

# Atlantic Sea Scallop Regulations

## General Category Fishery Fact Sheet 2

### Fishing Area Restrictions

Both the scallop and Northeast (NE) multispecies fishery regulations affect when and where vessels can fish for scallops, and what gear can be used. In some areas, scallop fishing activity is restricted by the scallop regulations as part of the rotational area management program. In other areas, scallop fishing activity is restricted by NE multispecies regulations because these regulations apply to all fisheries and gears that are capable of catching multispecies. Scallop fishing is also prohibited in specific areas where bottom tending mobile gear is prohibited to protect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

### Elephant Trunk Closed Area (ETCA)

No vessel may fish for scallops, or possess scallops while fishing for any species, in the ETCA. A vessel that has declared through the VMS unit that it is on a scallop trip may not enter the Elephant Trunk Closed Area, with or without scallops, unless it is transiting the area with fishing gear stowed (see gear stowage requirements below).

### AREAS OPEN TO FISHING BY GENERAL CATEGORY VESSELS

Unless fishing in a State Waters Exemption Program (see below), vessels issued a General Category Scallop permit and Limited Access Scallop vessels that have declared out of DAS program, or have used up their DAS allocations, may only fish in the following three exemption areas:

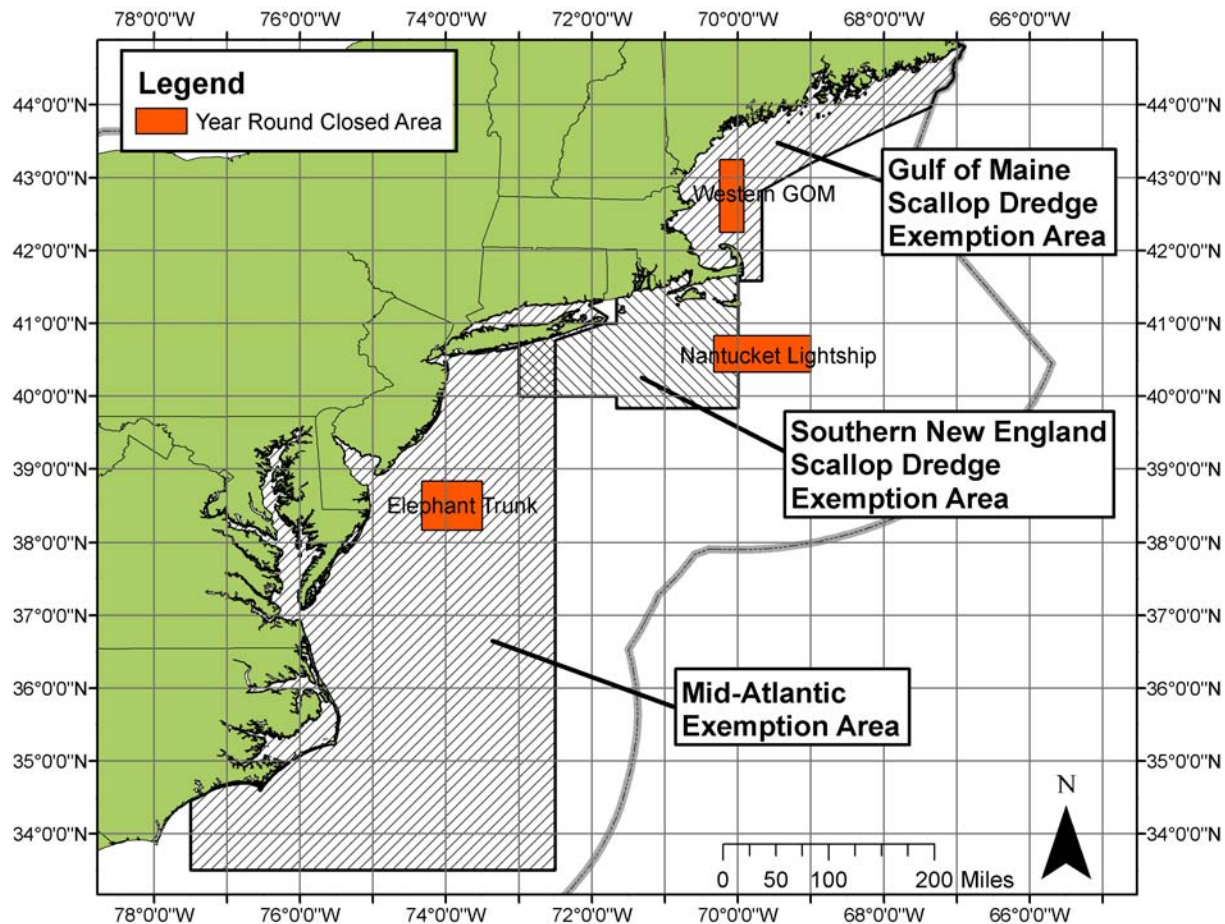
1. Gulf of Maine (GOM) Scallop Dredge Exemption Area, with the exception of the Western Gulf of Maine (WGOM) Closed Area
2. Southern New England (SNE) Scallop Dredge Exemption Area, with the exception of Nantucket Lightship Closed Area (NLCA)
3. Mid-Atlantic (MA) Exemption Area, with the exception of the Elephant Trunk Closed Area (ETCA) described above.
4. Scallop Access Areas (See General Category Fact Sheet 3)

### State Water Exemptions

General Category scallop vessels may fish in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts State waters under this exemption program. Vessels must be declared into the State Waters Exemption Program by calling 1-800-260-8204. There is a 7-day minimum enrollment program.

Vessels fishing in a state waters exemption program area are exempt from federal scallop possession limit and gear restrictions, but state restrictions apply. Vessels fishing under such exemptions are not exempt from the requirement to operate VMS. Questions about scallop fishing in state waters can be addressed to:

Maine Department of Marine Resources (207-624-6550)  
 New Hampshire Fish and Game Marine Fisheries Division (603-868-1095)  
 Massachusetts Fish and Game, Department of Marine Fisheries (617-626-1520)



### Scallop Exemption Areas

#### GULF OF MAINE (GOM) SCALLOP DREDGE EXEMPTION AREA

Point	N. Latitude	W. Longitude
GOM1	41°35'	70°00'
GOM2	41°35'	69°40'
GOM3	42°49.5'	69°40'
GOM4	43°12'	69°00'
GOM5	43°41'	68°00'
G2	43°58'	67°22'
G1	(1)	(1)

- 1) Northward along the irregular U.S.-Canada maritime boundary to the shoreline

**WESTERN GULF OF MAINE (WGOM) CLOSURE AREA**

<u>Point</u>	<u>N. Latitude</u>	<u>W. Longitude</u>
WGOM1	42° 15'	70° 15'
WGOM2	42° 15'	69° 55'
WGOM3	43° 15'	69° 55'
WGOM4	43° 15'	70° 15'
WGOM1	42° 15'	70° 15'

General Category requirements when fishing in the GOM Scallop Dredge Fishery Exemption Area

- Vessels fishing for scallops under General Category or limited access vessels that have declared out of the DAS program, or used their DAS allocation may not fish for, possess on board, or land any species of fish other than sea scallops.
- The combined scallop dredge width in use or on board vessels fishing in the exemption area may not be greater than 10.5 ft (3.2 m), measured at the widest point in the bail of the dredge.
- Vessels fishing under the General Category in the exemption area cannot use trawl gear.
- Vessels may not fish for scallops in WGOM, but may transit with gear properly stowed (see gear stowage requirements below).

**SNE SCALLOP DREDGE EXEMPTION AREA**

<u>Point</u>	<u>N. Latitude</u>	<u>W. Longitude</u>
SNE1	(1)	73°00'
SNE2	40°00'	73°00'
SNE3	40°00'	71°40'
SNE4	39°50'	71°40'
SNE5	39°50'	70°00'
SNE6	(2)	70°00'
SNE7	(3)	70°00'
SNE8	(4)	70°00'
SNE9	41°00'	(5)
SNE10	41°00'	71°40'
SNE 11	(6)	71°40'

- 1) South facing shoreline of Long Island, NY  
 2) South facing shoreline of Nantucket, MA  
 3) North facing shoreline of Nantucket, MA  
 4) South facing shoreline of Cape Cod, MA  
 5) East facing shoreline of the south fork of Long Island, NY  
 6) South facing shoreline of RI

**NANTUCKET LIGHT SHIP CLOSED AREA (NLCA)**

<u>Point</u>	<u>N. Latitude</u>	<u>W. Longitude</u>
NLCA1	40°50'	69°00'
NLCA2	40°20'	69°00'

NLCA3	40°20'	70°20'
NLCA4	40°50'	70°20'
NLCA1	40°50'	69°00'

General Category requirements when fishing in the SNE Scallop Dredge Fishery Exemption Area

- Vessels fishing for scallops in the Exemption Area under General Category or limited access vessels that have declared out of the DAS program, or used their DAS allocation may not fish for, possess on board, or land any species of fish other than Atlantic sea scallops
- The combined scallop dredge width in use or on board vessels fishing in the Exemption Area may not be greater than 10.5 ft (3.2 m), measured at the widest point in the bail of the dredge.
- With the exception of vessels fishing in the SNE Scallop Dredge Exemption area west of 72°30' W. long., the use of trawl gear is prohibited.
- May not fish in NLCA except as allowed under restrictions of Scallop Access Area Program (see General Category Fact Sheet 3). Vessels may transit with gear stowed (see gear stowage requirements below).
- Vessels may not fish for scallops in NLCA, but may transit with gear properly stowed (see gear stowage requirements below).

**MA EXEMPTION AREA**

The MA Exemption Area is that area bounded on the east by a line running from the Rhode Island shoreline at 41°18.2' N. lat. 71°55.5' W long. (Watch Hill, RI), southwesterly through Fishers Island, NY, to Race Point, Fishers Island, NY; southeasterly to the intersection of the 3-nautical mile line east of Montauk Point; southwesterly along the 3-nautical mile line to the intersection of 72°30' W. long; and south along that line to the intersection of the outer boundary of the EEZ

**Elephant Trunk Closed Area (ETCA)**

<u>Point</u>	<u>N. Latitude</u>	<u>W. Longitude</u>
ET1	38°50'	74°20'
ET2	38°10'	74°20'
ET3	38°10'	73°30'
ET4	38°50'	73°30'
ET1	38°50'	74°20'

General Category requirements for vessels fishing in the MA Scallop Exemption Area

- Vessels may possess on board, and land scallops and any other species, provided the vessel is issued the required Federal fisheries permits, and complies with all requirements applicable to each species, such as possession limits and minimum fish size.
- Combined scallop dredge width in use or on board vessels fishing in the MA Exemption Area may not be greater than 31 ft (9.4 m), measured at the widest point in the bail of the dredge.
- Vessels fishing for scallops in the MA Exemption Area under General Category or limited access vessels that have declared out of the DAS program, or used their DAS allocation may use trawl gear to harvest scallops. The sweep of the trawl net cannot exceed 144 ft (43.9 m). The sweep is measured by the length of the footrope that is directly attached to the webbing. The minimum mesh size for any scallop trawl gear is 5.5 inches (13.97 cm).
- As noted above no vessel may fish for scallop, or possess scallops while fishing for any species, in

the ETCA.

- Vessels may not fish for scallops in ETCA, but may transit with gear properly stowed (see gear stowage requirements below).

## GEAR STOWAGE REQUIREMENTS

To legally stow gear, a vessel must meet one or more of the following requirements:

### Scallop Dredges:

- The towing wire is detached from the scallop dredge, the towing wire is reeled up onto the winch, and the dredge is secured and covered so that it is rendered unusable for fishing.
- or**
- The towing wire is detached from the dredge and attached to a bright-colored poly ball no less than 24 inches (60.9 cm) in diameter, with the towing wire left in its normal operating position (through the various blocks) and either is wound back to the first block (in the gallows) or is suspended at the end of the lifting block where its retrieval does not present a hazard to the crew and where it is readily visible from above

### Trawl Gear:

- ***A net stowed below deck provided:*** It is located below the main working deck from which the net is deployed and retrieved; the towing wires, including the leg wires, are detached from the net; and it is fan-folded (flaked) and bound around its circumference.
- or**
- ***A net stowed and lashed down on deck, provided:*** It is fan-folded (flaked) and bound around its circumference; it is securely fastened to the deck or rail of the vessel; and the towing wires, including the leg wires, are detached from the net.
- or**
- ***On-reel stowage for vessels transiting the GOM Rolling Closure Areas and the GB Seasonal Closure Area*** - A net that is on a reel and is covered and secured, provided: the entire surface of the net is covered with canvas or other similar opaque material that is securely bound; the towing wires are detached from the doors; and no containment rope, codend tripping device, or other mechanism to close off the codend is attached to the codend.
- or**
- ***On-reel stowage for vessels transiting the Western GOM Closure Area, Cashes Ledge Closure Area, Closed Area I, Closed Area II, and the Nantucket Lightship Closed Area*** - A net that is on a reel and is covered and secured, provided: the entire surface of the net is covered with canvas or other similar opaque material that is securely bound; the towing wires are detached from the net; and the codend is removed and stored below deck.
- or**
- ***Nets that are secured in a manner authorized in writing by the Regional Administrator.***