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Marine Fisheries Advisory

DMF to Close Application Period for North Shore State Waters Sea Scallop Pilot Program

DMF is closing the application period for the North Shore State Waters Sea Scallop Pilot Program. No further applications will be accepted at this time. DMF has received and is processing more than 30 applications, and based on our initial analysis, there may be at least 25 eligible applicants. It is our judgment that accepting additional applicants will obscure the pilot nature of this program, limit DMF's ability to reasonably evaluate potential future regulatory action relative to sea scallop dredge fishing access opportunities, and increase the likelihood of a variety of user group conflicts.

If you have submitted an application, DMF staff is in the process of reviewing applications, determining eligibility, and reaching out to tentatively approved applicants who need to obtain a vessel tracking device. DMF anticipates Letters of Authorizations will be sent to qualified candidates by Friday, February 13 to enable the program to begin on Sunday, February 15 as initially intended. If you are an existing applicant with questions about the vessel tracking requirements, please email dmf.tracking@mass.gov or call 978-491-6265.

Please visit our website: www.mass.gov/marinefisheries