SMAST Yellowtail Flounder Bycatch Avoidance Program

Dear Scallop Fleet: 1 July 2011

The Closed Area I and II scallop access areas are scheduled to open soon, but the official opening date has not been announced by NMFS yet. The Total Allowable Catch of yellowtail from these areas combined is ~313,000lbs. If the yellowtail TAC is reached, both areas will close to scallop fishing. SMAST and the SMAST Fishermen's Steering Committee have designed a program to help the fleet avoid yellowtail bycatch and to land more scallops from the Closed Areas.

We enclosed maps of the areas showing the distribution of scallops from the SMAST scallop video survey and the ratio of yellowtail flounder bycatch to scallops from the VIMS dredge survey in Closed Area II. We hope these maps can be useful for the fleet to harvest scallops while avoiding yellowtail.

We will also provide real-time communication on the location of yellowtail flounder bycatch that is based on daily reports from captains. We will compile the fleet information and email the locations of yellowtail "hotspots" back to the fleet the next day to help captains avoid hotspots of yellowtail while catching their trip limit of scallops.

We ask you and the entire fleet to participate, so we can provide the most accurate and timely information on yellowtail bycatch in order to maximize the scallop catch. 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**:**

<div style="color:red">

Cate O'Keefe

SMAST   **FAX: 508-910-6374**

200 Mill Road, Suite 325   **Email: cokeefe@umassd.edu**

Fairhaven, MA 02719   **Phone: 508-910-6340**

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Make sure you include the MCT number of your Boatracs unit. It can be found on the bottom of the keyboard, the bottom of the message screen or on your billing statement.

2. Instruction sheet for sending and receiving data.

3. Grid maps of Closed Areas 1 and 2 access areas using the 25 microsecond breaks on the 43000 and 13000 Loran lines. Each cell in the grid is lettered so you can identify which cell you are fishing in.

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 optionally scallops caught in that cell. Compile this data for a full day, and then send the information to SMAST 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!

SmAST
The School for Marine Science and Technology
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

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:** _____

_____**Initial here** if you would like ALL SMAST e-mail available to be sent to and from the vessel (applies to scallops@umassd.edu only).

WARNING: The vessel owner will be responsible for charges incurred for any and all e-mails that are received by the vessels (including spam) if the ALL email option is selected.

Be sure to check the "TO BOAT," "FROM BOAT," boxes to indicate the direction of the permission. E-mail addresses without the direction box(es) checked will not be processed.

E-mail Addresses Allowed:

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

E-mail Authorization Worksheet

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.
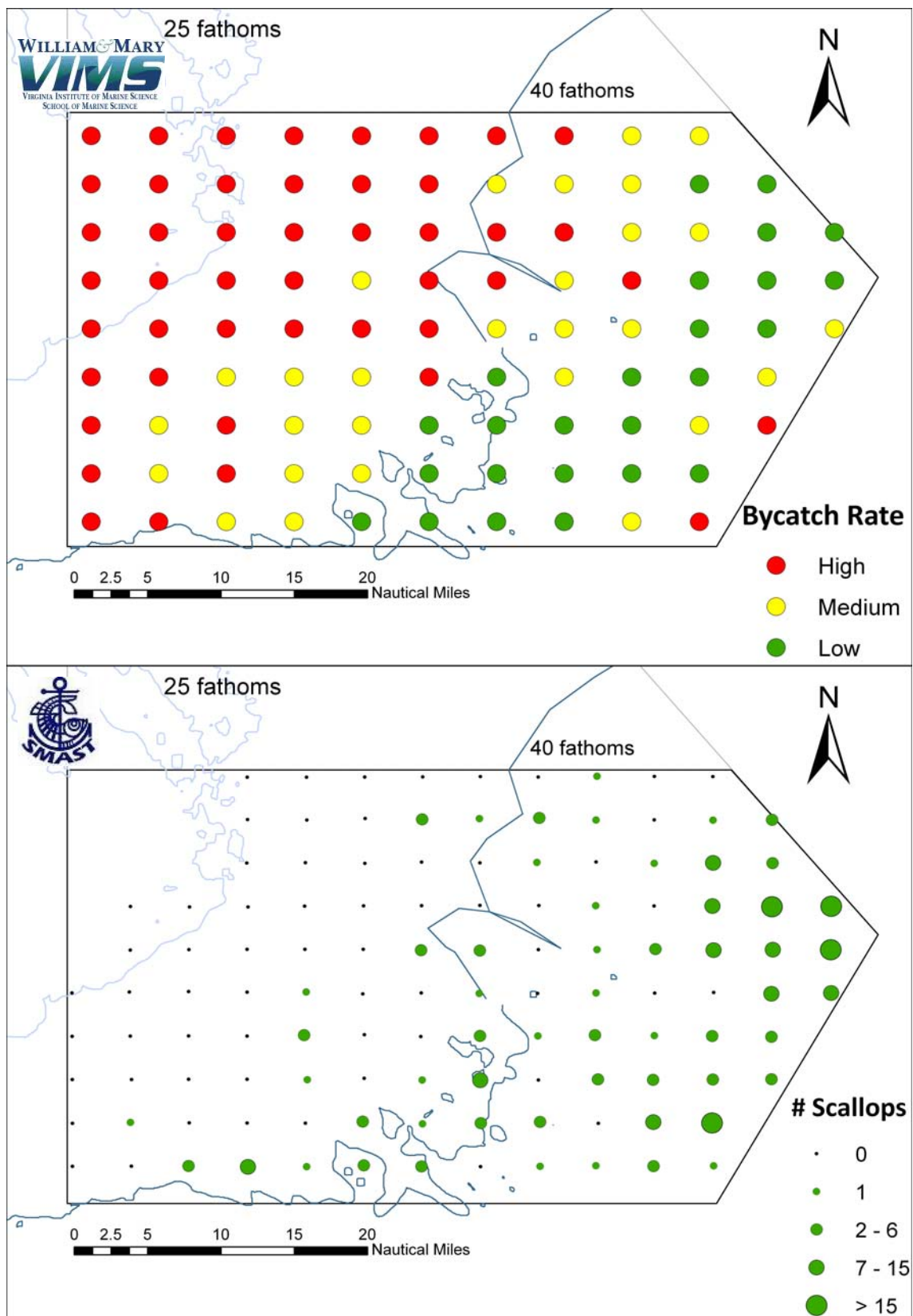
_____
Company Name

Vessel Email Address

_____
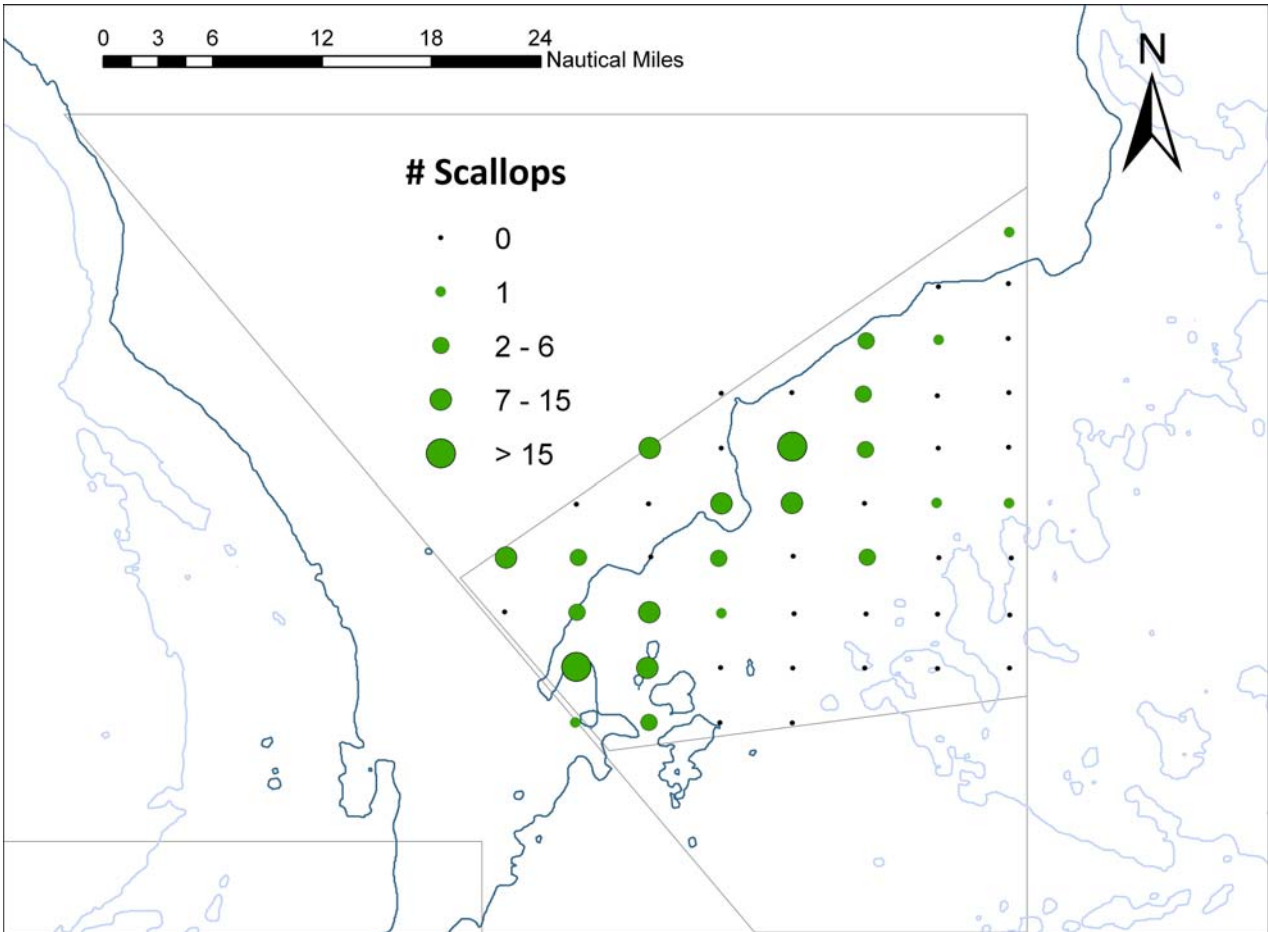Name and Position/Title (please print)

_____
Signature

** MCT is the unit # found on the bottom of the keyboard, bottom of the message board or on the bill

Closed Area 2

Closed Area 1

SMAST BYCATCH AVOIDANCE

2011 CLOSED AREA I AND II YELLOWTAIL AVOIDANCE

INSTRUCTION SHEET FOR SENDING AND RECEIVING DATA

1. Locate your position on the grid map of Closed Area I or II.

2. Record the letter of the cell you are fishing in and the pounds of yellowtail flounder and scallops caught during each tow.

- Fill out a separate sheet every day.

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

3. Tally the total tows made in each cell and add up the total yellowtail and total scallops for that cell.

- For example:	Cell	#Tows	Lbs Yellowtail	Lbs Scallops
	S1	4	85	1200
	X1	3	42	900

This shows that cell S1 had 4 tows with 85 total pounds of yellowtail and 1200 total pounds of scallops; cell X1 had 3 tows with 42 total pounds of yellowtail and 900 total pounds of scallops.
Providing scallop catch information is optional

- 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. Email the information to SMAST once per day (1 time in a 24 hour period):

scallops@umassd.edu

- Email the area you are fishing on the first day of the trip (i.e. CA1 or CA2).

5. SMAST will retrieve emails 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. If vessels fish in areas of low yellowtail concentration, the fishery has a better chance of harvesting all allocated scallops before the yellowtail TAC is reached.

CLOSED AREA 1
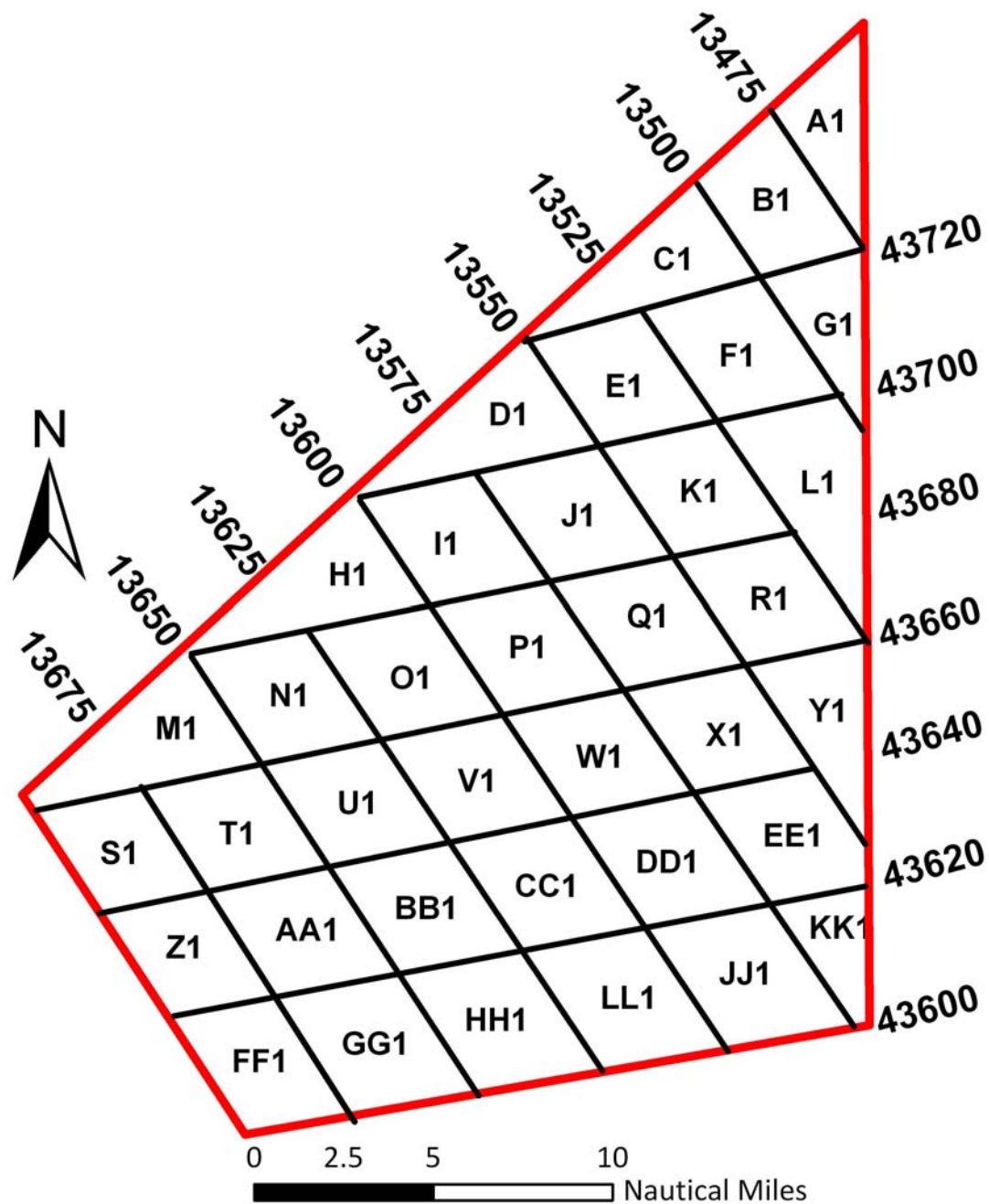
CLOSED AREA 2
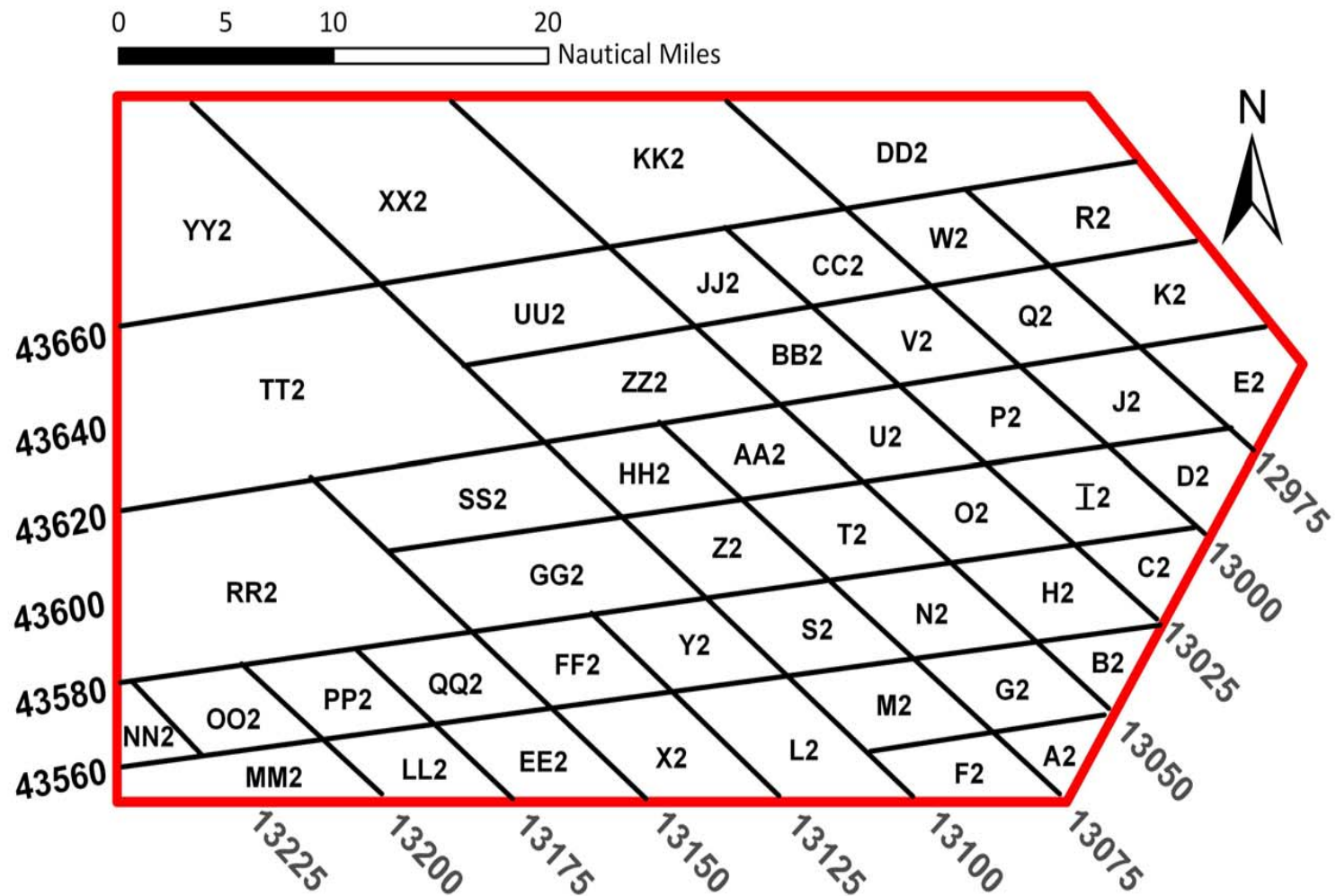
SMAST-Industry Closed Area I and II Yellowtail Bycatch Avoidance

Date _____

CELL	# TOWS IN CELL	YELLOWTAIL LBS IN CELL	SCALLOP LBS IN CELL

** Providing scallop catch information is optional**