



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

May 27, 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR: NEFOP Observers

FROM: Amy S. Van Atten   
Acting Branch Chief, FSB

SUBJECT: Scallop Access Area Sampling Reminders

This memo is to inform you that Framework 19 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP) published on May 23, 2008 and will also serve as a review of scallop sampling protocols. The Small Entity Compliance Guide for Framework 19 is available on the Northeast Regional Office website: [www.nero.noaa.gov](http://www.nero.noaa.gov).

The Elephant Trunk Access Area (ETAA) will open on June 1, 2008 with 4 trips per vessel allocated to the Full-Time scallop vessels and 1,671 trips allocated to all General Category scallop vessels. The seasonal closure of the ETAA remains in effect from September 1, 2008 through October 30, 2008. The ETAA does NOT have a Yellowtail Flounder total allowable catch (TAC); therefore, iPAQ SAP data are NOT required for this area. All scallop Access Area protocols should be followed and the attached checklist for the ETAA will ensure proper data collection.

The Nantucket Lightship Access Area (NLCA) will open on June 15, 2008 with 1 trip per vessel allocated to the Full-Time scallop vessels and 667 trips allocated to all General Category scallop vessels. The NLCA DOES have a Yellowtail Flounder TAC and iPAQ SAP data ARE required for this area. The SAP data required for these trips are round weights for kept and discarded Yellowtail Flounder and dressed weights for kept scallops on each observed haul. All scallop Access Area protocols should be followed and the attached checklist for the NLCA will ensure proper data collection.



When completing the CONFIGURATION field on the Scallop Dredge Gear Characteristics Log as a Turtle Chain Mat, it is important to (1) confirm the use of the chain-mat with the Captain (2) note the connection of the rock and tickler chain intersection point by either a shackle or link (3) note the length of each side of the openings are less than or equal to 14 inches and (4) record the number of rock and tickler chains used in the CHAINS section. If you are unsure of the configuration, please draw a detailed picture or take a photograph and always comment extensively.

For more information on sampling in the scallop fishery, refer to pages 16-18 and 68-72 in the NEFOP Biological Sampling Manual and pages 136-152 in the NEFOP Fisheries Observer Program Manual.

Finally, in reference to NEFOP Memo 08-005 "Hudson Canyon Access Area Becomes Open", Framework 19 establishes the Hudson Canyon Access Area (HCAA) as a rotational management area, and closes the HCAA to all scallop fishing, including general category vessels, until further notice.

If you have additional questions, please contact Erin Kupcha at (508) 495-2031 office, (508) 367-8256 mobile or [Erin.Kupcha@noaa.gov](mailto:Erin.Kupcha@noaa.gov).

Thank you.

Attachment:

Checklist for sampling the Elephant Trunk Access Area  
Checklist for sampling the Nantucket Lightship Access Area

*The regulation information contained in this memo was summarized from the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan Framework 19 Small Entity Compliance Guide published on May 23, 2008 and the Federal Register Volume 73 Number 68 pages 18984-19000 (The Endangered and Threatened Wildlife; Sea Turtle Conservation) and should not be used as a substitute for the actual regulations.*



# CHECKLIST FOR SAMPLING ELEPHANT TRUNK ACCESS AREA TRIPS

## SAMPLING GEAR

Bring all turtle sampling gear (tags, pliers, scanners, etc.), cameras and Sea Turtle Guide Book.

## iPAQ (OBSCON)

iPAQ SAP DATA ARE **NOT** REQUIRED FOR THE ELEPHANT TRUNK ACCESS AREA

## SAFETY CHECKLIST

**WHEEL WATCHES:** Use the newest version of the safety checklist (January 2007) and to ask the captain if a wheel watch will be maintained while underway. If the answer is **NO**, observers should call their AC immediately.

## VESSEL AND TRIP LOG / OBSCON

**PROGRAM CODE:** Elephant Trunk Access Area (ETAA) Program Code = **206**

**VENDOR ID CODE:** **02**= AIS Industry Funded **04**= EWTS Industry Funded

**CONTRACT AREA CODE:** **046**=vessel fishing Limited Access **047**=vessel fishing General Category **999**=Unknown. This question should be asked at beginning of trip.

## SCALLOP DREDGE GEAR CHARACTERISTICS LOG

**TURTLE CHAIN-MAT: DETAILED COMMENTS NECESSARY!** Comments should focus on connection of rock and tickler chains at intersection points by shackle or link, confirmation on use of chain-mat with captain, length of each side of opening less than or equal to 14 inches. **Draw a detailed picture or take photo.**

ALL INFORMATION ON THIS LOG **MUST** BE MEASURED OR COUNTED BY THE OBSERVER. THE OBSERVER SHOULD NOT OBTAIN ANY INFORMATION (except for chain-mat confirmation) FROM THE CAPTAIN. ALL FIELDS ARE DESCRIBED IN THE PROGRAM MANUAL p.136-139

## SAMPLING

**ACCESS AREA PROTOCOLS:** Kept Scallop weight in the species section of the haul log should be a DRESSED weight. If used, the AVG LB/BUSHEL field should be a DRESSED meat weight to the tenths place. Actual basket counts of kept scallops is the priority.

**SUB-SAMPLING / DECKLOADING:** Review Subsampling Guidelines in the Bio-Sampling Manual. Complete the Catch Estimation Worksheet and make sure this is filled out for **ALL** hauls. Cumulative basket counts of kept scallops should be obtained for deckloading periods. The actual weight should be spread over all of the hauls during the deckloaded period and recorded as an estimated weight.

## LENGTH FREQUENCY LOG

A DRESSED ACTUAL meat weight from the 100 scallops measured and used to obtain a volumetric measurement should be recorded in the SAMPLE WEIGHT (D/A) field.

# CHECKLIST FOR SAMPLING NANTUCKET LIGHTSHIP ACCESS AREA TRIPS

## SAMPLING GEAR

Bring all turtle sampling gear (tags, pliers, scanners, etc.), cameras and Sea Turtle Guide Book.

## iPAQ (OBSCON)

iPAQ SAP DATA **ARE** REQUIRED FOR THE NANTUCKET LIGHTSHIP ACCESS AREA. RECORD KEPT SCALLOP MEAT WEIGHTS AND KEPT / DISCARD YELLOWTAIL FLOUNDER WEIGHTS FOR ALL OBSERVED HAULS USING THE SAP TAB ON THE iPAQ.

## SAFETY CHECKLIST

**WHEEL WATCHES:** Use the newest version of the safety checklist (January 2007) and to ask the captain if a wheel watch will be maintained while underway. If the answer is **NO**, observers should call their AC immediately.

## VESSEL AND TRIP LOG / OBSCON

**PROGRAM CODE:** Nantucket Lightship Access Area (NLCA) Program Code = 201

**VENDOR ID CODE:** 02= AIS Industry Funded 04= EWTS Industry Funded

**CONTRACT AREA CODE:** 046=vessel fishing Limited Access 047=vessel fishing General Category 999=Unknown. This question should be asked at beginning of trip.

## SCALLOP DREDGE GEAR CHARACTERISTICS LOG

**TURTLE CHAIN-MAT: DETAILED COMMENTS NECESSARY!** Comments should focus on connection of rock and tickler chains at intersection points by shackle or link, confirmation on use of chain-mat with captain, length of each side of opening less than or equal to 14 inches. **Draw a detailed picture or take photo.**

ALL INFORMATION ON THIS LOG **MUST** BE MEASURED OR COUNTED BY THE OBSERVER. THE OBSERVER SHOULD NOT OBTAIN ANY INFORMATION (except for chain-mat confirmation) FROM THE CAPTAIN. ALL FIELDS ARE DESCRIBED IN THE PROGRAM MANUAL p.136-139

## SAMPLING

**ACCESS AREA PROTOCOLS:** Kept Scallop weight in the species section of the haul log should be a DRESSED weight. If used, the AVG LB/BUSHEL field should be a DRESSED meat weight to the tenths place. Actual weights of kept and discarded Yellowtail Flounder and actual basket counts of kept scallops is the priority.

**SUB-SAMPLING / DECKLOADING:** Review Subsampling Guidelines in the Bio-Sampling Manual. Complete the Catch Estimation Worksheet and make sure this is filled out for **ALL** hauls. Cumulative actual weights of kept and discarded Yellowtail Flounder and basket counts of kept scallops should be obtained. That actual weight should be spread over all of the hauls during the deckloaded period and recorded as an estimated weight.

## LENGTH FREQUENCY LOG

A DRESSED ACTUAL meat weight from the 100 scallops measured and used to obtain a volumetric measurement should be recorded in the SAMPLE WEIGHT (D/A) field.