

IHA expires and a second IHA would allow for completion of the activities beyond that described in the Dates and Duration section, provided all of the following conditions are met:

- A request for renewal is received no later than 60 days prior to expiration of the current IHA;

- The request for renewal must include the following:

- (1) An explanation that the activities to be conducted beyond the initial dates either are identical to the previously analyzed activities or include changes so minor (*e.g.*, reduction in pile size) that the changes do not affect the previous analyses, take estimates, or mitigation and monitoring requirements; and

- (2) A preliminary monitoring report showing the results of the required monitoring to date and an explanation showing that the monitoring results do not indicate impacts of a scale or nature not previously analyzed or authorized; and

- Upon review of the request for renewal, the status of the affected species or stocks, and any other pertinent information, NMFS determines that there are no more than minor changes in the activities, the mitigation and monitoring measures remain the same and appropriate, and the original findings remain valid.

Dated: February 26, 2019.

**Catherine Marzin,**

*Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Category boats from other regions. From 2008 through the end of fishing year 2017, Limited Access vessels were able to operate in the NGOM management area under days-at-sea (DAS) management as long as the LAGC TAC had not been caught. The initial measures were intended to allow directed scallop fishing in the NGOM, and the Council envisioned that management of this area would be reconsidered if the scallop population and fishery in the NGOM grew in the future.

From 2009–2015 the NGOM TAC of 70,000 lbs was not caught, and the fishery remained open for the entire year. In fishing year 2016 and fishing year 2017 there was a notable increase in effort in the NGOM management area by both LAGC and Limited Access vessels fishing the large year class of scallops on Stellwagen Bank. Monitoring removals by the Limited Access component in the NGOM was challenging because vessels could fish both inside and outside NGOM management area while fishing DAS on the same trip.

In response to the increase in effort and landings in the NGOM area in 2016 and 2017, the Council developed a problem statement for the Federal scallop fishery in the NGOM management area:

Recent high landings and unknown biomass in the NGOM Scallop Management Area underscore the critical need to initiate surveys and develop additional tools to better manage the area and fully understand total removals.

Recent actions have developed measures that allow managers to track fishing effort and landings by all components from the NGOM management area. The NGOM TAC is now based on recent survey information, with separate TACs for the Limited Access and LAGC components. These measures are intended to be a short-term solution to allow controlled fishing in the NGOM management area until a future action (this action) could be developed to address NGOM issues more holistically.

#### *LAGC IFQ Possession Limits*

The initial General Category possession limit was set at 400 pounds

per trip through Amendment 4 (59 FR 2757; January 19, 1994). In 2007, Amendment 11 maintained the General Category possession limit of 400 pounds for qualifying IFQ vessels. Amendment 15 (76 FR 43746; July 21, 2

Date and time	Location
New Bedford, MA, Wednesday, March 20, 2019, 6 p.m.–8 p.m.	Waypoint Event Center, 185 MacArthur Drive, New Bedford, MA 02740, Telephone: (774) 634–2099.
Chatham, MA, Thursday, March 21, 2019, 6 p.m.–8 p.m.	Chatham Community Center, 702 Main Street, Chatham, MA 02633, Telephone: (508) 945–5175.
Webinar, Friday, March 22, 2019, 10 a.m.–noon	<a href="https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8181759988548273922">https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8181759988548273922</a> . After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.
Hampton, VA, Monday, March 25, 2019, 6:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.	Embassy Suites, 1700 Coliseum Drive, Hampton, VA 23666, Telephone: (757) 827–8200.
Cape May, NJ, Tuesday, March 26, 2019, 6:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.	Grand Hotel of Cape May, 1045 Beach Avenue, Cape May, NJ 08204, Telephone: (609) 884–5611.
Manahawkin, NJ, Wednesday, March 27, 2019, 10 a.m.–11:30 a.m.	Holiday Inn, 151 Route 72 West, Manahawkin, NJ 08050, Telephone: (609) 481–6100.
Gloucester, MA, Wednesday, April 3, 2019, 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.	Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, 30 Emerson Ave., Gloucester, MA 01930, Telephone: (978) 282–0308.

### Special Accommodations

The meetings are accessible to people with physical disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Thomas A. Nies (see **ADDRESSES**) at least five days prior to meeting dates.