

CORRESPONDENCE

CAPE COD COMMERCIAL
**FISHERMEN'S
ALLIANCE**

Small Boats. Big Ideas.

September 5, 2018

Tom Nies, Executive Director
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950
Attn: Jonathon Peros, Scallop PDT



Subject: LAGC Trip Limit Analysis-Individual Assessment

Dear Mr. Nies,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on work by the Scallop PDT regarding their analysis of trip limits for the Limited Access General Category component of the scallop fishery. We attended a recent two-day meeting in Falmouth, MA and were encouraged by the robust analysis completed by members of the team. We felt that they used the best available information to provide a snapshot of what changes would look like at varying levels, and were able to provide clarity on a complex analysis.

We feel that the PDT has accomplished their tasking by providing a broad-scale representation of potential changes, and actively sought input from LAGC fishermen. Our own interactions with the LAGC community allow us to understand what an individual level change would look like to fishermen, something difficult to capture in high level analysis.

We worked with partners at the Community Development Partnership to compile individual fishing plan data that would help determine what potential changes would mean to five fishermen who range from majority quota owners to majority quota leasers. To protect privacy we've removed identifying financial inputs (provided by fishermen in participation with the Cape Cod Fisheries Trust leasing program) as well as identifying personal information. Summary pages are provided that detail varying lease and ex-vessel price changes at both the 900 and 1200 pound increments for simplicity sake. Scenarios can be run at any number.

We utilized the following inputs:

- Number of pounds owned
- Number of pounds leased
- Trip expenses at 600, 900, and 1200 lbs
- Lease price (cost average between CCFT subsidized rate and open market leasing)
- Boat expenses
- Number of crewmembers
- Gross sales
- Annual expenses
- Net profit
- Profit Margin (in %)
 - Change in profit at each increase level (\$)
 - Change in profit at each increase level (%)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Nick Muto, *Chairman* • Gwen Holden Kelly, *Treasurer* • Greg Connors, *Vice-Chairman* • Brian Sherin, *Clerk*
Gregory Bilezikian • Charles Borkoski • Beau Gribbin • Eric Hesse • Barry Labar • Tim Linnell

1566 Main Street, Chatham, MA 02633 (508) 945-2432 info@capecodfishermen.org www.capecodfishermen.org

JP 9/6/18

- Change in crew share (\$)
- Change in crew (per member)

We made the following assumptions


- Savings for fuel is in the trip expenses
- CCFT/subsidized lease price remains the same
- Quota remains the same
- No other fishery data is included (only scallop fishery)

Our results show similar benefits to the PDT's projections at the individual level, though more benefit to crewmembers as well as boat captains and owners. As expected, the benefits to fishermen vary based on each individual's business plan. We concur with the PDT's overall conclusions: the scale of benefits changes at varying increases, and the level of benefits differs depending on the amount of quota fished, owned, and leased.

We believe that the PDT analysis and our own self-assessment support an increase in the LAGC trip limit, as there will be quantifiable benefits to the majority of the fishing fleet. If you have any questions regarding the self-assessment, please feel free to reach out at any time.

Thank you, and we look forward to continuing to support the council's important work on this and other matters.

Kind Regards,



Seth Rolbein, Director
Cape Cod Fisheries Trust

Enclosures:

1. 900 lb self-assessment
2. 1,200 lb self assessment

Assumptions	Before	After
Market lease Price	3.25	4
Ex Vessel Price	9	9
Fisherman	#1	#2
Change in Profit \$	\$ 2,713	\$ 26,649
Change in Profit %	2%	4%
Change in Crew TOTAL	\$ 1,142	\$ 14,001
Change in crew each	\$ 571	\$ 4,667
Trust Only	X	
Own good amountn/Trust/Market		X
Own good amount/Trust		X
Own alittle/Trust/Market		X
	#3	#4
	\$ 12,808	\$ 9,897
	2%	3%
	\$ 4,005	\$ 2,570
	\$ 2,002	\$ 1,285
		\$ 5,190
		2%
		\$ 1,593
		\$ 796

Assumptions	Before	After																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
-------------	--------	-------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

[illegible]

Assumptions	Before After	
Market lease Price	3.25	3.6
Ex Vessel Price	9	8.5
Fisherman	#1	#2 #3 #4 #5
Change in Profit \$	\$ (3,287)	\$ 12,009 \$ (4,727) \$ (3,973) \$ (3,147)
Change in Profit %	0%	2% 0% 0% 0%
Change in Crew TOTAL	\$ (2,858)	\$ 4,641 \$ (4,710) \$ (4,355) \$ (2,570)
Change in crew each	\$ (1,429)	\$ 1,547 \$ (2,355) \$ (2,177) \$ (1,285)
Trust Only	X	
Own good amountn/Trust/Market		X
Own good amount/Trust		X
Own alittle/Trust/Market		X

Assumptions	Before		After	
Market lease Price		3.25	4	
Ex Vessel Price		9	9	
Fisherman	#1	#2	#3	#4
Change in Profit \$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Change in Profit %		2%	7%	4%
Change in Crew TOTAL	\$	\$	\$	\$
Change in crew each	\$	\$	\$	\$
Trust Only	X			
Own good amountn/Trust/Market		X	X	
Own good amount/Trust				X
Own alittle/Trust/Market				X

Assumptions	Before After	
Market lease Price	3.25	3.6
Ex Vessel Price	9	9
Fisherman	#1	#2 #3 #4 #5
Change in Profit \$	\$ 3,480	\$ 54,781 \$ 31,529 \$ 13,221 \$ 13,955
Change in Profit %	2%	8% 5% 4% 5%
Change in Crew TOTAL	\$ 1,653	\$ 30,069 \$ 12,440 \$ 3,855 \$ 4,970
Change in crew each	\$ 827	\$ 10,023 \$ 6,220 \$ 1,927 \$ 2,485
Trust Only	X	
Own good amountn/Trust/Market		X
Own good amount/Trust		X
Own alittle/Trust/Market		X

Assumptions	Before	After
Market lease Price	3.25	3.75
Ex Vessel Price	9	8.75
Fisherman	#1	#2
Change in Profit \$	\$ 480	\$ 41,056
Change in Profit %	1%	7%
Change in Crew TOTAL	\$ (347)	\$ 21,294
Change in crew each	\$ (173)	\$ 7,098
Trust Only	X	
Own good amountn/Trust/Market		X
Own good amount/Trust		X
Own alittle/Trust/Market		X

Assumptions	Before After	
Market lease Price	3.25	3.6
Ex Vessel Price	9	8.5
Fisherman	#1	#2 #3 #4 #5
Change in Profit \$	\$ (2,520)	\$ 32,821 \$ 7,314 \$ (649) \$ 2,949
Change in Profit %	1%	6% 2% 2% 2%
Change in Crew TOTAL	\$ (2,347)	\$ 16,029 \$ 405 \$ (3,070) \$ (524)
Change in crew each	\$ (1,173)	\$ 5,343 \$ 202 \$ (1,535) \$ (262)
Trust Only	X	
Own good amountn/Trust/Market		X
Own good amount/Trust		X
Own alittle/Trust/Market		X

Assumptions	Before	After							
Market lease Price	3.25	3.6							
Ex Vessel Price	9	10							
Fisherman	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5				
Change in Profit \$	\$ 15,480	\$ 4%	\$ 98,701	\$ 79,959	\$ 40,962	\$ 35,966			
Change in Profit %			13%	9%	5%	9%			
Change in Crew TOTAL	\$ 9,653	\$ 58,149	\$ 36,510	\$ 17,704	\$ 15,959				
Change in crew each	\$ 4,827	\$ 19,383	\$ 18,255	\$ 8,852	\$ 7,980				
Trust Only	X								
Own good amount/Trust/Market		X	X						
Own good amount/Trust				X					
Own alittle/Trust/Market								X	



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

June 25, 2018

RECEIVED

JUL - 2 2018

NEW ENGLAND
FISHERY
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Mr. Thomas A. Nies
Executive Director
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Tom,

Thank you for providing the 2019/2020 Scallop Research Set-Aside research priorities. These will be included in the funding opportunity that we plan to publish in July. We will work with your staff to ensure the funding opportunity is widely circulated to prospective applicants.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

Sincerely,

Jonathan A. Hare, Ph.D.
Science and Research Director

cc: R. Beal
C. Moore
M. Pentony



ip 7/2/18



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

SEP - 4 2018

Dr. John F. Quinn, Chairman
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear John:

Please note the following changes that will affect my seats on the Council's Atlantic Herring and Scallop Committees. Pete Christopher is acting as the Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries through December 7. Travis Ford is performing Mr. Christopher's branch chief duties in the Sustainable Fisheries Division, also through December 7. In Mr. Ford's role, he will be my delegate to the Council's Scallop and Herring Committees, with an exception for one Herring Committee meeting. Mr. Christopher will remain as my delegate to the Council's Atlantic Herring Committee for its September 19, 2018.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Michael Pentony
Regional Administrator

cc: Tom Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council
Vincent Balzano, Chair, Atlantic Sea Scallop Committee
Peter Kendall, Chair, Atlantic Herring Committee





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

RECEIVED

Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

JUN 15 2018

JUN 20 2018

NEW ENGLAND
FISHERY
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Dear Tom,

Thank you for your letter regarding monitoring and catch accounting in the scallop fishery. Both the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office and the Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) agree that compliance outreach and effective enforcement are cornerstones to the scallop catch accounting system.

OLE, along with state Joint Enforcement Agreement agencies, have the ability to enforce all Federal scallop regulations; however, resource limitations require us to prioritize our efforts. Currently, promoting compliance with all reporting requirements, including compliance with VMS pre-landing notifications, is a key priority for OLE in the scallop fishery. As the Council staff presentation at the April Council meeting showed, we have seen increased compliance over the last several years.

We strongly support any technical solutions that promotes compliance. OLE recently sent a fleet-wide VMS message to limited access general category vessels reminding them not to fish with a negative balance, and we will continue to regularly monitor these balances. We will also explore methods to automatically notify vessels with negative quota balances through the pre-trip notification system, which could also be used to inform limited access vessels of their remaining balance for access areas.

Increased monitoring, education, and outreach may achieve compliance. If it does not appear compliance is increasing, we will discuss changes to NOAA's Penalty Policy and its summary settlement schedules with the NOAA Office of General Counsel. We will also work with the Council to provide information on cases that have been finally adjudicated by OLE through written warning or summary settlement. All civil cases charged under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act by the NOAA Office of General Counsel are published on their website.

OLE is also interested in seeing the effectiveness of electronic monitoring programs (i.e., using cameras for monitoring) on scallop vessels, but will refrain from commenting until further studies are evaluated.

JP 6/21/18




OLE will be submitting additional enforcement recommendations to the Scallop Plan Development Team to that may assist in enforcement efforts. Thank you and your staff for addressing this priority, and please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


for Michael Pentony

Regional Administrator


Timothy Donovan
Assistant Director
Northeast Enforcement Division



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

June 18, 2018

Dr. Jonathan Hare
Science and Research Director
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543

Dear Jon:

On June 13, 2018 the Council discussed research priorities for the next Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) announcement. The attached list includes the Council's recommendations for fishing years 2019 and 2020. This year, the Council recommended resource surveys as a high priority, followed by the investigation of survey dredge efficiency. The Council also identified six general research areas, which are not ranked. The Scallop Plan Development Team, Advisory Panel, and Committee all provided input prior to the Council meeting.

Thank you for considering this input. Please contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Nies
Executive Director

cc: Michael Pentony, GARFO

Attachment

HIGH (In order of importance)

1. Survey Related Research (a, b, and c have equal priority).

Survey results must be available by early August of the year in which the survey is conducted (e.g., survey results that would inform 2020 fishing effort decisions must be available by early August 2019). Successful projects may be asked to provide data in a standardized format.

1a. an intensive industry-based survey of each of the relevant scallop rotational areas (Closed Area I, Closed Area II, Nantucket Lightship, Elephant Trunk and Hudson Canyon) that will provide estimates of total and exploitable biomass to be used for setting fishery catch limits under the rotational area management program. To support these area management decisions, survey data and biomass estimates must be available by early August of the year in which the survey is conducted (e.g. survey results that would inform 2020 fishing area decisions must be available by August 2019). Areas proposed to be open in the following fishing year generally have a higher priority than other areas.

1b. an intensive industry-based survey of areas of importance (i.e., open areas with high scallop recruitment or areas of importance to the fishery). For 2019, the priority areas are likely to be the HAPC in Closed Area II and surrounds, the area south of Closed Area II (formerly part of Closed Area II Extension), Delmarva, areas off Long Island, and areas of the Gulf of Maine that have recently been or are likely to be fished.

1c. a resource wide industry-based survey of scallops within Georges Bank and/or Mid-Atlantic resource areas. The survey or surveys do not need to be carried out by a single grant recipient. The primary objective of these surveys would be to provide an additional broad scale biomass index in addition to the federal survey to improve the overall precision of the scallop biomass estimate produced by the Scallop Plan Development Team.

2. Investigation of variability in dredging efficiency across habitats, times, areas, scallop densities, and gear designs to improve dredge survey estimates. Research may focus on analyses of existing data sets.

GENERAL RESEARCH (Not Ranked)

3. Research to assess the impact of offshore wind energy development on the Atlantic sea scallop resource, including larval settlement and dispersal. Research may also focus on the impacts of low frequency noise and vibrations on the animals.
4. Research to support the investigation of turtle behavior and its potential impact on the scallop fishery in the Mid-Atlantic and Georges Bank (via satellite tagging or other means). This could include research to understand their seasonal movements, vertical habitat utilization, and the status and range of the population.
5. Bycatch research: Identification and evaluation of methods to reduce the impacts of the scallop fishery with respect to bycatch of small scallops and non-target species. This would include projects that determine seasonal bycatch rates of non-target species, characterize spatial and temporal distribution patterns, collect and analyze catch and bycatch data on a near-real time basis, as well as the associated discard mortality rates of key bycatch species. Research efforts focusing on non-target bycatch should provide results that would help the scallop industry avoid pending or potential implementation of accountability measures. Projects should consider the enforceability and feasibility of regulations in the commercial fishery.
6. Scallop meat quality research: Research aimed at describing the occurrence of disease and parasites, as well as understanding the mechanisms and processes (including the life cycle, distribution and transmission, and relationship to sea turtles) that affect scallop product quality; research aimed at evaluating the impact of density dependence and the potential impacts of area rotation on scallop product quality, marketability, meat weights, and seasonal monitoring would be particularly useful.
7. Research that evaluates the effectiveness of current management procedures for achieving management objectives and simulates alternative procedures based on a range of performance criteria (i.e. Management Strategy Evaluation), including evaluating biological, social and economic impacts and associated long-term consequences of rotational management and the overall scallop management plan.
8. Research on scallop biology, including studies aimed at understanding recruitment processes (reproduction, timing of spawning, larval and early post-settlement stages, age and growth, and yield), examination of environmental stressors on reproduction and growth, and research related to scallop spat and seeding projects. This priority also includes research on natural mortality, such as scallop predation (e.g., starfish, crab, snails, and dogfish) and juvenile mortality events. This priority includes research on scallop biology in the Gulf of Maine region.



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

June 18, 2018

Mr. Michael Pentony
Regional Administrator
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
National Marine Fisheries Service
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Mike:

This year the Council is addressing monitoring and catch accounting in the scallop fishery. On June 13, 2018 the Council passed a motion requesting that NOAA fisheries require a VMS pre-landing notification on all Limited Access scallop trips. In practice, this would mean expanding the VMS pre-land notification requirement to include Limited Access trips operating under days-at-sea (DAS). I understand that this change to the Atlantic Sea Scallop FMP could be done by the Secretary of Commerce under Section 305(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Currently, Limited Access vessels are only required to submit a pre-landing notification when fishing in access areas. One of the Council's goals with respect to monitoring and catch accounting is to achieve 100% reporting compliance with VMS pre-land notifications. Requiring a pre-land notification for Limited Access DAS fishing would create consistency in reporting requirements in the scallop fishery and eliminate any uncertainty if a VMS pre-land notification is required.

The expansion of the VMS pre-land requirement would also provide managers and enforcement with information on when and where valuable scallop trips are returning to port, and hold vessels accountable for reported catch while they transit to port and sell to a dealer. The collection and use of this information aligns with the Council's goal full compliance with scallop regulations.

Thank you for considering this request. Please contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Nies
Executive Director



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

NOAA Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

For Information Contact:
Sustainable Fisheries Division
(978) 281 – 9315

<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/>
Date Issued: 6/15/2018

ATLANTIC SEA SCALLOP FISHERY

Closure of the Closed Area I Scallop Access Area for the Limited Access General Category Individual Fishing Quota Fleet

Effective Date: June 18, 2018

The Closed Area I Scallop Access Area is closed to limited access general category (LAGC) individual fishing quota (IFQ) scallop vessels effective 0001 hours, on June 18, 2018.

As of June 18, 2018, no scallop vessel fishing under LAGC IFQ regulations may fish for, possess, or land scallops in or from the Closed Area I Access Area. The scallop regulations require that we close this area once we project that the LAGC fleet has fished all of the 571 trips allocated to them in this area.

Vessels that have complied with the observer notification requirements, have declared a trip into the Closed Area I Scallop Access Area using the correct Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) code, **and** have crossed the VMS demarcation line before 0001 hr, June 18, 2018, may complete their trip and retain and land scallops caught from the Closed Area I Scallop Access Area.

RECEIVED

JUN 19 2018

NEW ENGLAND
FISHERY
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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.



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

Marine District Headquarters

333 Ferry Road • Old Lyme, CT 06371

www.ct.gov/deep

Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

May 21, 2018

Michael Pentony
Regional Administrator, NMFS-GARFO
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

John Quinn
Chairman, NEFMC
50 Water St.
Newburyport, MA 01950

Re: Connecticut State Designee

Dear Mr. Pentony and Dr. Quinn,

I am writing in accordance with 50 CFR §600.205, to appoint Justin P. Davis, PhD, as my official designee to act on my behalf on the Scallop, Monkfish and Whiting Oversight Committees of the New England Fishery Management Council.

Dr. Davis is a Supervising Fisheries Biologist of the Fisheries Division of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. In this capacity, he is a full-time employee of the Department, receives his entire salary from the State of Connecticut and is a resident of New London County, CT. Justin has 15 years of experience working for the Fisheries Division and received his doctorate in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Connecticut. He also serves on the ASFMC's Striped Bass Stock Assessment Subcommittee and Assessment Science Committee. I am confident that Dr. Davis will be a valuable asset to the Scallop, Monkfish and Whiting committees.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Peter Aarrestad
Director, Fisheries Division
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

cc: Tom Nies, NEFMC
Justin Davis

----- Original message-----

From: Jim Ford- FV Lisa Ann III, IV

Date: Fri, May 18, 2018 5:20 PM

To: Travis Ford;togue@downeastdayboat.com; Tom Nies; Ben Martens;

Cc:

Subject: NGOM Scallop

Travis, Togue, Tom, Ben,

In the next round of NGOM scallop allocations we need to have some small amount of allocation when the season closes for either home consumption or a small limit for incidental catches. 5 lb limit or something along those lines. Yesterday we probably had 350 lbs of shell stock we threw back. Some days we only see 0 to 5 lbs of meats dragging in years past. I don't think its unreasonable to ask for this small amount to be factored in since the stock is increasing. I ground fished 160 days this year and I would take a guess that we probably wouldn't of caught more than 150 lbs of meats if we kept them since we don't see them every day. Yesterday we were where the scallopers ended up on middlebank so there was a good amount. I have brought this up the past 2 years. We never got shutdown before since the NGOM never caught the quota. I'm sure if you look at landings from groundfish boats in the NGOM before the shutdowns the landings are small. Let me know if this could be a possibility. Have a good weekend!!

Thanks,

Jim Ford

FV Lisa Ann III and IV