



New England Fishery Management Council

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Rick Bellavance, *Chair* | Cate O'Keefe, PhD, *Executive Director*

August 1, 2025

James Cassin
Assistant Director, Northeast Division
NOAA Office Of Law Enforcement
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

Troy Audyatis
Deputy Special Agent in Charge, Northeast Division
NOAA Office Of Law Enforcement
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear James and Troy:

At their meeting in June, the New England Fishery Management Council (Council) tasked the Scallop Plan Development Team (PDT) to work with NOAA OLE to develop a data request to inform the Council's understanding of recent trends in the safety, compliance, and enforcement of the Northern Gulf of Maine scallop fishery. Through correspondence and discussion with NOAA OLE NED staff, the PDT would like to request the following data:

1. Total number of vessel contacts, including remote investigations such as VMS follow-ups, for federally permitted scallop vessels within the Northern Gulf of Maine scallop management area between April 1, 2022 and April 30, 2025. Breakdown of contacts by:
 - a. Month and year of contact
 - b. Permit type: LAGC A, LAGC B, or either an LAGC A or B permit in combination with a Limited Access permit.
 - c. Type of contact: dockside, at-sea boarding, or remote investigation.
 - d. Percentage of contacts that resulted in one or more violations.
2. Total number of vessel violations for federally permitted scallop vessels within the Northern Gulf of Maine scallop management area between April 1, 2022 and April 30, 2025. Breakdown of the violations by:
 - a. Month and year of violation
 - b. Permit type: LAGC A, LAGC B, or either an LAGC A or B permit in combination with a Limited Access permit.
 - c. Type of violation, such as safety, trip limit overages, or dredge width restrictions.

Any additional information you can provide related to scallop vessel contacts or violations in the Northern Gulf of Maine during this period, such as the number of contacts or violations that made use of vessel VMS data, would be informative. If there are additional fishery compliance metrics relevant to the NGOM scallop fishery, my staff are available to discuss any other ideas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cate O'Keefe".

Cate O'Keefe
Executive Director

CC: Caleb Gilbert, NOAA OLE NED
Jason Berthiaume, NOAA OLE NED