Surfclam & Ocean Quahog ITQ Information Collection Program

Implementation Update

December 12, 2013
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Information Collection Program

Purpose

• Improve understanding of the ownership of ITQ allocations.

• Data collected would be used in the development of any future excessive shares cap (Amendment 18).
Current Annual Process

• August – Contact tag vender to get quote for coming year.
• September – Publish *Federal Register* notice of the tag vender.
• October 15 – Deadline for permanent transfers.
• Late October – Send tag vender tables of allocation holders and tag ranges.
• Early November – Issue new allocation letters and tag transfer forms by mail.
• December 10 – Deadline for tag transfers.
• Reset ITQ system and begin processing transfers for next fishing year.
• January 1 – New fishing year starts.
What is Changing

• Allocation permits will expire each year and must be renewed.
• Permanent allocation holders will not be issued a tag range until their allocation permit is renewed.
• Tag ranges will be assigned in order of permit renewal, different numbers each year.
• Allocation permit must be issued/renew to lease tags in or out.
What to Expect: Implementation Through 2014

• January/February – Proposed Rule
• May/June – Final Rule
• July / August – Send allocation permit renewal form with new interest declaration form to all accounts.
• September / October – Processing renewals and documenting ownership interest. Including any permanent transfers made before October 15.
• November – Allocations issued only to holders that have completed renewal and ownership form.
What to Expect: Starting 2015

• Annual renewal of allocation permit after the October 15 transfer deadline.

• Expanded use of Fish Online web portal:
  o Online tag transfers – no paper signatures, no mailing, print transfer confirmation.
  o Electronic allocation permit renewals, if ownership is unchanged.
  o Same website will be used for cost recovery payments (Amendment 17).
Questions, Comments, or Suggestions?