



NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE



For more information on the
Scallop General Category IFQ
Program:

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/hotnews/scallamend11/indexamend11.html>

Catch Share Spotlight No. 15

Scallop General Category IFQ Program

Vital Stats

First year: 2010

Type of Catch Share Program: IFQ

Management units: Mid-Atlantic, Gulf of Maine, and U.S. Georges Bank; with area closures.

Vessels / Gear types: Scallop dredges; otter trawls.

Available Trend Data

Season length: *Before Program*--- year-round, with possession limits

Ex-vessel value: *Before Program*--- (2007) About \$28M (price \$6.91/lb) [2007 total scallop fishery value: \$407,755,656 (price \$6.95/lb)]

Stock status: *Before Program*--- Overfishing: NO; Overfished: NO

Nature of Harvest Privilege

Eligibility: The application period for limited access general category (LAGC) scallop permits closed on August 30, 2008. The process of qualifying IFQ vessels was concluded in January 2010. No additional LAGC scallop vessels may enter the fishery unless the vessel replaces another vessel that qualifies for an LAGC scallop permit.

IFQ permits: A vessel was eligible to be issued a LAGC IFQ scallop permit if it met the following criteria:

- 1) The vessel landed at least 1,000 lb (454 kg) of scallop meats in any fishing year between March 1, 2000, and November 1, 2004, and
- 2) A general category scallop permit had been issued to the vessel during the fishing year in which the landings were made.

Other LAGC permits: Vessels that did not qualify for an IFQ scallop permit could apply for and be issued a LAGC Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) or Incidental scallop permit. A vessel qualified for the NGOM or Incidental scallop permit if it was issued a valid general category scallop permit as of November 1, 2004. There were no landings eligibility criteria for these permits.

Initial IFQ Allocation: An IFQ scallop vessel is allocated a percentage of the IFQ scallop fishery scallop catch based on its best year of scallop landings and the number of fishing years it was active between March 1, 2000, and November 1, 2004. The vessel's IFQ is calculated each year by applying its percent share to the total allowable catch (TAC) for the applicable year.

Duration: The program is indefinite with modifications or elimination through the normal Council process.

Transferability: General Category scallop IFQ may be temporarily or permanently transferred from one IFQ scallop vessel to another IFQ scallop vessel. A transfer of an IFQ must comply with accumulation restrictions. The Regional Administrator has final approval authority for all IFQ transfers.

Accumulation: A vessel issued an IFQ scallop permit may not be allocated more than 2 percent of the total allowable catch (TAC) allocated to the fleet of vessels issued IFQ scallop permits. In addition, an individual may not have ownership interest in more than 5 percent of the TAC allocated to the fleet.

Management

Identified Costs: NA

Cost recovery: Up to 3 percent of the ex-vessel value of IFQ scallop landings will be collected by NMFS to offset the cost of managing, enforcing, and implementing the IFQ program, as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Monitoring: All IFQ scallop vessels are required to operate an on-board vessel monitoring system (VMS) and are required to submit scallop catch reports on each trip. These catch reports, along with dealer records of scallop landings, will be used to monitor each vessel's landings relative to its IFQ.

Summary

The U.S. Atlantic sea scallop fishery is one of the most valuable fisheries in the United States and the most valuable wild scallop fishery in the world. The general category scallop fishery was historically an open access fishery, allowing any vessel to fish for up to 400 lb of Atlantic sea scallops provided the vessel had been issued a general category or limited access scallop permit. Over time, participation in the general category fishery increased. In 1994, there were 1,992 general category permits issued, and 181 general category vessels that landed scallops. By 2005 that number had increased to 2,950 general category permits, of which more than 600 vessels made landings. Out of concern about the level of fishing effort and harvest from the general category scallop fleet, the New England Fishery Management Council began considering limiting entry to the general category scallop fishery. In January 2006, the Council began the development of Amendment 11 to evaluate alternatives for a limited access program and other measures for general category vessels. The Council held 35 public meetings on Amendment 11 between January 2006 and June 2007. After considering a wide range of issues, alternatives, and public input, Amendment 11 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP) was adopted by the Council in June 2007.

Amendment 11 created three new categories of LAGC permits: the IFQ; NGOM; and incidental catch scallop permits. Amendment 11 also divided the entire scallop fishery allocation, with the limited access "days-at-sea" (DAS) fleet receiving 94.5 percent, the IFQ fleet receiving 5 percent, and limited access DAS vessels that also qualified for an IFQ permit receiving 0.5 percent (to harvest while not fishing under DAS). Amendment 11 also included a mechanism to allow owners of IFQ scallop vessels to form voluntary cooperatives or sectors that could manage their own fishing activity as a group. The NGOM and Incidental permits are designed to facilitate participation for members of the fleet that did not qualify for the IFQ permit. Amendment 11 established the NGOM Scallop Management Area with a separate total allowable catch and area-specific management measures. It took 2 years to complete the process of determining IFQ eligibilities and allocations, with the IFQ program fully implemented in March 2010.



For additional Catch Share
Spotlights in this series go to:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/catchshares>

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