



# NOAA FISHERIES

Northeast Fisheries Science Center

Industry-Funded Scallop (IFS) Observer Program

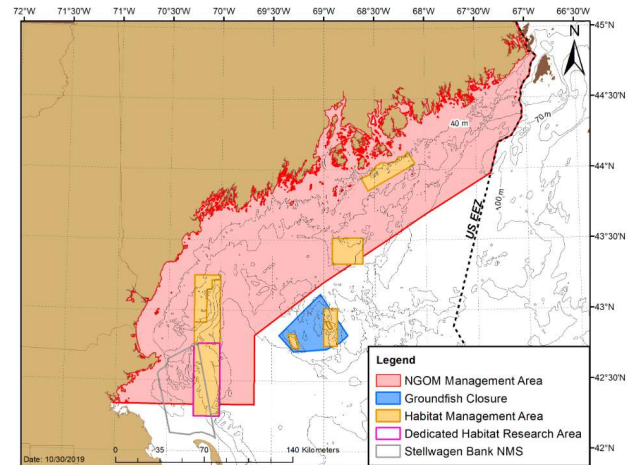


## Northern Gulf of Maine scallop fishery: vessels encouraged to prepare for carrying observers

### *Amendment 21 Update and IFS observer program*

The New England Fishery Management Council has submitted Amendment 21 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Amendment 21 includes management measures for the directed scallop fishery in the federal waters of the Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) Management Area (see map). The Amendment is currently under review by NMFS and, if approved, is expected to be implemented concurrently with Framework Adjustment 34 at the start of the 2022 scallop fishing year (beginning April 1, 2022).

All vessels active in the directed scallop fishery in the federal waters of the NGOM would be required to participate in the Industry-funded scallop (IFS) observer program, operated by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center. Compensation to help support observer coverage would be available, as determined by Amendment 21.



**The Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area relative to groundfish closures, habitat management areas, and the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary. (Source: Amendment 21 Final Submission, Aug 13, 2021).**

### *How should vessel owner/operators prepare?*

All vessels planning to take part in the NGOM scallop fishery need to comply with U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and observer program safety and emergency preparedness standards. All vessels must have:

- A current USCG Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examination decal, regardless of vessel size.
  - Visit [www.fishsafe.info](http://www.fishsafe.info) for more information regarding the USCG decal and maritime safety for commercial fishing vessels.
- Personal floatation devices/immersion suits
- Ring buoys
- Distress signals
- Fire extinguishing equipment
- Emergency position indicating radio beacon (EPIRB)
- Survival craft with sufficient capacity to accommodate the total number of crew and the observer.

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