



David E. Pierce
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

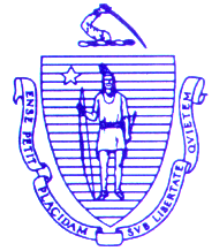
Division of Marine Fisheries

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September 30, 2016

Marine Fisheries Advisory

NORTHERN GULF OF MAINE STATE WATERS EXEMPTED SCALLOP FISHERY MEETING SCHEDULED

The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) will take public comment on a possible state waters exempted scallop fishery in the Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) scallop management area. A meeting is scheduled for:

5PM – 7PM

Thursday, October 20, 2016

Annisquam River Marine Fisheries Station

30 Emerson Ave., Gloucester, MA

DMF was petitioned to apply for a state waters exempted fishery in the NGOM scallop management area (Figure 1). The petition requests an allowance for both Limited Access General Category – Northern Gulf of Maine (LAGC-NGOM) and Limited Access General Category – Individual Fishing Quota (LAGC-IFQ) permit holders to continue fishing for scallops in the MA state waters portion of the NGOM after the NGOM TAC is harvested.

Federal regulations allow that “(a) state may be eligible for a state waters exemption if it has a scallop fishery and a scallop conservation program that does not jeopardize the biomass and fishing mortality/effort limit objectives of the Scallop FMP” (50 CFR §648.54(a)).

The Commonwealth’s primary scalloping grounds exist in Cape Cod Bay and along the backside of the Cape. A secondary state waters scallop fishery is conducted in Ipswich Bay, which is included in the NGOM scallop management area. DMF Statistical Areas 1-4 equate to the Massachusetts state waters portion of the NGOM (Figure 2).

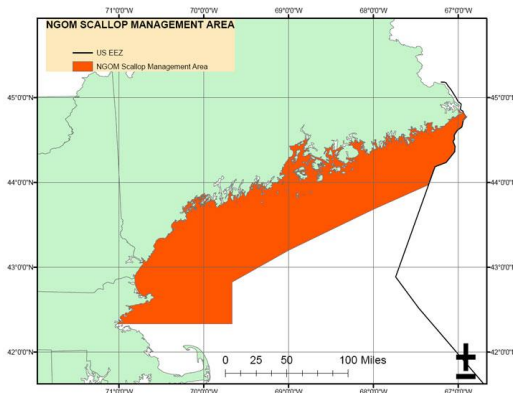


Figure 1. NGOM Scallop Management Area
(Source: greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov)

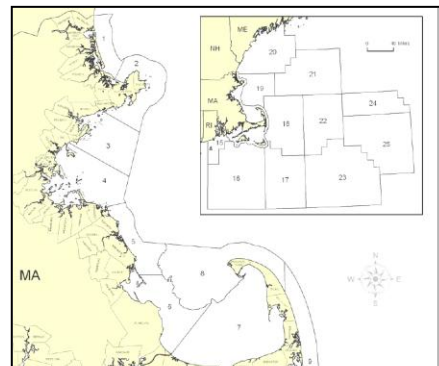


Figure 2. DMF Statistical Reporting Areas

DMF will consider all comments before making a final decision whether or not to submit a request to NMFS for a NGOM state waters exempted scallop fishery for the 2017 fishing year. Written comments will be accepted through Friday, October 21, 2016 at 5PM. All written comments should be addressed to Director David Pierce and can be sent by e-mail

(marine.fish@state.ma.us), fax (617-626-1509) or US Post (251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114).