



SMAST-Industry Steering Committee



“Scientists and industry cooperating to conserve living marine resources” **DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES OCEANOGRAPHY · SCHOOL FOR MARINE SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY**

The Nantucket Lightship scallop access area will open to scallop harvesting in mid-June. SMAST and the SMAST Fishermen’s Steering Committee are concerned that this opening could shut down before the scallop target is caught because of yellowtail flounder by-catch. This has happened before in the Nantucket Lightship and Closed Area II scallop fisheries. We are proposing a yellowtail bycatch avoidance system where the scallop fleet voluntarily provides real-time yellowtail catch data to SMAST through email, then we compile the fleet information and email the locations of yellowtail “hotspots” back to the fleet.

We ask you and the entire fleet to participate, so we can provide the most accurate and timely information on yellowtail avoidance. Specifically, we have designed a grid in the Nantucket Lightship area with lettered cells. We are asking captains to record the cell where they are fishing, the number of tows in that cell and the pounds of yellowtail caught in the cell. The captains will tally the information once daily and email SMAST. SMAST will compile the information from all of the vessels and email back to the fleet where the highest and lowest bycatch has been recorded.

1: Map of the Nantucket Lightship access area with grid lines. These lines follow the 25 microsecond breaks on the 43000 and 13000 Loran lines. Each cell in the grid is lettered so you can identify which cell you are fishing in.

2: Example data sheet. On this sheet you would identify the letter of the grid cell you are in, the number of tows in that cell, and the total pounds of yellowtail flounder caught in that cell. You would compile this data for a full day, and then send the information to SMAST.

scallops@umassd.edu

3: Boatracs Email Authorization Worksheet. **Please fill out and return this form** so that you can receive emails from SMAST with the compiled yellowtail catch information. We will compile information from all active boats and send the hotspots back out to the fleet once daily.

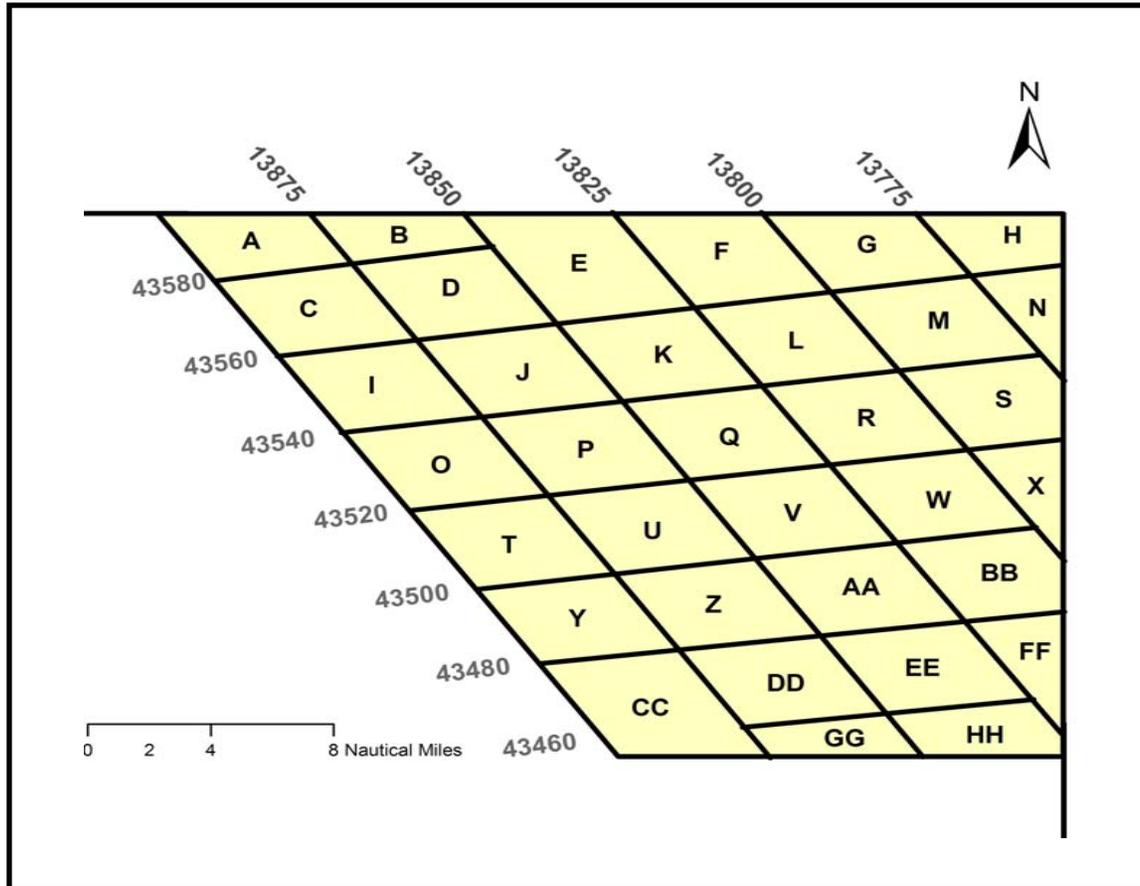
Return form to:

Cate O’Keefe
SMAST
200 Mill Road, Suite 325
Fairhaven, MA 02719

FAX: 508-910-6374
Email: cokeefe@umassd.edu
Phone: 508-910-6340

We hope that you will consider participating in the bycatch avoidance effort. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions. We will send a follow-up letter with more details prior to the fishery opening in mid-June.

Thank you for your support!



SMAST-Industry Nantucket Lightship Yellowtail Bycatch Avoidance

Date _____

CELL	# TOWS IN CELL	YELLOWTAIL LBS IN CELL



E-mail Authorization Worksheet

This form must be completed and signed before Boatracs will enable your e-mail services to and from the vessel(s)!

Company: _____

Vessel Name: _____ **MCT:** _____

_____ **Initial here** if you would like ALL SMAST e-mail available to be sent to and from the vessel (applies to scallops@umassd.edu only).

WARNING: The vessel owner will be responsible for charges incurred for any and all e-mails that are received by the vessels (including spam) if the ALL email option is selected.

Be sure to check the "TO BOAT," "FROM BOAT," boxes to indicate the direction of the permission. E-mail addresses without the direction box(es) checked will not be processed.

E-mail Addresses Allowed:

Specific e-mail address to be allowed permissions.	To Boat	From Boat
E-mail address: scallops@umassd.edu	X	X

E-mail Authorization Worksheet

If you need additional space for authorizations, please make copies of these sheets.

Please fill out the information below, and sign this form authorizing us to put the restrictions in place.

 Company Name **Vessel Email Address**

 Name and Position/Title (please print)

 Signature

**** MCT is the unit # found on the bottom of the keyboard, bottom of the message board or on the bill**