area 2 (CA2)
  - **PROHIBITON:** Vessels are prohibited from transiting CA2 when on a declared scallop trip.
- **\*\*NEW AREA\*\*** Nantucket Lightship North (see image below)
- **\*\*NEW AREA\*\*** Nantucket Lightship Hatchet (see image below)

### Fishing Year 2018 Access Area Allocations

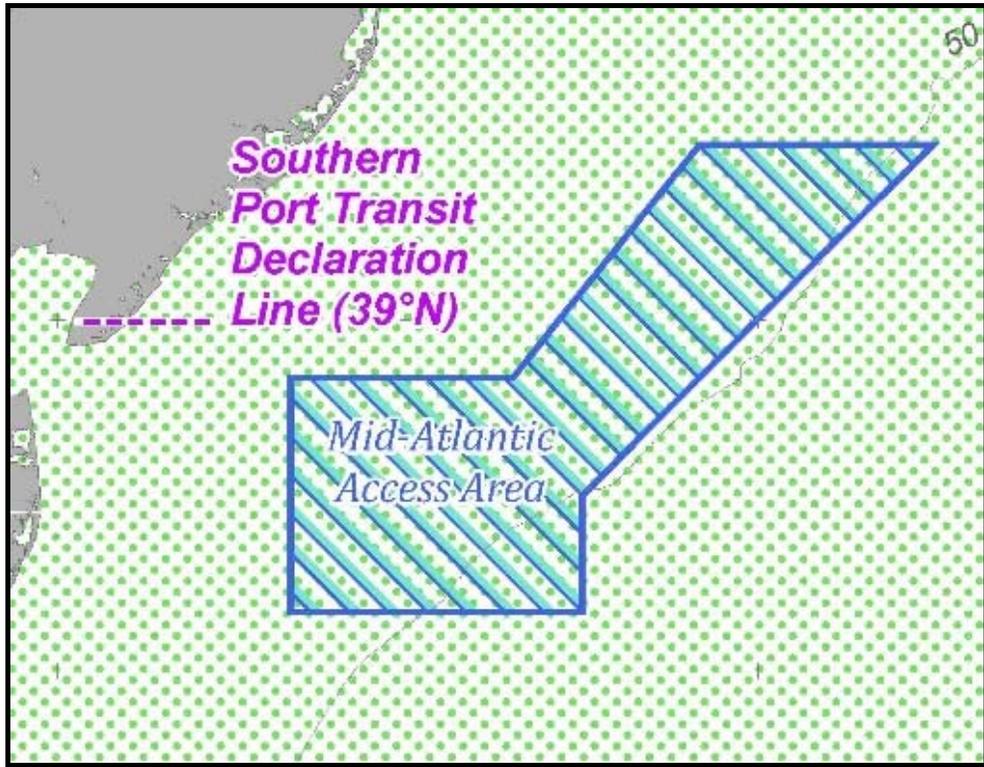
- Framework 29 allocates effort into four rotational access areas. All of the available access areas for fishing year 2018 have new boundaries (see below for details and see the attached map for coordinates).
- There are no seasonal closures in any of the available access areas in 2018.

New boundaries for the four rotational access areas:

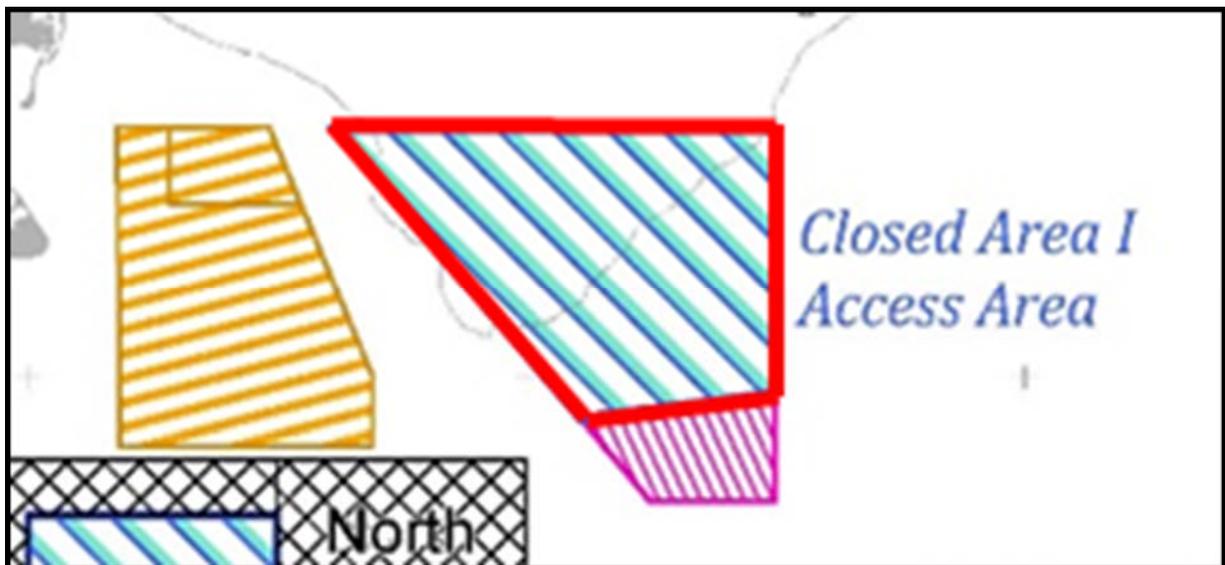
- Nantucket Lightship-South (NLS-S)
- Nantucket Lightship-West (NLS-W)
  - This area contains new areas that became available to scallop fishing through the Omnibus Habitat Amendment



- Mid-Atlantic Access Area (MAAA)
  - The MAAA no longer contains the Delmarva Access Area. The Delmarva Access Area has reverted back to open area.



- Closed Area 1 (CA1)
  - This area contains new areas that became available to scallop fishing through the Omnibus Habitat Amendment



**Fishing Year 2018 LAGC IFQ Trip Allocations for Scallop Access Areas**

<b>Access Area</b>	<b>Number of trips</b>
CA1	571
NLS-S	571
NLS-W	1,142
MAAA	1,142
Total	3,426

**LAGC Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) Management Area Scallop Possession Limit and Total Allowable Catch (TAC):**

Vessels issued an LAGC NGOM scallop permit and IFQ vessels fishing in the NGOM are restricted to 200 lb shucked or 25 U.S. bu in-shell scallops per trip. On April 1, 2018, NMFS implemented the portion of Framework 29 that allocated 135,000 lb to the LAGC IFQ/NGOM fleet for fishing year 2018.

**\*\*REMINDER\*\* For IFQ vessels, all scallop harvest counts against your IFQ, regardless of where it is caught, including state waters and the NGOM.**

**LAGC Incidental Scallop Target TAC:**

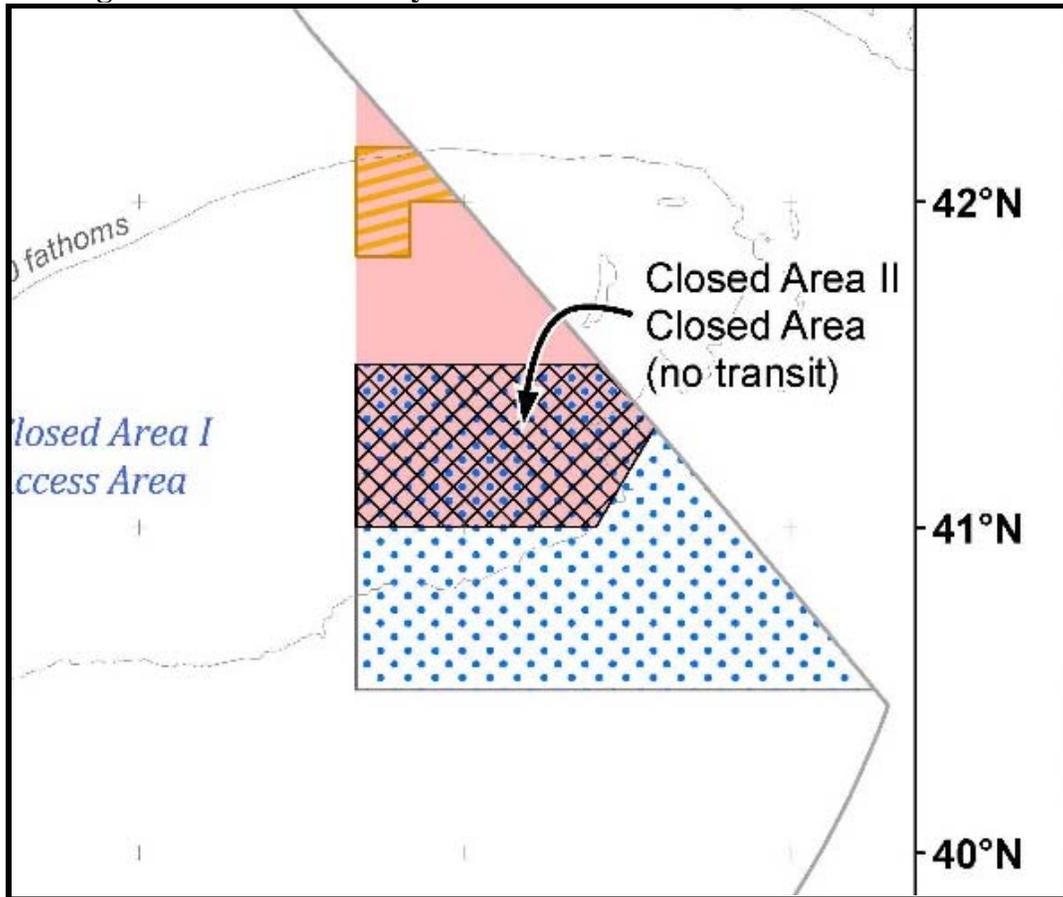
The incidental scallop target TAC for fishing year 2018 is 50,000 lb. Vessels issued an LAGC Incidental Catch scallop permit may only land up to 40 lb shucked or 5 U.S. bu of in-shell scallops per trip.

**Changes to Flatfish Accountability Measures**

Framework 29 adjusts the scallop fleet's accountability measures for two different flatfish stocks (Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) yellowtail flounder and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder) and develops an accountability measure for northern windowpane flounder. This action changes the existing Georges Bank yellowtail flounder and the SNE/MA yellowtail flounder accountability measures from closed areas to gear restricted areas, and it develops a gear restricted area accountability measure for northern windowpane flounder.

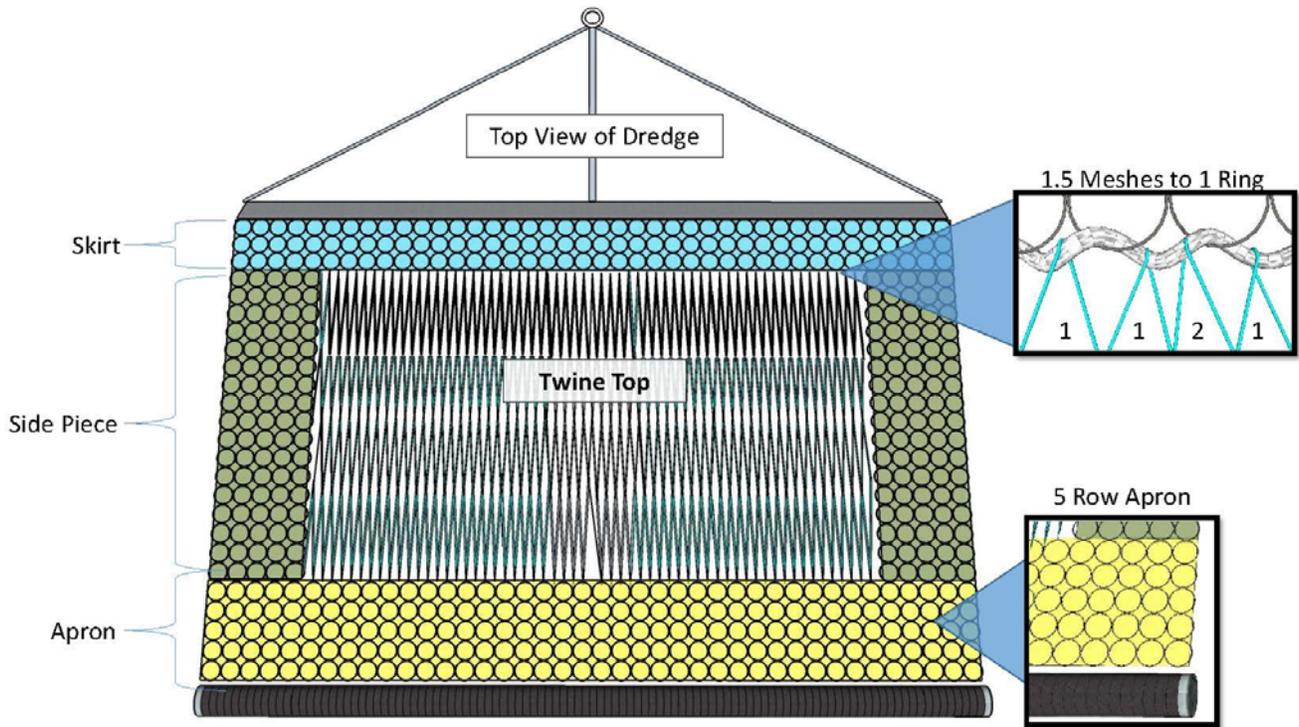
Accountability Measure Areas: For SNE/MA yellowtail flounder this action adopts the same gear restricted area that is already in place for southern windowpane flounder, i.e., the area west of 71° W. Long., and creates the Mid-Atlantic Accountability Measure Area. For Georges Bank yellowtail flounder and northern windowpane flounder this action creates the Georges Bank Accountability Measure Area (see attachment for coordinates).

### Georges Bank Accountability Measure Area



Accountability Measure Gear: When the fleet is subject to any of the flatfish accountability measures in a gear restricted area, vessels will be required to fish with scallop dredge gear that conforms to the restrictions already in place for the southern windowpane flounder accountability measure (see diagram below):

- (1) No more than 5 rows of rings in the apron of the dredge;
- (2) A maximum hanging ratio of 1.5 meshes per 1 ring overall; and
- (3) A prohibition on the use of trawl gear.



*Dredge gear configuration required in an accountability measure area if an accountability measure is in place.*

Accountability Measure Duration: For Georges Bank yellowtail and northern windowpane flounder, the requirement to use this gear in the Georges Bank Accountability Measure Area would remain in effect for the period of time based on the corresponding percent overage of the respective sub-annual catch limit (ACL), as follows:

**Georges Bank Yellowtail and Northern Windowpane Flounder Accountability Measure Duration**

Percent overage of sub-ACL	Duration of Gear Restriction
20 or less	November 15 through December 31
Greater than 20	April through March (year round)

For SNE/MA yellowtail flounder the requirement to use this gear in the Mid-Atlantic Accountability Measure Area would remain in effect for the period of time based on the corresponding percent overage of the SNE/MA yellowtail flounder sub-ACL, as follows:

**SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder Accountability Measure Duration**

Percent overage of sub-ACL	Duration of Gear Restriction
20 or less	April
Greater than 20	April through May

### **Fishing Year 2018 Groundfish ACL in the Scallop Fishery:**

<b>Stock</b>	<b>Scallop sub-ACL</b>
Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder	<b>33.1 mt (72,973 lb)</b>
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	<b>4 mt (8,818 lb)</b>
Northern Windowpane Flounder	<b>18 mt (36,683 lb)</b>
Southern Windowpane Flounder	<b>158 mt (348,330 lb)</b>

These limits are for both the LAGC fleet and limited access fleet combined. For more information about yellowtail flounder and windowpane flounder catch limits in the scallop fishery, go to <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/regs/info.html>

### **Important LAGC Program Reminders**

**Observer Set-Aside Compensation:** LAGC IFQ vessel owners must call in weekly to the NMFS’s Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (see attachment for call-in instructions) to report scallop IFQ trips you expect to take during the week. 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. Observer service 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.

If NMFS selects your IFQ vessel for an open area or access area observed trip, you will receive observer compensation credit of **225 lb per trip** if the observer set-aside has not been fully harvested. You can fish those additional pounds on the observed IFQ trip above the regular possession limit or on a subsequent trip that fishing year (but you must harvest these pounds within the current possession limit if you fish them on a future trip).

NMFS monitors the compensation rates and the observer set-aside use 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.

**Industry Funded Call-in System:** The Industry Funded Call-in System will be temporarily unable to be updated for the additional scallop access areas opening with the implementation of Scallop Framework 29. These areas are CA1, NLS-W, and NLS-S. In order for the scallop industry to properly notify for these trips please refer to the Temporary Scallop Call-In Guide, (See attachment or visit:

[http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/fsb/scallop/Industry\\_Scallop\\_Call\\_In\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/fsb/scallop/Industry_Scallop_Call_In_Guide.pdf)).

If a vessel is trying to notify for the newly opened areas, (CA1, NLS-W, or NLS-S) select option “5” for Georges Bank Open Area for the Area Fished. When prompted to record your name please state your first and last name followed by the new access area to be fished. For example: “John Doe, Closed Area I”.

We expect the Scallop Call-In System to be updated in mid-May 2018. We apologize for the inconvenience. If you have any questions please contact Chad Keith (508) 495-2067, Lacey Bluemel (508) 495-2188 or Tyler Staples (508) 495-2129. The Scallop Vessel Call-In Coordinator after hours phone is also available at (508) 560-3550.

**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.

**Scallop Pre-Landing Notification:** LAGC IFQ and NGOM vessels must send a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Scallop Pre-Landing Notification form at least 6 hours before arrival on the way back to port, or immediately after fishing ends if less than 6 hours before arrival. In addition, you must submit this form on trips that are not declared as scallop trips, but on which scallops are kept incidentally.

Forms must include the:

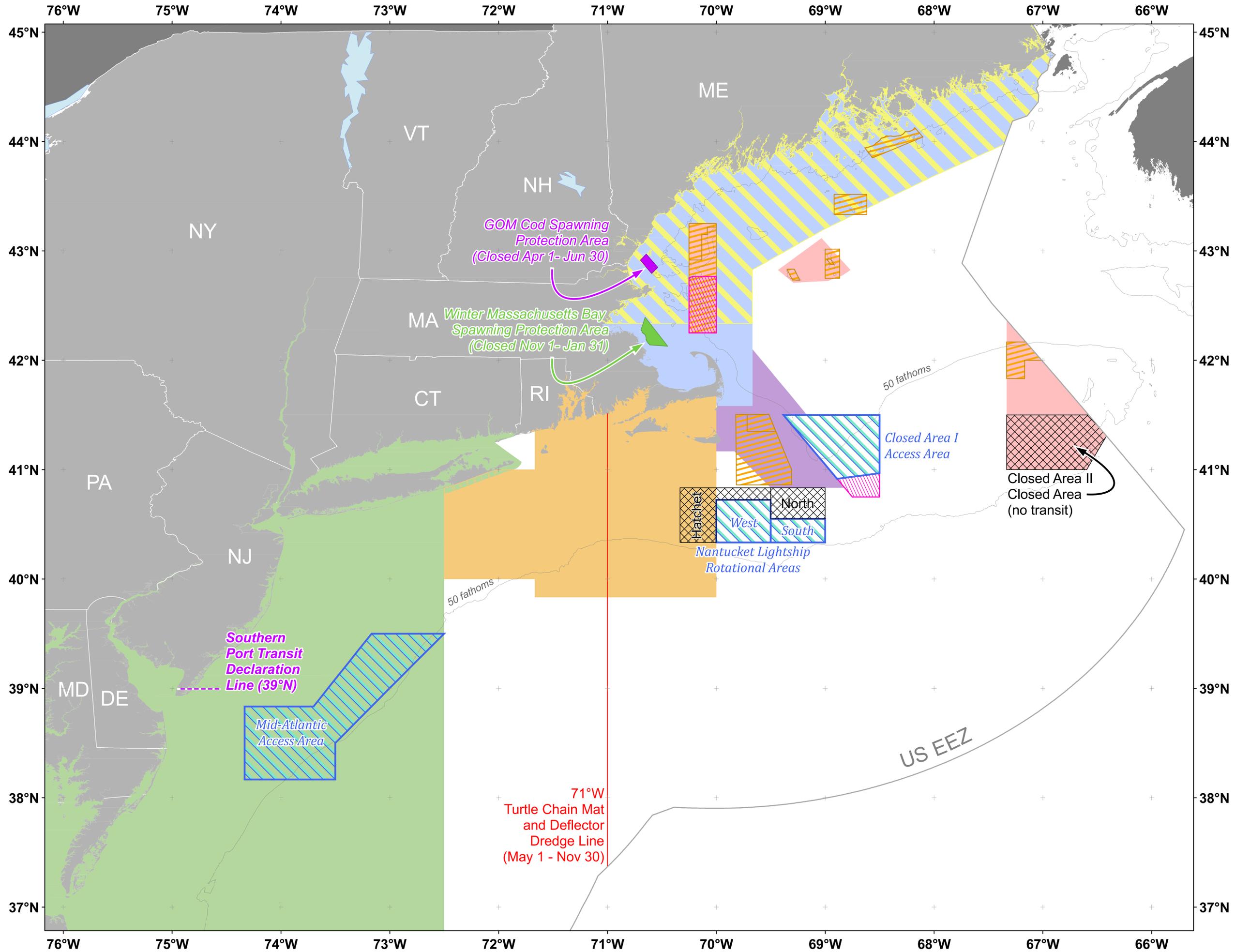
- Operator's permit number;
- Vessel trip report (VTR) serial number recorded from that trip's VTR;
- Estimated amount of scallop meats and/or bushels to be landed;
- Estimated time and date of arrival in port;
- Port city and state at which the scallops will be landed; and
- Whether any scallops were caught in the NGOM.

**Daily Scallop Catch Reports:** Scallop catch reports are required to be submitted daily for vessels that fish for, possess, or retain scallops and not also fishing under a Northeast multispecies days-at-sea or sector allocation. These reports must be submitted in 24-hour intervals for each day of fishing that begins at 0000 hours and ends at 2400 hours. The reports must be submitted before 9:00 a.m. local time each day for the previous day's catch. Each report must include the:

- Operator's permit number;
- VTR serial number;
- Date fish were caught;
- Total pounds of scallop meats kept; and
- Total pounds of all other fish kept.

**Shell Stock Restrictions:**

- Vessels fishing in the Georges Bank paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) closure area may not retain in-shell scallops.
- Vessels may possess no more than 75 bu of in-shell scallops shoreward of the VMS demarcation line.
- A vessel declared into the Sea Scallop Area Access Program may not possess more than 75 bu of in-shell scallops outside of the access area.
- Vessels issued an LAGC NGOM scallop permit and IFQ vessels fishing in the NGOM may possess no more than 25 bu in-shell scallops shoreward of the VMS demarcation line.



# Atlantic Sea Scallop Managed Waters Fishing Year 2018

-  Scallop Access Area
-  Scallop Closed Area
-  Dedicated Habitat Research Area
-  Habitat Management Area
-  Groundfish Closed Area
-  Northern Gulf of Maine Scallop Management Area (Overlaps GOM SDEA)
-  Gulf of Maine Scallop Dredge Exemption Area
-  Great South Channel Scallop Dredge Exemption Area
-  Southern New England Scallop Dredge Exemption Area
-  Mid-Atlantic Exemption Area

**Access Areas for Fishing Year 2018**

**Closed Area I**

<b>Point</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>
CAIA1	41°30' N	68°30' W
CAIA2	40°58' N	68°30' W
CAIA3	40°54.95' N	68°53.37' W
CAIA4	41°04' N	69°01' W
CAIA5	41°30' N	69°23' W
CAIA1	41°30' N	68°30' W

**Nantucket Lightship-South**

<b>Point</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>
NLSS1	40°20' N	69°30' W
NLSS2	40°33' N	69°30' W
NLSS3	40°33' N	69°00' W
NLSS4	40°20' N	69°00' W
NLSS1	40°20' N	69°30' W

**Nantucket Lightship-West**

<b>Point</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>
NLSW1	40°20' N	70°00' W
NLSW2	40°43.44' N	70°00' W
NLSW3	40°43.44' N	69°30' W
NLSW4	40°20' N	69°30' W
NLSW1	40°20' N	70°00' W

**Mid-Atlantic Access Area**

<b>Point</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>
MAAA1	39°30' N	73°10' W
MAAA2	39°30' N	72°30' W
MAAA3	38°30' N	73°30' W
MAAA4	38°10' N	73°30' W
MAAA5	38°10' N	74°20' W
MAAA6	38°50' N	74°20' W
MAAA7	38°50' N	73°42' W
MAAA1	39°30' N	73°10' W

**Closed Areas for Fishing Year 2018**

**Nantucket Lightship North**

<b>Point</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>
NLSN1	40°50' N	69°30' W
NLSH2	40°50' N	69°00' W
NLSN3	40°33' N	69°00' W
NLSN4	40° 33' N	69°30' W
NLSN1	40°50' N	69°30' W

**Nantucket Lightship Hatchet**

<b>Point</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>
NLSH1	40° 50' N	69° 30' W
NLSH2	40° 43.44' N	69° 30' W
NLSH3	40° 43.44' N	70° 00' W
NLSH4	40° 20' N	70° 00' W
NLSH5	40° 20' N	70° 20' W
NLSH6	40° 50' N	70° 20' W
NLSH1	40 50' N	69 30' W

**Accountability Measure Areas**

**Georges Bank Accountability Measure Area**

<b>Point</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>	<b>Note</b>
GBAM1	41°30' N	67°20' W	
GBAM2	41°30' N	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
GBAM3	40°30' N	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
GBAM4	40°30' N	67°20' W	
GBAM1	41°30' N	67°20' W	

<sup>1</sup> The intersection of 41°30' N. lat. and the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary, approximately 41°30' N. lat., 66°34.73' W. long.

<sup>2</sup>From Point GBAM2 connected to Point GBAM3 along the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary.

<sup>3</sup> The intersection of 40°30' N. lat. and the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary, approximately, 65°44.34' W. long.

**Mid-Atlantic Accountability Measure Area**

All waters west of 71° W. Long.

## Industry-Funded Scallop Observer Program Call-In Guide

**Limited Access (LA) Vessels MUST** provide 72 hours' notice before the intended sail date. Notice should be no more than 10 days prior to sail date. Date requests within the 72 hours' notice window will not be granted.

**LA General Category Vessels (LAGC) MUST** notify by Thursday for the upcoming calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). Only one call per calendar week is required. Calls will not be back-dated if received after the calendar week has begun.

### **STEP I – Call the Automated IVR System at (508) 495-2100**

- 1. Press 1** to report a trip and follow the message prompts
- 2. Gear type:** Press 1 for Scallop Dredge  
Press 2 for Scallop Trawl
- 3. Permit type:** Press 1 for Limited Access  
Press 2 for Limited Access General Category
- 4. Area:** Press 0 for Elephant Trunk Flex Access Area  
Press 1 for Nantucket Lightship Access Area  
Press 2 for Closed Area II Access Area  
Press 4 for Mid Atlantic Open Area  
Press 5 for Georges Bank Open Area  
Press 9 for Mid Atlantic Access Area
- 5. Phone #:** Enter your 10 digit phone number (DO NOT use '1' before the area code)
- 6. Permit #:** Enter your 6 digit permit number
- 7. Name:** Please speak clearly, first, last name **(and FISHING AREA if not available in step 4)** then press # key (Example: "John Doe, Nantucket Lightship West.")
- 8. Port:** Please say the city and state you intend to sail from, then press # key
- 9. Sail Date:** Please say the month, day, and year, then press # key

#### **IMPORTANT UPDATE**

Closed Area I , Nantucket Lightship West, & Nantucket Lightship South will not be available to select on this system until mid-May due to system updates. If calling for one of these areas please press 5 for Georges Bank and see additional requirements in STEP 7 to record the fishing area after your name.

You will receive a confirmation number which **MUST** be retained.

A waiver or observer selection email from NMFS will be sent to your VMS unit within 24 hours.

If you do not receive a notification within 24 hours, contact the NMFS at (508) 495-2188

If you are issued a waiver, you may begin your trip.

If you receive an observer notice, please follow the instructions in Step II.

### **STEP II – When selected to carry an observer**

If selected for observer coverage you **MUST** provide at least 48 hours' notice to the observer providers. You are required to call **all three** of the observer providers in an attempt to obtain coverage, but you may choose to hire any provider that is available.

#### **Current Industry Funded Scallop Observer Providers**

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

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

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

Please call the Vessel Call-in Coordinator at (508) 495-2188 or (508) 560-3550 (after-hours cell) if there are no observers available from any of the providers and you would like to request a waiver, or if you are cancelling or delaying your trip more than 48 hours beyond the intended sail date.

This summary is not a substitute for the actual regulations. The full text of the regulations is available at <https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/regs/fr.html> or call the Greater Atlantic Regional Office at (978) 281-9315.

OMB Control No: 0648-0593, Expires: October 31, 2018. Notwithstanding any provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number