

JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGE
ATLANTIC SEA SCALLOP AMENDMENT 15 CATCH REPORTING
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0491

Currently, vessels fishing for scallops in scallop rotational access areas (access areas) are required to submit daily reports of scallops kept and yellowtail flounder caught through the vessel monitoring system (VMS). Under Amendment 15 Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (Scallop FMP), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposed to expand the daily catch reporting requirement to scallop trips in all fishing areas.

Comments on this change were solicited in the proposed rule for MSB Specifications for the 2011 Fishing Year, Regulation Identifier Number (RIN) 0648-BA71. There were no comments on the proposed change.

DESCRIPTION

Under Amendment 15, vessels must submit daily VMS catch reports for all declared scallop trips. As it does currently, this provision will apply to vessels issued a limited access scallop permit, limited access general category (LAGC) individual fishing quota (IFQ) scallop permit, or LAGC Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) scallop permit.

There will be 620 affected vessels affected by the change, the same number of vessels currently affected under OMB Control No. 0648-0491 for the existing catch report. There are an estimated 27,500 days of fishing total for all affected vessels, and thus 27,500 would be the new total daily catch report total. Currently, OMB Control No. 0648-0491 estimates 10,000 submissions of the daily catch report. With 27,500 reports under the expanded catch report requirement, there is a total increase of 28 reports per vessel (increase of 17,500 reports divided by 620 vessels). At 2 minutes per response, the increase in time per vessel would be 56 minutes per vessel, or 584 hours. The cost increase per vessel would be \$22.12 (28 reports * \$0.79 per report), for a total cost increase of \$13,825.