



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/>
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ATLANTIC SEA SCALLOP FISHERY:
LIMITED ACCESS GENERAL CATEGORY VESSELS
Updated Allocations for the Remainder of the 2014 Fishing Year
Effective Date: June 16, 2014

This is a summary of new measures implemented through Framework 25 and a summary of how they may affect your fishing plans and activities for the remainder of the 2014 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.

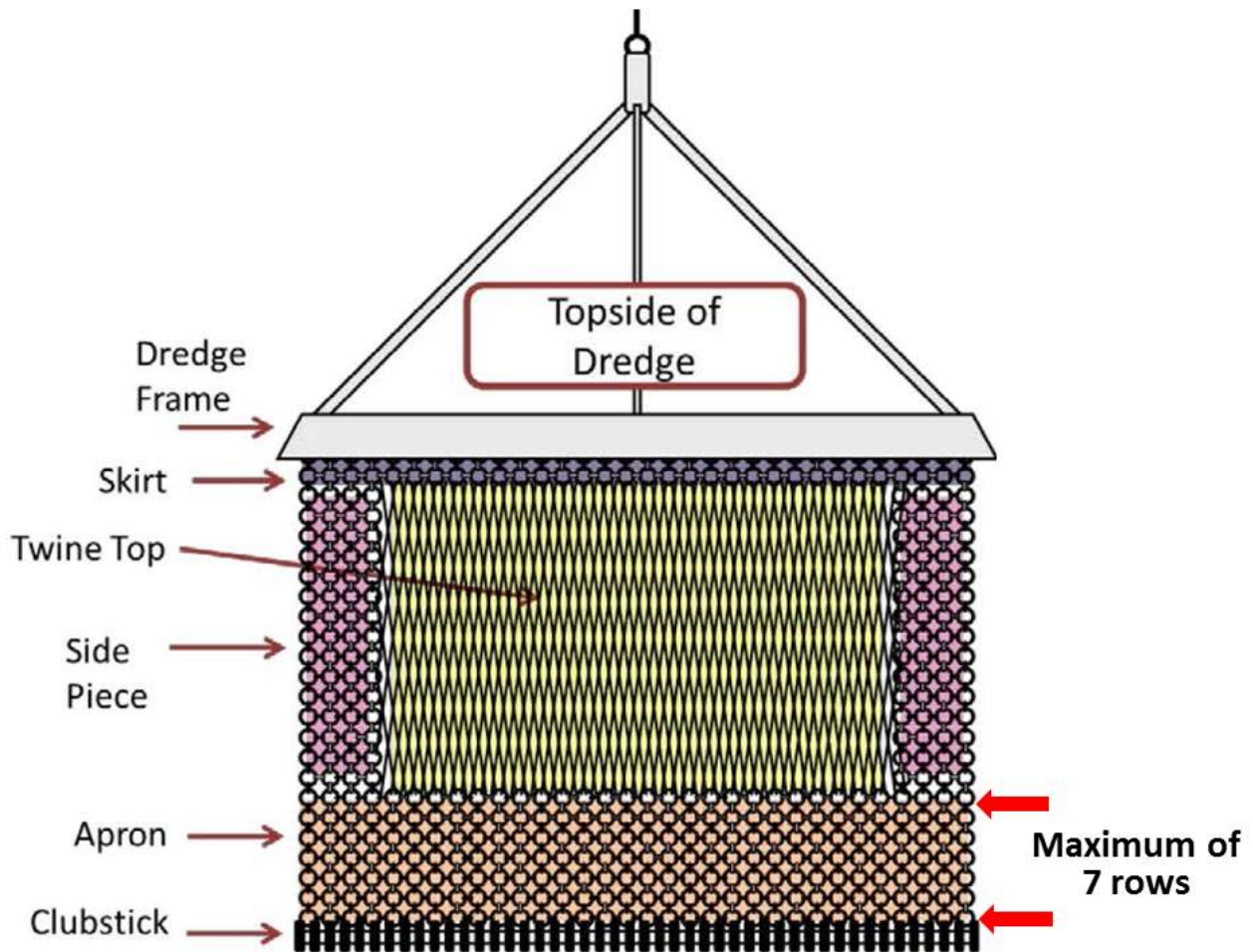
**With the exception of new gear requirements, these measures are effective
June 16, 2014**

New Restrictions

New Gear Restrictions to Limit Finfish Bycatch (Effective July 16, 2014)

Framework 25 implements a gear restriction in the area west of 71° W. Long, excluding Mid-Atlantic access areas. If you are fishing in the area west of 71° W. Long anywhere other than an access area you may have a maximum of seven rows of rings in the apron between the twine top and the clubstick, year-round (See figure below). This measure is intended to reduce flatfish bycatch and applies to all scallop dredge vessels (not scallop trawl vessels). In order to give vessels time to make the appropriate gear changes **this measure becomes effective on July 16, 2014.**

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.



Dredge gear configuration required in the area west of 71° W. Long., excluding Mid-Atlantic access area

Frequently Asked Questions	
What if I'm fishing in a Mid-Atlantic access area?	If you are fishing in the Mid-Atlantic access areas, you are not required to have any particular number of rows of rings.
What if I'm fishing east of 71° W. Long.?	If you are east of 71° W. Long. you are required to have a MINIMUM of 7 rows of rings in the apron between the twine top and the clubstick.

Mid-Year Allocation Adjustments and Payback Measures

Updated FY 2014 Fleet Allocations: The table below includes the LAGC fleet individual fishing quota (IFQ) allocations effective June 16, 2014, through the remainder of FY 2014. We will send you a separate letter that specifies your vessel's updated 2014 IFQ, which we set based on the following allocations.

LAGC Fleet Allocations

LAGC IFQ only	2,202,859 lb
LAGC IFQ with limited access scallop permit	220,286 lb

Important IFQ leasing information: Any IFQ allocation permanently transferred or leased to you, after March 1, 2014, but prior to the implementation of Framework 25, will be subject to a pound-for-pound payback reduction to the extent that the amount of such IFQ allocation exceeds the Framework 25 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 2014. These adjustments will be made as soon as possible following Framework 25's June 16, 2014, 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 25 sets the following fleet-wide access area trips for LAGC IFQ vessels:

Access Area	FY 2014
CA1	0
CA2	0
NLS	241
HC	0
ETA	0
DMV	516

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

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 2014 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 2014 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.

Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) Windowpane Flounder Accountability Measures

This action contains the following accountability measures to respond to overages in the SNE/MA windowpane flounder allocation, known as a sub-annual catch limit or sub-ACL, to the scallop fishery:

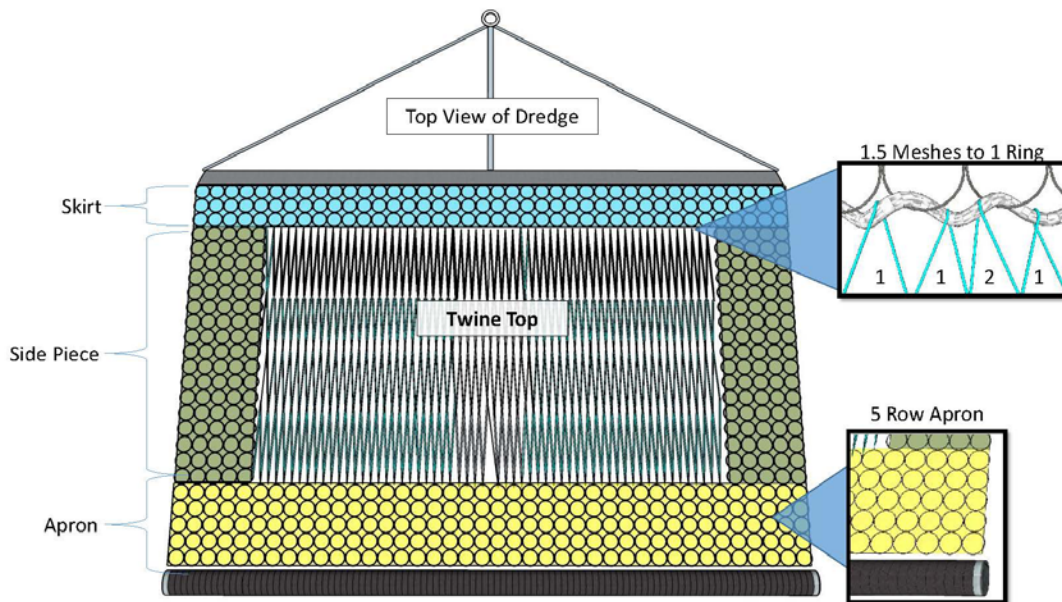
If the scallop sub-ACL for the scallop fishery is exceeded in a given fishing year, the area west of 71° W. Long., excluding Mid-Atlantic access areas, will be considered a SNE/MA windowpane flounder gear restricted area in the following fishing year. You will be required to comply with the gear restrictions described below for the month of February or February and March, depending on the severity of the overage.

SNE/MA windowpane flounder AM length of gear restriction

Percent overage of sub-ACL	Length of Gear Restriction
0 – 20	February
>20	March and February

When a vessel is subject to this gear restricted area, the vessel will be required to fish with dredges where:

- (1) The maximum number of rows of rings in the apron of the topside does not exceed five rows; and
- (2) The maximum hanging ratio for a net on the top of a scallop dredge (twine top) does not exceed 1.5:1 overall.



Dredge gear configuration required if the SNE/MA windowpane flounder accountability measure is in place

FY 2014 Groundfish sub-Annual Catch Limits (sub-ACL) in the Scallop Fishery

Stock	Scallop sub-ACL
Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder	50.9 mt (112,215 lb)
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	66.0 mt (145,505 lb)
SNE/MA Windowpane Flounder	183.0 mt (403,446 lb)

For more information about yellowtail flounder and windowpane flounder catch limits in the scallop fishery, go to <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/reg/info.html>.

Observer Set-Aside Compensation

LAGC IFQ vessel owners must call in weekly to NMFS's Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (see attachment for call-in instructions) to report expected 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 150 lb per trip, so long as 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 FY (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 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.

Reminders

Scallop Pre-Land Notification:

You must send a VMS Scallop Pre-Landing Notification form no less than 6 hr prior to crossing the VMS Demarcation Line on the way back to port. If you stop fishing less than 6 hr prior to landing, then the form must be submitted immediately upon leaving the fishing grounds. 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:

- captain/operator name
- amount of scallop meats and/or bushels to be landed
- the estimated time of arrival in port
- the port at which the scallops will be landed
- the VTR serial number recorded from that trip's VTR
- whether any scallops were caught in the NGOM.

Daily Scallop Catch Reports:

This form is required by all LA and LAGC IFQ vessels that are fishing for, possessing, or retaining scallops, and not also fishing under a NE multispecies DAS or sector allocation. The form, often referred to as the scallop catch report, is used to monitor scallop and yellowtail flounder catch on scallop trips.

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. The reports include:

- Fishing Vessel Trip Report logbook page number;
- Total pounds of scallop meats kept;
- Total pounds of yellowtail flounder discarded; and
- Total pounds of all other fish kept

Shell Stock Restrictions:

- Vessels fishing in areas that are closed due to paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) may not retain in-shell scallops.
- 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.

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
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3. **Permit type:**

1	Limited Access	2	General Category
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4. **Fishing Area:**

1	Nantucket Lightship Access Area	5	Georges Bank Open Area
2	Closed Area II Access Area	8	Delmarva
4	Mid-Atlantic Open 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.

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