



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Office of Law Enforcement
Northeast Enforcement Division
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

August 18, 2025

Dr. Cate O'Keefe
Executive Director
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street
Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950

Dear Cate,

Thank you for your August 1, 2025 letter from the New England Fishery Management Council (Council), Scallop Plan Development Team, requesting information related to the Northern Gulf of Maine scallop fishery. NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) strives to partner with the Council in fisheries enforcement and provide useful data and feedback.

Unfortunately, the format of the August 1, 2025 data request does not align with how OLE maintains its records or database. Each request requires OLE to perform several layers of searches and cross-reference those findings with individual VMS and permit records, making the exercise extremely burdensome. OLE will document this challenge moving forward and try to address this issue with future database enhancements.

Please let us know if there are limited metrics that might still be useful for this exercise and, as always, please let us know how we can continue to collaborate with you and aid the Council's work.

Sincerely,

JAMES.CASSIN

Date: 2025.08.18
13:10:21 -04'00'

James Cassin
Acting Assistant Director, Northeast Division
NOAA Office of Law Enforcement

CC: Connor Buckley

