UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

August 1, 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR: At-Sea Monitors, Industry Funded Scallop Observers, and Northeast Fisheries Observer Program Observers

FROM: Amy S. Van Atten
Branch Chief, Fisheries Sampling Branch (FSB)

SUBJECT: Biannual Data Quality Evaluations

Every 6 months, the Fisheries Sampling Branch (FSB) compiles a Data Quality Evaluation for each observer currently employed and active. The main purpose is to provide observers with feedback and identify possible areas for improvement. This report summarizes data submitted, as well as feedback from the Data Editors and incidental take staff.

The current report includes trips from all programs (the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (NEFOP), At-Sea Monitoring Program (ASM), and Industry Funded Scallop Program (IFS)) which landed between January 1, 2013 and June 30, 2013.

Your overall data quality evaluation score (on a scale of 0 to 20) is the sum of 10 objective criteria, each of which is assigned a score of 2 (excellent), 1 (fair), or 0 (poor). Scores of 1 are adequate, but may suggest room for improvement. A score of 0 may be a sign of non-adherence to protocols and possible data quality concerns.

Criteria for Evaluation:

- Trip Timeliness
  - Electronic Submissions
  - Paper Log Submissions
- Trip Errors
  - Protocols
  - Accuracy/Completeness
- Data Quality Status
- Biological Sampling
  - Length Frequencies
  - Age Samples
- Species Verification Program Compliance
- Communication and Cooperation
- Incidental Takes

If you have any questions regarding how this review was conducted or want further explanation of individual scores, please contact Debra Duarte, FSB Data Quality Lead (508-495-2304 or Debra.Duarte@noaa.gov) or your Data Editor. We continue to be open and interested in your feedback.

Thank you for your continued hard work and dedication to our observer programs.