



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

(617) 626-1520 | www.mass.gov/marinefisheries



MAURA T. HEALEY
Governor

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
Lt. Governor

REBECCA L. TEPPER
Secretary

THOMAS K. O'SHEA
Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

January 29, 2025

Marine Fisheries Advisory

Reminder on Rules Affecting State Waters Sea Scallop Fishing

As many commercial fishers are now shifting over towards targeting sea scallops with dredges, DMF reminds fishery participants to familiarize themselves with the [state's sea scallop dredging management guidelines](#) and [mobile gear closures](#). In combination, these documents describe the permitting requirements to participate in this fishery; the areas where sea scallop dredges may be fished; catch limits; catch reporting; the conditions under which whole shellstock may be retained, as opposed to only shucked meats; and how whole shellstock product must be tagged, handled, and transported. Compliance with these rules is strictly enforced.

Additionally, lawfully harvested sea scallops that are landed and offloaded in Massachusetts may be trucked by the commercial fisher to the seafood dealer facility for the primary sale. Entities that are landing sea scallops in another state's jurisdiction must adhere to that state's permitting and reporting requirements and also obtain a Wholesale Truck permit — jointly issued by the Division of Marine Fisheries and the Department of Public Health — to import this product into the Commonwealth for commercial purposes.

For more information on the management of commercial fisheries in Massachusetts, please visit our website: www.mass.gov/marinefisheries