



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

July 5, 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR: Northeast Fisheries Observer Program Observers

FROM: Amy S. Van Atten
 Branch Chief, FSB

Sara Weeks
 FOR Amy VAN ATTEN
 7/5/11

SUBJECT: 2011 Sea Scallop Fishing Year

This memo summarizes the *proposed* Framework 22 (FW22) sea scallop management measures and observer set-aside compensation rate for the 2011 sea scallop fishing year (FY). The February 18, 2011 compensation rate calculation document from the Northeast Regional Office is attached.

The implementation of FW22 to the scallop fishery management plan was delayed, resulting in the scallop fishery operating under Framework 21 measures at the start of the 2011 FY, March 1, 2011. FW22 measures will go into effect mid- to late July and you will be notified of the date as soon as it is official. The Small Entity Compliance Guide containing FW22 information will also be sent to you at that time.

Days-at-sea (DAS) Allocations

Open area DAS allocations for limited access permitted vessels (excludes carryover DAS):

Full-Time	Part-Time	Occasional
32	13	3

Under FW22, the Elephant Trunk Access Area (ETAA) becomes an open area. Vessels can fish in this area under their open area DAS and individual fishing quota (IFQ) allocations.

Yellowtail Flounder Requirements

Regulations implemented through Framework 44 to the Northeast multispecies fishery management plan, effective May 1, 2010, require that all vessels not fishing under a Limited Access General Category (LAGC) permit land all yellowtail flounder (YTF) of legal size (13 inches). This requirement is for Limited Access full-time, part-time or occasional vessels fishing under days-at-sea (DAS) or on an Access Area trip.

Access Area Openings

Closed Area I Access Area (CAIAA) and Closed Area II Access Area (CAIIAA)



will both open when FW22 is implemented, with half of the Full-Time Limited Access (FTLA) scallop vessels receiving 2 trips in CAIAA and the other half receiving 1 trip in CAIAA and 1 trip in CAIIAA. The Limited Access General Category (LAGC) scallop vessels are only permitted to enter CAIAA and are allocated 890 trips.

The CAIAA and CAIIAA **BOTH** have a YTF total allowable catch (TAC) and iPAQ SAP data **ARE** required for these areas. The YTF TAC for CAIAA and CAIIAA is 138.8 MT. This TAC is monitored together and if it is reached, both CAIAA and CAIIAA will close to scallop fishing.

The SAP data required for these trips are round weights for kept and discarded YTF and dressed weights for kept scallops on each observed haul. All scallop Access Area protocols should be followed to ensure proper data collection.

The Hudson Canyon Access Area (HCAA) will open when FW22 is implemented with 1 trip per vessel allocated to FTLA scallop vessels and 593 trips allocated to the LAGC scallop vessel fleet. The HCAA does **NOT** have a YTF TAC; therefore, iPAQ SAP data are **NOT** required for this area. All scallop Access Area protocols should be followed to ensure proper data collection.

The Delmarva Access Area (DMVAA) will open when FW 22 is implemented with 1 trip per vessel allocated to FTLA scallop vessels and 593 trips allocated to the LAGC scallop vessel fleet. The DMVAA does **NOT** have a YTF TAC; therefore, iPAQ SAP data are **NOT** required for this area. All scallop Access Area protocols should be followed to ensure proper data collection.

Access Area Possession Limits (scallop meat weight)

Limited Access permitted vessels

- Full-time: 18,000 lbs. per trip
- Part-time: 14,400 lbs. per trip
- Occasional: 6,000 lbs. per trip

Limited Access General Category permitted vessels

- IFQ: 600 lbs. per trip

Sea Turtle Measures

To minimize sea turtle interactions, full-time and part-time vessels are restricted to fishing no more than the equivalent of one Access Area trip in DMVAA or HCAA during the period of June 15, 2011 through October 31, 2011. Note that the seasonal closure in DMVAA is no longer in effect and this area will no longer close from September 1 through October 31.

The HCAA, DMVAA and portions of both CAIAA and CAIIAA are located below the 41° 09.0' N. latitude line and vessels fishing in these areas are required to use turtle chain mats on their dredges during the time period of May 1, 2011 through November 30, 2011.



Observer Set-Asides

One percent of both the open area DAS and Access Area allocations are set aside to help defray the cost of observer coverage.

CAIAA TAC	CAIIAA TAC	HCAA TAC	DMVAA TAC	Open Area DAS
111,540 lbs.	35,060 lbs.	74,445 lbs.	74,445 lbs.	136 DAS

Observer Compensation

Limited Access permitted vessels

0.08 DAS per DAS fished for open area DAS trips

180 lbs per day for CAIAA, CAIIAA, HCAA, DMVAA

Limited Access General Category

180 lbs per trip for CAIAA, HCAA, DMVAA

Observer Coverage Rates

CAIAA: 13%

CAIIAA: 13%

HCAA: 10%

DMVAA: 10%

OBSCON Reporting

Observed trips in the CAIAA, CAIIAA, HCAA and the DMVAA are covered by the Industry-Funded Scallop Program. Please refer to the information listed below for proper documentation of codes on the Vessel & Trip Information Log and OBSCON reporting:

Program Code:

202	Closed Area I Access Area (CAIAA)
203	Closed Area II Access Area (CAIIA)
204	Hudson Canyon Access Area (HCAA)
207	Delmarva Access Area (DMVAA)

Fleet I.D. Code (ContArea on iPAQ):

046	vessels fishing Limited Access
047	vessels fishing General Category

Vendor I.D. Code:

02	A.I.S. – Industry Funded Trip
04	E.W.T.S, LLC. – Industry Funded Trip
16	Fathoms Research, LLC. – Industry Funded Trip



Observer Pre-briefing

Prior to deployment on a scallop trip, all observers must call the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (NEFOP) office for a pre-briefing prior to **all Access Area** trips to review sampling protocols.

During office hours, please call:

Shannah Jaburek (508) 495-2188
Tyler Staples (508) 495-2129
Pete Canavin (508) 495-2388

After hours, please call:

Scallop VCIC (508) 560-3550

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 108-153 in the NEFOP Fisheries Observer Program Manual.

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

Thank you.

Attachments:

Observer Set-Aside Compensation Rate (Compensation Rate) Calculation Summary

The regulation information contained in this memo was summarized from FW22 proposed regulations and should not be used as a substitute for the actual regulations.

