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Marine Fisheries Advisory

**SMAST LAUNCHES BYCATCH AVOIDANCE SYSTEM IN  
NANTUCKET LIGHTSHIP SCALLOP ACCESS AREA**

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The Nantucket Lightship scallop access area was opened to scallop harvesting on Monday, June 28th at 12:01 a.m. The School for Marine Science & Technology (SMAST) at the University of Massachusetts - Dartmouth and the SMAST Fishermen's Steering Committee are concerned that this opening could shut down before the scallop target is reached because of yellowtail flounder bycatch. This has happened before in the Nantucket Lightship and Closed Area II scallop fisheries. SMAST has devised a yellowtail bycatch avoidance system wherein the scallop fleet voluntarily provides real-time yellowtail catch data through email, and SMAST compiles the fleet information and emails the locations of yellowtail "hotspots" back to the fleet.

For further information please visit the SMAST website at <http://www.smast.umassd.edu>.