

(i) The vessel has been issued an allowed gear permit (AGP) under paragraph (a)(4)(i) of this section and is fishing with pot gear, traps, longline gear, or any other gear determined by the Regional Administrator as unlikely to interfere with the sea scallop aquaculture research project in the Sea Scallop Experimental Area; or

(ii) The vessel has been issued an experimental fishing permit (EFP) under paragraph (a)(4)(i) of this section to participate in the sea scallop aquaculture research project in the Sea Scallop Experimental Area.

(3) *Transiting.* Vessels that are not exempted from the prohibition against transiting and fishing in the Sea Scallop Experimental Area under paragraph (a)(2) of this section may transit such area provided that their gear is stowed in accordance with the provisions of § 648.81(e).

(4) *Allowed gear and experimental fishing permits—(i) Allowed gear permits.* The Regional Administrator may issue an AGP to any vessel to fish within the Sea Scallop Experimental Area with the gear specified in paragraph (a)(2)(i) of this section. Vessels receiving AGPs may be required to move their gear within, or remove their gear from, the area upon notification by the Regional Administrator and must comply with any additional restrictions specified in the permit.

(ii) *Experimental fishing permits.* The Regional Administrator may issue an EFP under the provisions of § 648.12, and consistent with paragraph (a)(4)(iv) of this section, to any vessel participating in the sea scallop aquaculture research project to engage in any of the following activities; fish in the Sea Scallop Experimental Area; use fishing gear that does not conform to the regulations; possess scallops when not fishing under a DAS allocation; use up to an additional 2 DAS per year when collecting and transporting undersized scallops to the Sea Scallop Experimental Area; and do any other activity necessary to project operations for which an exemption from regulatory provision is required. Vessels issued an EFP must comply with all conditions and restrictions specified in the permit.

(iii) A vessel with an AGP or EFP must carry the permit on board the vessel while fishing in the Sea Scallop Experimental Area or participating in the scallop aquaculture project.

(iv) The Regional Administrator may not issue an AGP or EFP unless he determines that issuance is consistent with the objectives of the FMP, the provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and other applicable law and will not:

(A) Have a detrimental effect on the sea scallop resource and fishery;

(B) Create significant enforcement problems; or

(C) Have a detrimental effect on the scallop project.

(5) *Application.* An application for an AGP or EFP must be in writing to the Regional Administrator and be submitted at least 30 days before the desired effective date of the permit. The application must include, but is not limited to, the following information:

(i) The date of application.

(ii) The applicant's name, current address, telephone number and fax number, if applicable.

(iii) The current vessel name, owner address, and telephone number.

(iv) The vessel's Federal permit number.

(v) The USCG documentation number.

(vi) The species (target and incidental) expected to be harvested.

(vii) The gear type, size, buoy colors, trap identification markings and amount of gear that will be used; and exact time(s) fishing will take place in the Sea Scallop Experimental Area.

(viii) The signature of the applicant.

(b) [Reserved]

[63 FR 45940, Aug. 28, 1998]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 63 FR 45940, Aug. 28, 1998, § 648.56 was added, effective Aug. 28, 1998 through Feb. 28, 2000.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 63 FR 15326, Mar. 31, 1998, § 648.57 was added, effective Apr. 3, 1998 through Sept. 27, 1998. At 63 FR 51862, Sept. 29, 1998, the effectiveness of § 648.57 was extended through Mar. 26, 1999.

§ 648.57 Closed areas.

(a) *Hudson Canyon South Closed Area.* No vessel may fish for, possess, or retain sea scallops in or from the area known as the Hudson Canyon South

Fishery Conservation and Management

§ 648.70

Closed Area (copies of a chart depicting this area are available from the Regional Administrator upon request) unless all gear on board is properly stowed and not available for immediate use in accordance with the provisions of §648.23(b) and §648.81(e). Further, vessels not fishing in the scallop DAS program and fishing for species other than scallops or not in possession of scallops in this area must stow scallop dredge gear in accordance with the provisions of §§648.23(b) and 648.81(e). The Hudson Canyon South Closed Area is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

Point	Latitude	Longitude
H1	39°30' N.	73°10' W.
H2	39°30' N.	72°30' W.
H3	38°30' N.	73°30' W.
H4	38°40' N.	73°50' W.

(b) *Virginia Beach Closed Area.* No vessel may fish for, possess, or retain sea scallops in or from the area known as the Virginia Beach Closed Area (copies of a chart depicting this area are available from the Regional Administrator upon request) unless all gear on board is properly stowed and not available for immediate use in accordance with the provisions of §648.23(b) and §648.81(e). Further, vessels not fishing in the scallop DAS program and fishing for species other than scallops or not in possession of scallops in this area must stow scallop dredge gear in accordance with the provisions of §§648.23(b) and 648.81(e). The Virginia Beach Closed Area is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

Point	Latitude	Longitude
V1	37°00' N.	74°55' W.
V2	37°00' N.	74°35' W.
V3	36°25' N.	74°45' W.
V4	36°25' N.	74°55' W.

Subpart E—Management Measures for the Atlantic Surf Clam and Ocean Quahog Fisheries

§648.70 Annual individual allocations.

(a) *General.* (1) For each fishing year, the Regional Administrator shall determine the allocation of surf clams

and ocean quahogs for each vessel owner issued an allocation for the preceding fishing year, by multiplying the quotas specified for each species by the Regional Administrator under §648.71 by the allocation percentage, specified for that owner on the allocation permit for the preceding fishing year, adjusted to account for any transfer pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section. These allocations shall be made in the form of an allocation permit specifying for each species the allocation percentage and the allocation in bushels. Such permits shall be issued on or before December 15, to the registered holders who were assigned an allocation by November 1. The total number of bushels of allocation shall be divided by 32 to determine the appropriate number of cage tags to be issued or acquired under §648.75. Amounts of allocation 0.5 or smaller created by this division shall be rounded downward to the nearest whole number and amounts of allocation greater than 0.5 created by this division shall be rounded upward to the nearest whole number so that allocations are specified in whole cages. An allocation permit is only valid for the entity for which it is issued.

(2) The Regional Administrator may, after publication of a fee notification in the FEDERAL REGISTER, charge a permit fee before issuance of the permit to recover administrative expenses. Failure to pay the fee will preclude issuance of the permit.

(b) *Transfers*—(1) *Allocation percentage.* Subject to the approval of the Regional Administrator, part or all of an allocation percentage may be transferred, in amounts equivalent to not less than 160 bu (8,500 L) (i.e., 5 cages) in the year in which the transfer is made, to any person eligible to own a documented vessel under the terms of 46 U.S.C. 12102(a). Approval of a transfer by the Regional Administrator and for a new allocation permit reflecting that transfer may be requested by submitting a written application for approval of the transfer and for issuance of a new allocation permit to the Regional Administrator at least 10 days before the date on which the applicant desires the transfer to be effective, in the form of a completed transfer log