



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Marine Fisheries
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MarineFisheries Advisory

**2026 North Shore State Waters Sea Scallop Pilot Program to Conclude on May 1
and Update on Other North Shore Mobile Gear Fishing Exemption Areas**

Commercial fishers are reminded that today is the last day of the 2026 North Shore State Waters Sea Scallop Pilot Program. This pilot program was initiated this year to allow scallop dredging in two discrete areas within the Year-Round North Shore Mobile Gear Closure Area off Gloucester and in Salem Sound during the period of February 15 – April 30. These areas will revert to the closed status on May 1. Once fishing in this pilot program is terminated, participants may disengage their vessel trackers unless they are otherwise required to have an operable unit (e.g., a federal lobster trap permit is held on the vessel).

DMF will review the North Shore State Waters Sea Scallop Pilot Program Pilot Program with the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission later this year and determine if a similar allowance should be considered for 2027.

The Ipswich Bay Area 1B mobile gear exemption area will also close to scallop dredge and trawl fishing on May 1st. However, the Gloucester/Rockport Area 1A mobile gear exemption area will remain open to scallop dredges and trawl gear until May 15th or when the Director lifts the seasonal fixed gear closure, whichever occurs earlier. [Visit our website](#) to view DMF's mobile gear closure coordinates and maps.

Scallop dredge and trawl fishing may continue to occur in those waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth within Massachusetts Bay seaward of the both the Year-Round North Shore Mobile Gear Closure Area and the Area 2 Boston Harbor Mobile Gear Closure Area (refer to [map](#)). This area of Massachusetts Bay is open to mobile gear fishing year-round. If scallop dredge fishing occurs in these waters, all product harvested on that trip must be shucked and landed as adductor muscles only.

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