



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
NORTHEAST REGION  
One Blackburn Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

March 12, 2008

### **Small Entity Compliance Guide**

Dear Scallop Permit Holder:

**This letter is to inform you that the Elephant Trunk Scallop Access Area (ETAA) is closed to general category scallop vessels effective 0001 hours, March 13, 2008.** This action is being taken in accordance with the Atlantic sea scallop regulations at 50 CFR 648.59(d)(5)(ii) to prevent the general category scallop fleet from exceeding trip allocations in the ETAA during the 2008 fishing year. The general category scallop fleet was allocated 865 trips in the ETAA for the 2008 fishing year.

Therefore, effective 0001 hours on March 13, 2008, no scallop vessel fishing under general category regulations may declare its intent to enter or fish in the ETAA.

Vessels that have complied with the observer notification requirements, have declared a trip into the ETAA using the correct Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) code, **and** have crossed the VMS demarcation line before 0001 hours on March 13, 2008, may complete their trip and retain and land scallops caught from the ETAA, consistent with existing regulations.

For questions about this closure, please call the Sustainable Fisheries Division at 978-281-9315.

This notice is authorized by the Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Region.

*You may also receive permit holder letters, including closure notices, by e-mail by clicking on "Permit Holder Letters" on our website at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>; or via fax by providing a fax number through a written request to the above address, or by faxing your request to 978-281-9135.<sup>1</sup>*

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul  
Regional Administrator

*This small entity compliance guide complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996.*

