



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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ATLANTIC SEA SCALLOP FISHERY

Closure of the Mid-Atlantic Scallop Access Area for the Limited Access General
Category Individual Fishing Quota Fleet
Effective Date: December 24, 2018

The Mid-Atlantic Scallop Access Area is closed to limited access general category (LAGC) individual fishing quota (IFQ) scallop vessels effective 0001 hours, on December 24, 2018.

As of December 24, 2018, no scallop vessel fishing under LAGC IFQ regulations may fish for, possess, or land scallops in or from the Mid-Atlantic Access Area. The scallop regulations require that we close this area once we project that the LAGC fleet has used the 1,142 trips allocated to them in this area.

Vessels that have complied with the observer notification requirements, have declared a trip into the Mid-Atlantic Scallop Access Area using the correct Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) code, **and** have crossed the VMS demarcation line before 0001 hr, December 24, 2018, may complete their trip and retain and land scallops caught from the Mid-Atlantic Scallop Access Area.

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.