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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
MARINE RESOURCES LABORATORY
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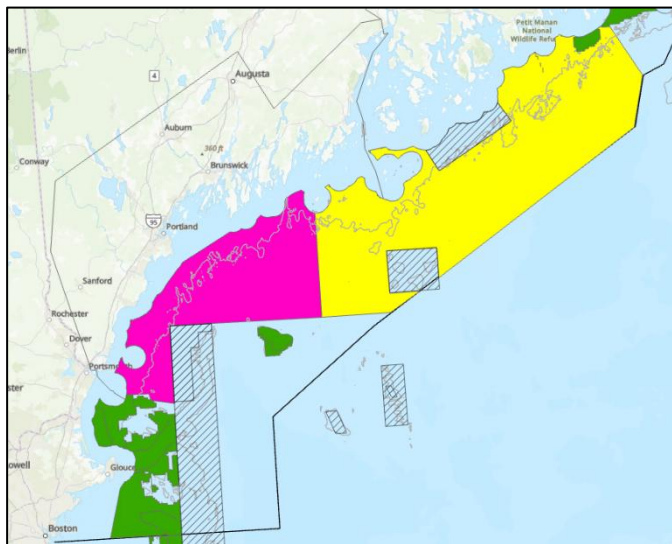
CARL J. WILSON
COMMISSIONER

Seeking NGOM Scallop Industry Participants for Exploratory Fishing Opportunity

The Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) is seeking interested Federal scallop fleet members to conduct exploratory fishing in particular portions of the Northern Gulf of Maine scallop management area (NGOM) to improve the general public understanding of the scallop resource in this area.

Four qualified scallop vessels will be randomly selected from the pool of qualified applications. The selected vessels will be expected to conduct up to 4 exploratory fishing days in either the western exploratory area (from the Isle of Shoals to Monhegan: Pink) or the eastern exploratory region (between Monhegan and Jonesport: Yellow). Selected vessels will each be allocated a total of 800 lbs of 2026 NGOM RSA. The exploratory fishing will occur during the harvest of the RSA pounds prior to June 30th, 2027. During exploratory fishing, vessels will be expected to provide the DMR Scallop Program with a continuous GPS track, tow start and end times, depth, comments on the bottom type, total scallop catch in bushels and estimated meat pounds, shell measurements of a sample of the scallops, and comments of the bycatch. It will be expected that each fishing day, the vessel explores different fishing grounds. Once the exploratory fishing trips have been completed and data provided to the DMR, the vessels will be allocated an additional 600 lbs of RSA compensation fishing for south 42° 20' to be harvested in accordance with the permit from NOAA. Any unharvested NGOM RSA allocation can be harvested at the vessel's discretion in accordance with the NOAA permit. The vessels will provide the DMR with 25% of the landed value of the compensation pounds, and all appropriate paperwork, to help support the dredge survey in the priority areas of NGOM. The list of the qualifications and information on how to submit is on the following page.

All information collected as part of this project will be utilized to improve the management of the scallop resource in NGOM.



Map of the NGOM exploratory fishing areas in the federal waters of the Gulf of Maine. The western area, shown in pink, ranges from the Isle of Shoals to Monhegan. The eastern region ranges from Monhegan to Jonesport, shown in yellow. Selected vessels will not be required to cover the entire area but are encouraged to cover as much area as possible. The green shaded areas are the priority areas of the DMR scallop dredge survey.

Requirements:

- **Valid federal permit to harvest scallops in NGOM**
- **Be willing to meet the data collection requirements stated above**
- **Be willing to follow the requirements of the RSA compensation program and submit copies of all landings slips to the department**
- **No major federal or Maine State scallop fisheries violation history for the most recent 7 years at the discretion of the ME DMR commissioner**
- **Valid coast guard commercial fishing safety sticker**

How to Submit:

1. Complete the submission form below
2. Collect additional documents to attach demonstrating experience fishing in these areas or participating in management
3. Submit all materials by **Oct 15th, 2026**, either via mail, electronically or in person to
Carlton Huntsberger
194 McKown Point RD
PO Box 8 West Boothbay Harbor 04575
carlton.j.huntsberger@maine.gov 207-350-6004.

Selection Process:

- Submissions will be reviewed for completeness and to ensure the requirements are met.
 - Incomplete submissions will be returned and have a week from the deadline to resubmit
- Qualified submissions who do not have experience fishing in this area and who have not participated in recent management meetings will have one raffle entry submitted for each exploratory area they have selected.
- Qualified submissions which have demonstrated experience fishing in the selected area will have three additional entries entered for each qualified area. If the department does not have enough information for this determination they will contact the applicant via phone for clarification.
- Qualified submissions which have demonstrated their participation in recent management will have one additional entry entered for each selected area.
- The list of qualified submissions will be provided to the Maine Department of Marine Resources Headquarters Finance division for the random selection of two permit holders for each exploratory area. If a permit holder is selected for both areas, they will be contacted for them to select their preferred area, then a replacement will be selected for the other area.
- Selected permit holders will have 30 days from receipt of a memorandum of understanding from the department to sign and return the memorandum of understanding to participate in this work or a new permit holder will be selected and offered the opportunity.
- If needed a replacement permit holder can be selected as appropriate.

Submission For NGOM Exploratory Fishing

Name:

Address:

Phone #:

Email:

Federal Operator
Permit Number:

Vessel Permit
Number:

Vessel Name:

Registered Port:

Do you understand and agree to follow the data collection requirements on the solicitation?

Do you have any scallop violations in the past 7 years?

Select which area/areas you are applying for (note both can be selected): Eastern ☐ Western ☐

Describe your experience fishing in these exploratory areas (please send screen shots of chart plotters or other documentation): If clarification is required for meeting this requirement you will be contacted

Have you participated in any council meetings in the past 2 years regarding the management of NGOM: Please attach any supporting documents or information.