



SMAST Yellowtail Flounder Bycatch Avoidance Program



Dear Scallop Fleet Member:

February 18, 2013

SMAST is expanding the Yellowtail Bycatch Avoidance Program for fishing year 2013 to include open areas and access areas on Georges Bank and in Southern New England.

We have enclosed maps of open areas on Georges Bank showing the distribution of scallops from the SMAST scallop video survey, and yellowtail bycatch distribution from the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program.

Beginning on March 1, 2013 we will provide real-time communication on the location of yellowtail flounder bycatch hotspots to help captains avoid areas of high yellowtail bycatch while catching scallops.

We're asking the entire fleet to participate, so we can provide the most accurate and timely information on yellowtail bycatch. Enclosed is the information and instructions needed to participate.

1. If you haven't done so already, **please fill out and return the Boatracs Email Authorization Worksheet** to:

Cate O'Keefe
SMAST
200 Mill Road, Suite 325
Fairhaven, MA 02719

FAX: 508-910-6374
Email: cokeefe@umassd.edu
Phone: 508-910-6340

2. Instruction sheet for sending and receiving data.

3. Grid maps of Open Area fishing grounds using the 50 microsecond breaks on the 43000 and 13000 Loran lines. Each cell in the grid is lettered so you can identify where you are fishing.

4. Data sheets. On this sheet identify the letter of the grid cell you are fishing in, the number of tows in that cell, and the total pounds of yellowtail flounder and scallops caught in that cell. Compile this data for a full day, and report data one time in a 24 hour period.

We hope that you will consider participating in the bycatch avoidance effort. Please do not hesitate to contact **Cate O'Keefe (508-910-6340, cokeefe@umassd.edu)** or **Greg DeCelles (508 910-6393, gdecelles@umassd.edu)** with any questions.

Thank you for your support!



2013 SMAST BYCATCH AVOIDANCE



INSTRUCTION SHEET FOR SENDING AND RECEIVING DATA

1. **Locate your position** on the grid map.
2. **Record the letter of the cell you are fishing in and the pounds of yellowtail flounder and scallops** caught during each tow on the provided data collection worksheets.

- If you cross a line during a single tow, record the cell where the most fishing effort occurred.

3. **Tally the tows** made in each cell and add up the yellowtail pounds and scallop pounds for that cell.

- For example:

Cell	#Tows	Lbs Yellowtail	Lbs Scallops
S	4	85	1200
X	3	42	900

This shows that cell S had 4 tows with 85 total pounds of yellowtail and 1200 total pounds of scallops; cell X had 3 tows with 42 total pounds of yellowtail and 900 total pounds of scallops.

** As a weight guide: legal sized yellowtail are 13" and above. Undersized fish weigh an average of 0.5 lbs. Legal sized fish weigh approximately 1.0 lbs.**

4. **Report your catch** once per day (1 time in a 24 hour period).

BOATRACS: Use **code 15** to access the Macro on your Boatracs unit. The Macro has been designed to make bycatch reporting faster and easier for vessel captains.

- **Step 1:** Enter the area where you are fishing.
(1 = Closed Area One, 2 = Closed Area Two, 3 = Nantucket Lightship, 4 = North Open, 5 = South Open)
- **Step 2:** Use the table in the Macro to record the grid cell, number of tows, and pounds of yellowtail and scallops. Use a separate line for each grid cell you fish in.

SKYMATE: Email the daily catch reports to SMAST (same method used in 2012):

scallops@umassd.edu

5. SMAST will retrieve all data reports at 8:00am and compile information. **You will receive a daily email by 12:00pm from SMAST showing LOW, MEDIUM, and HIGH concentrations of yellowtail for each cell that is fished.** All vessel information remains confidential.

****Reporting scallop catch is very important to ensure open area bycatch hotspots are accurate****



E-mail Authorization Worksheet

This form must be completed and signed before Boatracs will enable your e-mail services to and from the vessel(s)!

Company: _____

Vessel Name: _____ **MCT:** _____

Vessel Email: _____

WARNING: The vessel owner will be responsible for charges incurred for any and all e-mails that are received by the vessels from SMAST.

E-mail Addresses Allowed:

Specific e-mail address to be allowed permissions.	To Boat	From Boat
E-mail address: scallops@umassd.edu	X	X

If you need additional space for authorizations, please make copies of these sheets.

Please fill out the information below, and sign this form authorizing us to put the restrictions in place.

Name and Position/Title (please print)

Signature

**** MCT is the unit # which is found by pressing the view status button, then pressing the down arrow button once. It is located at the top of that screen next to unit serial number, on the dome or on the bill.**







