



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

August 25, 2006

SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE

Dear Atlantic Sea Scallop Permit Holder:

This is to inform you that NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service has issued a final regulation (71 FR 50361), dated August 25, 2006 requiring a modification, as described below, of all Atlantic sea scallop dredges on all vessels with a Federal Atlantic sea scallop fishery permit fishing south of 41° 9.0' N. lat. from the shoreline to the outer boundary of the Exclusive Economic Zone from May 1 through November 30 each year. Effective September 25, 2006, vessels fishing in this area must modify all dredges with evenly spaced "tickler" (horizontal) chains and "vertical" (up-and-down) chains in the following configuration, which is dependent on the size of the dredge frame width:

Frame width of dredge	Number of verticals	Number of ticklers
>13 ft	11	6
11 to 13 ft	9	5
10 to <11 ft	7	4
<10 ft	5	3

The tickler and vertical chains must be connected to each other with a shackle or link at the intersection point. If a vessel elects to use a different configuration, the length of each side of the squares formed by the chain must be less than or equal to 14 inches. The chains must be connected to each other with a shackle or link at each intersection point. The measurement must be taken along the chain, with the chain held taut, and include one shackle or link at the intersection point and all links in the chain up to, but excluding, the shackle or link at the other intersection point. Any vessel that harvests sea scallops in or from the waters described above and that is required to have a Federal Atlantic sea scallop fishery permit must have the chain mat configuration installed on all dredges for the duration of the trip.

You may receive permit holder letters by email by clicking on "Permit Holder Letters" on our website at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov> or via fax by providing a fax number through written request to the above address, or by faxing your request to 978-281-9394. This small entity compliance guide complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996.

For more information on these regulations, visit www.nero.noaa.gov/prot_res/ProResDiv/LinkforSeaTurtles.htm or call 978-281-9300 x6505.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

