

Scallop AP and Committee Meetings

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Council Staff

**May 23 & 24, 2018
Providence, RI**



Upcoming Meetings (2018)

- May 30 – 4th Scallop SAW workgroup meeting (Conference Call)
- June 13 – Council meeting (Portland, ME)
- June 26 – June 29 – Scallop and Herring SARC 65 (Woods Hole, MA)
- July 25, 2018 – In-person PDT meeting at Mariners House (Boston, MA – Mariners House)
- August 28 & 29, 2018 – In-person PDT meeting (Falmouth, MA - TBD)
- October 10 – SSC Meeting (Location TBD)

Scallop Benchmark – SAW/SARC 65

- SAW Meeting #1 – Feb. 5 – 8, 2018 (Data Meeting)
- SAW Meeting #2 – March 26 – 28, 2018
- SAW Meeting #3 – April 30 – May 4, 2018
- **NEW: SAW Meeting #4 – May 30, 2018 (call)**
- SARC Meeting (Scallops and Herring) – June 26 – 29
- Present Results to AP and Committee in September

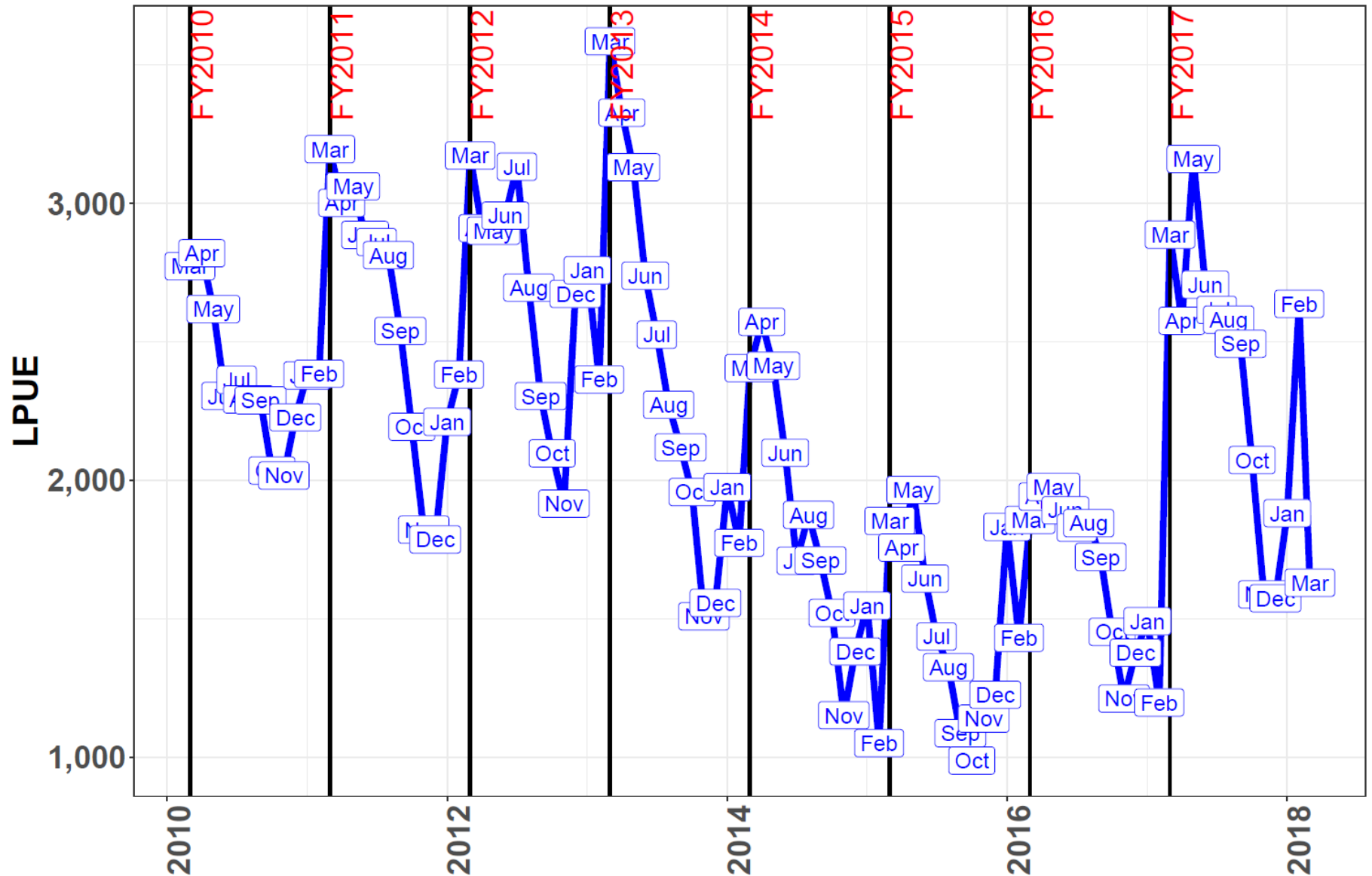
2018 NGOM Fishery

- 135k pound TAC → Landings $\pm 4\%$ of TAC
- Opened April 1 → Closed May 2

State	# Active Permits	# of Trips	Average trips (# trips/# permits)
Maine	26	534	21
Massachusetts	14	163	12
Other	4	28	7
TOTAL	44	725	Median = 17

- SMAST dropcam survey funded through RSA
 - Option to fish 65k lbs in NGOM

LPUE: 2010 - 2017



Correspondence

- Letters/input on several topics since last meeting



General Input

- Thoughts on how FY 2018 has progressed?
- Points we should consider during 2019 specs?
 - Catch rates
 - Meat quality
 - Any seed around?
 - Bycatch
- Data products you would like to see?



I. Monitoring and Catch Accounting

Document #3

Monitoring and Catch Accounting

- Since the Council voted on this priority in December 2017 several new monitoring and catch accounting issues have emerged.

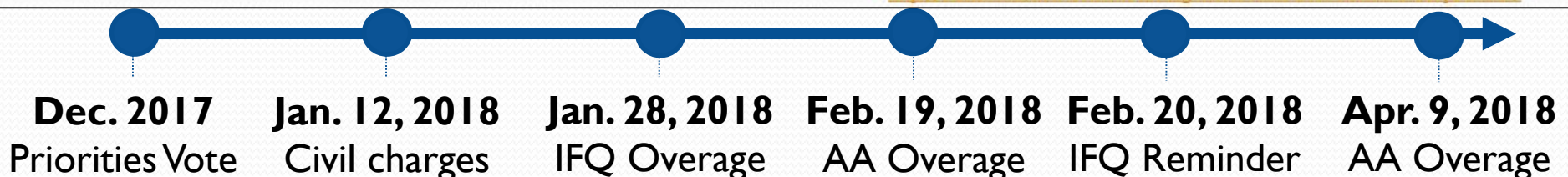


Another New Bedford Scallop Vessel Busted for Illegal Fishing in Closed Access Area

SEAFOODNEWS.COM By John Sackton - April 9, 2018



<http://wbsm.com/new-bedford-fishing-vessel-cited-after-hidden-scallops-found/>



Updates

- Council sent two letters to NOAA (April)
- OLE met with Scallop PDT on May 8, 2018
 - See Document #3 and Document #7
 - PDT concluded that the actual number of monitored offloads is **higher** than reported in LAGC IFQ program review.
- Making progress toward addressing this priority
 - Two recommendations from PDT meeting.

Monitoring and Catch Accounting

PROBLEM	GOAL(S)	TACTICS/ MEASURES
Poor VMS hail compliance	100% Compliance	Letter to NOAA
Fishing without IFQ	100% Compliance; Equity	Letter(s) to NOAA
Adherence to trip limits and allocations; Unknown Removals	100% Compliance; Equity; True census of landings	Vessel/Dealer self report overage; Expand pre-land to all LA trips

Penalty Schedules

- **Council sent a letter** asking NOAA revisit the current penalty schedule for VMS pre-landing notifications.


VIOLATION	VIOLATION HISTORY – PENALTY AMOUNT		
	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
Fail to provide required pre-landing notification	\$100 per missed notification up to \$2,500	NOVA	NOVA
NOVA: Notice of Violation and Assessment			

- <https://www.gc.noaa.gov/enforce-office3.html>

Technical Solutions

Real-time IFQ Quota Transfer

- **Council sent a letter** asking NOAA to complete and implement real-time online quota transfers
- **Objective:** Help address issue of vessels fishing without quota.

Request to Transfer Limited Access General Category (LAGC) Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Scallop Allocation			United States Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office 55 Great Republic Drive Gloucester, MA 01930 (978) 282-8483
2017 Fishing Year (March 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018)			
<small>This form must be used to request a temporary or permanent transfer of IFQ between two IFQ scallop vessels. Written approval or disapproval of the request will be provided within 30 days of receipt of this form. IFQ may be leased only prior to the end of the current fishing year and must be used in accordance with the regulations found at 50 CFR 648.82(h)(5). A summary of conditions and restrictions is attached with this form.</small>			
➔ Before completing this form, you should read the information attached with this form on IFQ changes under Framework 28.			
➔ You should also read the summary of the Program Requirements and Restrictions' for additional information on leases/transfers.			
Section 1 - Check the type of transfer you are requesting:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary IFQ Allocation Transfer		<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent IFQ Allocation Transfer	
Section 2			
Transferor (Seller)		IFQ Scallop Vessel Name:	
Name		Permit Number:	
Phone Number:		USCG Doc or State Reg. Number:	
Mailing address:			
Quota in Pounds to be Transferred:		Price Received for the Transfer: \$	
Section 3			
Transferee (Buyer)		IFQ Scallop Vessel Name:	
Name		Permit Number:	
Phone Number:		USCG Doc or State Reg. Number:	
Mailing address:			
Section 4			
Signature of Transferor or Authorized Agent:		Signature of Transferee or Authorized Agent:	
Date:		Date:	
> We will not accept any 2017 FY IFQ lease or transfer applications received after March 31, 2018			
<small>Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instruction, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining data needed, and completing and reviewing the information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate to: NMFS, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subjected to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. OMB Approval No. 0648-0491. Expires: 7/31/2020</small>			

OLE Input; May 8, 2018

Document #3, Section 1.3, page 4

- Thank you: Tim Donovan, Don Frei, Shawn Eusebio

I. Re: Joint enforcement agreement (JEA)

- a) Agreements with all coastal states (ME → VA)
- b) JEA participants dedicate 75% of efforts to OLE priorities
- c) Records focus on tracking non-compliance cases
- d) Efforts being made to update OLE databases to allow information sharing between states and NOAA

OLE Input (cont.)

Document #3, Section 1.3, page 5

3. Are regulations enforceable?

- a) Scallop **regulations are generally enforceable and easy to understand**, especially compared to groundfish and monkfish regulations.
- b) Field officers have noted an **increase in compliance** over the past several years—qualitative observations, such as industry actively engaging more with OLE and taking steps to ensure they are following the rules.
- c) Informal ‘**captains meetings**’ in recent years help to clarify the regulations prior to the start of the fishing year; these workshops are usually well attended and helpful to the industry.

OLE Input (cont.)

Document #3, Section 1.3, page 5

4. There have been several reports of scallop violations on Facebook, and in the news. Are the number of violations consistent with past years?
 - a) OLE Response: The increase in reports of scallop violations and enforcement effort is because of social media, and is not an indicator of compliance.

OLE Input (cont.)

Document #3, Section 1.3, page 6

- Concept to address **Adherence to trip limits and allocations; Unknown Removals**
- **IDEA:** Vessels and Dealers self-report overage and forfeit the catch.
- Objective: Account for overages that might otherwise go unreported.
- Could explore further, awaiting AP/CTE input

Existing Monitoring

Document #3, Section 1.5, page 16

- Under current requirements there should be general agreement between estimated catches, and dealer reports, such that:
 - On multi-day trips, the SUM of daily catch reports \approx VMS pre-land catch estimate
 - VMS pre-land catch estimate \approx VTR landings estimate
 - VTR landings estimate \approx Dealer report to SAFIS

Existing Monitoring (cont)

Document #3, Section 1.5, page 16

- Under existing reporting requirements, managers should know:
 - When and where the vessel sailed from
 - Planned fishing operations (declaration)
 - Daily catch (general LPUE)
 - Vessel position every 30 minutes (done automatically through on-board VMS unit)
 - Estimated total landings
 - When and where the vessel plans to land and estimate landings
 - Confirmation of landed catch with weights (dealer report)

Outlook

1. Steps taken:

- Council sent letters to NOAA re: monitoring and catch accounting issues, PDT met with OLE

2. Additional action needed?

3. Report to Council in June



2. Standard Default Measures

(Streamlining Scallop Specifications)

Mr. Sam Asci

3. 2018 Priorities

Review Draft Action Plan; Discuss ways to complete 2018 work items

Anticipated Outcomes. The AP and Committee may wish to recommend that the Council formally begin work on a scallop action at this meeting.

2018 Priorities

Regulatory Requirements & Ongoing work	Council Ranking
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specifications for 2019/2020• Benchmark (SAW/SARC 65)• Support Scallop RSA Program• In-season catch accounting• Specify Allocation Review Triggers	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Modify Access Areas to be consistent with OHA22. Standard default measures3. Monitoring and catch accounting4. Consider LAGC IFQ trip limits5. NGOM Management measures

2018 Priorities and Vehicles

Each column represents a way to address the priority

Specs Package	Framework	Amendment	Other
Specifications			Benchmark (SAW/SARC)
	1. Modify/Evaluate Access Areas		RSA Support
NEW: 2. Standard Default Measures			
	3. Monitoring and Catch Accounting Provisions		
	4. LAGC IFQ Trip Limits		Tracking flatfish catch
	Gear Modifications – Small scallops		
	Eastern GB? HABITAT FW	5. NGOM Management Measures	Allocation Review Triggers

Draft Action Plan: 2019 Specs Only

- **GOAL:** New specs in place by April 1, 2019
- Include standard default measures
- Scallop benchmark → New reference points

Current Draft Plan:

- Specifications would be in streamlined action
- Other measures would be addressed in a separate Framework or Amendment
 - Council can work on multiple actions at the same time.
 - FWs and Amendments can be focused and streamlined.

Other Considerations

- **FW29: Complicated Action**
 - 4 Specification scenarios + management measures
 - Access to NLS-West and Closed Area I
 - Missed April 1, 2018
- Incorporate results of Benchmark Assessment
- April Committee Tasking: LAGC IFQ Trip Limits

The Committee tasks the PDT analyze the impacts of LAGC IFQ trip limit increases from 400 lbs to 1,200 lbs (in 200 lb increments). The analysis should begin with FY 2010 data.

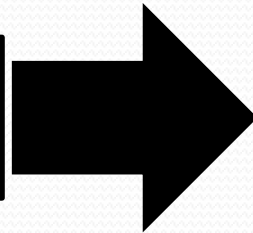
Rationale: The analysis would look at model outputs including the impact of increasing trip limits on revenue and lease prices.

The motion carried 11/0/0.

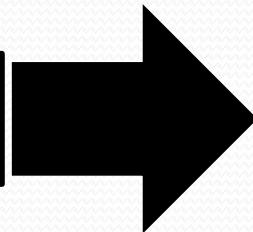
5 Meeting Outlook: **DRAFT**

Doc. 2 – Meeting Memo Page 5 (last page)

Regulatory Requirements



Council's Ranked Priorities



DOI subject to change	Expected progress on priorities relative to upcoming Council meetings				
Priorities	Jun-18	Sep-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Apr-19
Specifications for 2019/2020	Survey cruises	Review survey data, preliminary OFL/ABC projections	Final Action	Submit Specs Package	New specs in place April 1
Benchmark (SAW/SARC 65)	Review Panel meeting	Final report available			
Support Scallop RSA Program	Set 2019/2020 Priorities	FFO Published	Proposals Due	Proposals in evaluation	Announce 2019/2020 awards
In-season catch accounting	Ongoing				
Specify Allocation Review Triggers	Executive Committee Discussion				
1. Modify Access Areas to be consistent with OHA2		Consider modifying boundaries in specifications action		Coordinate with Habitat on EGB (TBD), Consider a review of rotational management	
2. Standard default measures	Draft Alternatives for consideration	Review impacts analyses	Final Action		
3. Monitoring and catch accounting	Review letters to NOAA; develop any additional recommendations				
4. Consider LAGC IFQ trip limits	PDT gathering data	Present analyses on trip limit increases (Committee tasking)			
5. NGOM Management measures	Coorindate GOM appendix	Review GOM appendix from SAW/SARC 65, fishery data			

Committee Tasking

Scallop Committee Motions

March 22, 2018

Hotel Providence, Providence, Rhode Island

By consensus:

The Committee tasks the PDT with exploring the discrepancy with trips assigned an observer vs. trips that carried an observer.

No objections.

NORTHEAST FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM - INDUSTRY FUNDED SCALLOP

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Woods Hole, MA
 NMFS-Received Calls, Observer Assignments and Achieved Coverage Levels for Trips Landing from
 April 1, 2018 to April 30, 2018

Limited Access Fleet

Area	Calls*	Observer Assigned*	Assigned Coverage*	VMS Trips	Trips Observed	Achieved Coverage	Target Coverage
Mid-Atlantic Access Area	242	36	14.9%	214	23	10.7%	10.0%
Open Area (Mid-Atlantic & Georges Bank)	96	7	7.3%	118	8	6.8%	**
Nantucket Lightship Access Area	14	2	14.3%	11	1	9.1%	10.0%
Nantucket Lightship West Access Area***	16	2	12.5%	5	0	0.0%	15.0%
Nantucket Lightship South Access Area***	31	5	16.1%	16	1	6.3%	15.0%
Elephant Trunk Flex Access Area	10	2	20.0%	5	0	0.0%	15.0%
Closed Area I Access Area***	23	3	13.0%	9	1	11.1%	10.0%
Closed Area II Access Area	3	0	0.0%	1	0	0.0%	10.0%

General Category Fleet*

Area	Calls*	Observer Assigned*	Assigned Coverage*	VMS Trips	Trips Observed	Achieved Coverage	Target Coverage
Mid-Atlantic Access Area Dredge	17	13	76.5%	32	0	0.0%	5.0%
Mid-Atlantic Access Area Trawl	7	4	57.1%	16	0	0.0%	5.0%
Open Area Dredge	173	89	51.4%	272	7	2.6%	7.0%
Open Area Trawl	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	7.0%
Nantucket Lightship West Dredge***	10	5	50.0%	10	2	20.0%	5.0%
Nantucket Lightship South Dredge***	2	1	50.0%	3	0	0.0%	8.0%
Closed Area I Dredge***	41	20	48.8%	139	5	3.6%	8.0%

The following table summarizes IFS observer coverage of the Northeast Sea Scallop fishing fleet for the Sea Scallop fishing year, March 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018.

Limited Access Fleet

Area	Calls	Observer Assigned	Assigned Coverage	VMS Trips	Trips Observed	Achieved Coverage	Target Coverage
Elephant Trunk Flex	339	59	17.4%	314	43	14	15%
Nantucket Lightship	452	77	17.0%	431	68	16	15%
CA II	367	65	17.7%	366	58	16	15%
MA/GB Open Areas	1496	183	12.2%	1628	145	9	10%
MAAA	808	105	13.0%	701	64	9	10%

General Category Fleet

Area	Calls	Observer Assigned	Assigned Coverage	VMS Trips	Trips Observed	Achieved Coverage	Target Coverage
Elephant Trunk Flex	278	138	49.6%	675	43	6	8%
Nantucket Lightship	256	105	41.0%	870	63	7	10%
MA/GB Open Areas	1616	524	32.4%	3305	167	5	5.5%
MAAA	112	36	32.1%	130	13	10	5.5%



4. Scallop RSA

Background

- Scallop RSA program began in 1999
- Evolved over time but overall 1.25 million pounds set-aside each year to fund research projects (over \$10mil)
- About 10-15 projects are funded annually
- At least biennially the Council recommends the research priorities that are used in the funding announcement
- **Goal of Meeting Today**
 - I. Recommend research priorities for 2019/2020



Scallop RSA Process

- Process coordinated by NEFSC and NEFMC
- No federal funds – awards in pounds of scallop – allocated through competitive grants process
- Council (typically) recommends priorities at June meeting for summer announcement
- Management and Technical Reviews
 - NMFS convenes a **management review panel** meeting with Council members and technical experts to discuss relevance of each project. Reviewers submit individual comments; no consensus recommendations are made.



Scallop RSA - Technical Review Process

- **Two tracks.**
- **Non-survey Proposals:** Each proposal reviewed by three subject matter experts that score technical merits (importance/relevance, technical merit, qualifications, costs, outreach)
- **Survey Proposals:** Separate technical panel convened to review survey proposals
 - Technical experts review all survey proposals (NMFS and non-federal scientists)
 - **No consensus:** Individual comments and scores are submitted by each reviewer



Scallop RSA Process (cont.)

- Successful applicants may be asked to refine/modify project to better fit priorities/management needs.
- Priority given to higher technically ranked proposals, although additional factors such as management relevance, project needs, and cost effectiveness may be considered.
- Common scallop price determined by NMFS based on best and most recent data to determine set aside allocation.
 - \$10.50 for 2018/2019. Recent auction prices below this value.
- Awards in pounds, can be harvested from any area open to fishery unless FMP prohibits it.



Scallop Benchmark and RSA

- SAW/SARC 65 – 2018 Scallop Benchmark Assessment
- Presentations from several cycles of RSA funded work
- Available at: <https://www.nefmc.org/calendar/may-8-2018-scallop-plan-development-team-meeting> (BI - BI0)
 - Incidental and discard Mortality (expect estimate **to decrease**)
 - Dredge efficiency in high density areas
 - Scallop growth rates
 - Meat quality – gray meats and nematodes
 - Surveys used in indices of abundance
- CFF, MA DMF, ME DMR, Rutgers, SMAST, U Delaware, U Maine, VIMS



2018/2019 RSA Awards



#5a

New England Fishery Management Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 16, 2018

PRESS CONTACT: Janice Plante
(607) 592-4817, jplante@nefmc.org

Scallop RSA Program: Council and Northeast Fisheries Science Center Announce 15 Awards Selected for 2018-2019 funding

The New England Fishery Management Council and NOAA Fisheries' Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) are pleased to announce that 15 projects have been selected for 2018-2019 funding through the Sea Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program.

"The Scallop RSA Program truly has become one of the flagships of the scallop fishery," said New England Council Chairman Dr. John Quinn. "The collaborative efforts that take place at sea between fishermen and researchers go a long way toward enhancing our understanding of what's happening with the resource. The results of this RSA work funnel back to the Council and support stock assessments. Without a doubt, the RSA program helps us better manage our extremely valuable scallop fishery."

Projects will address research priorities established by the Council, with a particular focus on resource surveys. The awards are expected to generate more than \$12 million: \$3 million to fund research; and \$9 million to compensate industry partners who harvest set-aside quota.

"We are excited to be able to work with the New England Fishery Management Council, industry, and scientists to fund sea scallop science through the Research Set-Aside Program," said NEFSC Science and Research Director Dr. Jon Hare. "The projects funded support surveys, bycatch mitigation, and biological studies, all with the purpose of improving the information used in the management of the sea scallop resource."

The New England Council established the Sea Scallop RSA Program to address research questions that support management of the scallop resource. The Council sets the research priorities and researchers compete for funding through a federal grant competition managed by NOAA Fisheries.



— Virginia Institute of Marine Science photo

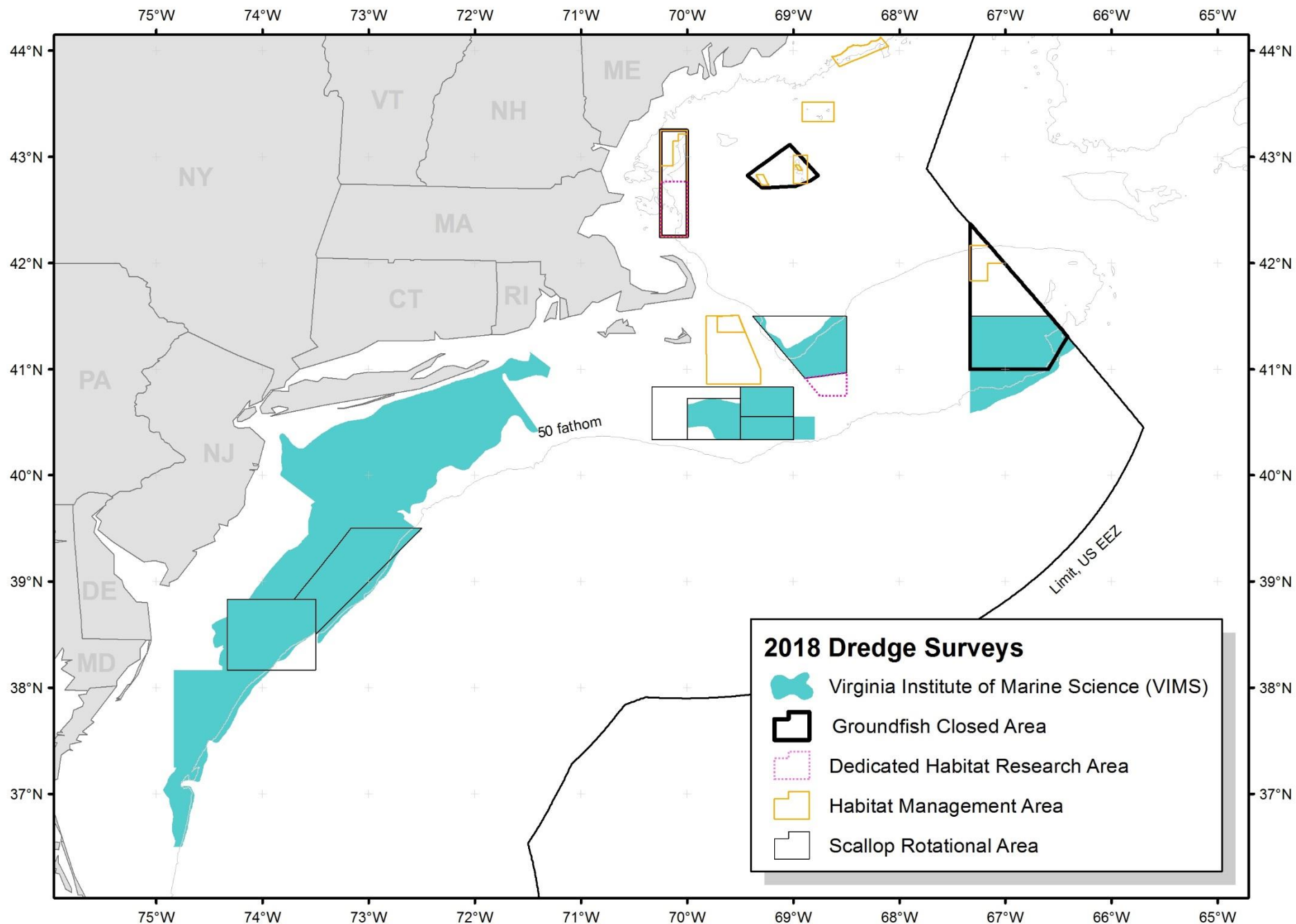
New England Fishery Management Council | 50 Water Street, Mill 2 | Newburyport, MA 01950
Phone: (978) 465-0492 | Fax: (978) 465-3116 | www.nefmc.org

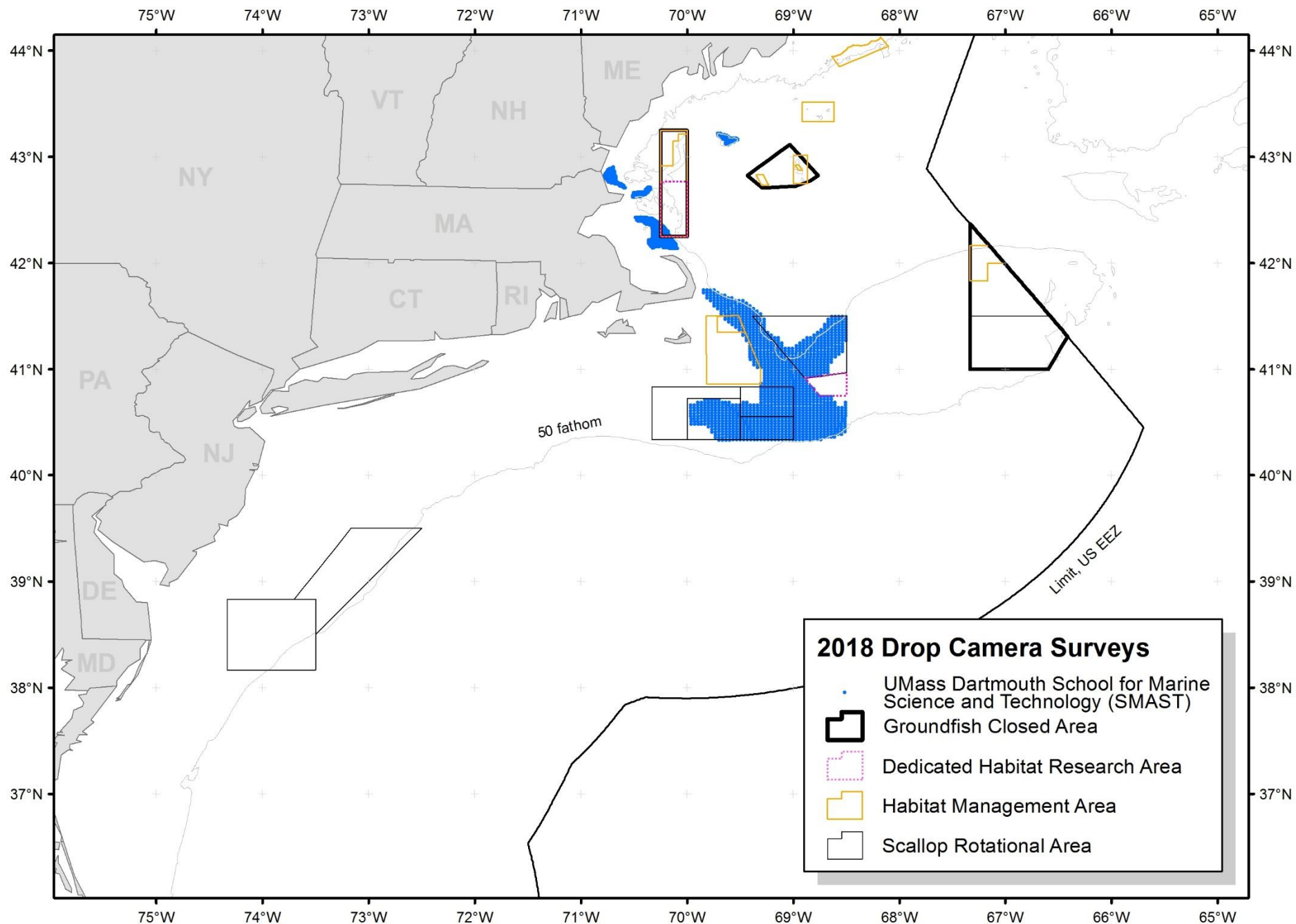
- Announced on May 16, 2018
- 15 projects recommended for funding, PIs from 4 organizations (Doc. 5a)
 - Surveys (dredge, drop camera, HabCam)
- 1.25+ mil. lb set-aside expected to generate ~\$12 million dollars - ~\$3 to fund research, ~\$9 in compensation fishing (\$10.50)
- 4 projects funded for two years

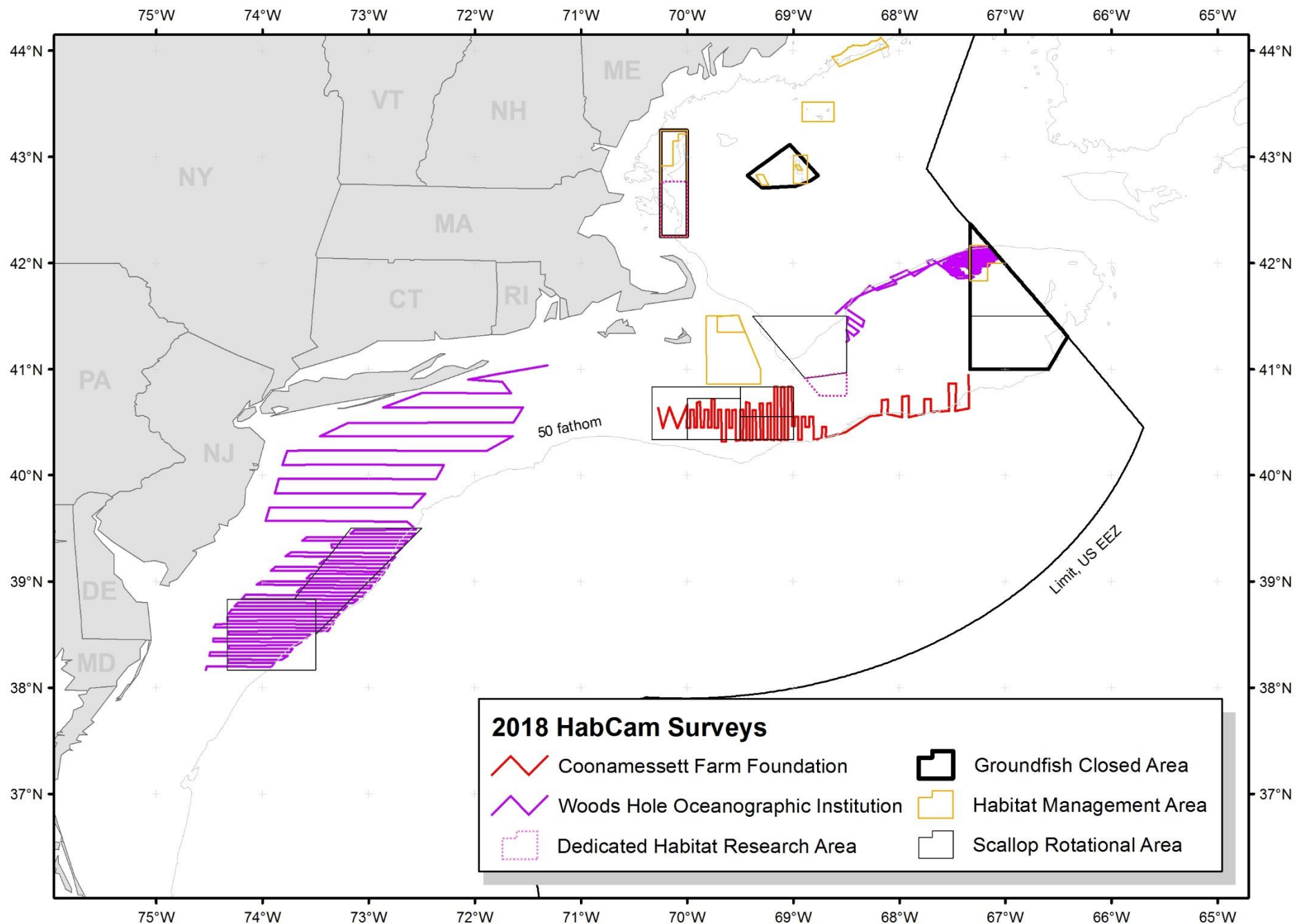
2018/2019 Scallop RSA Awards

Priority	Priority Rank	Projects Funded	Research Cost
Survey	Highest	9	\$1,480,825
Bycatch	High	2	\$717,943
Biology	Medium	3	\$544,482
Turtle	Medium	1	\$190,599
Total		15	\$2,933,849

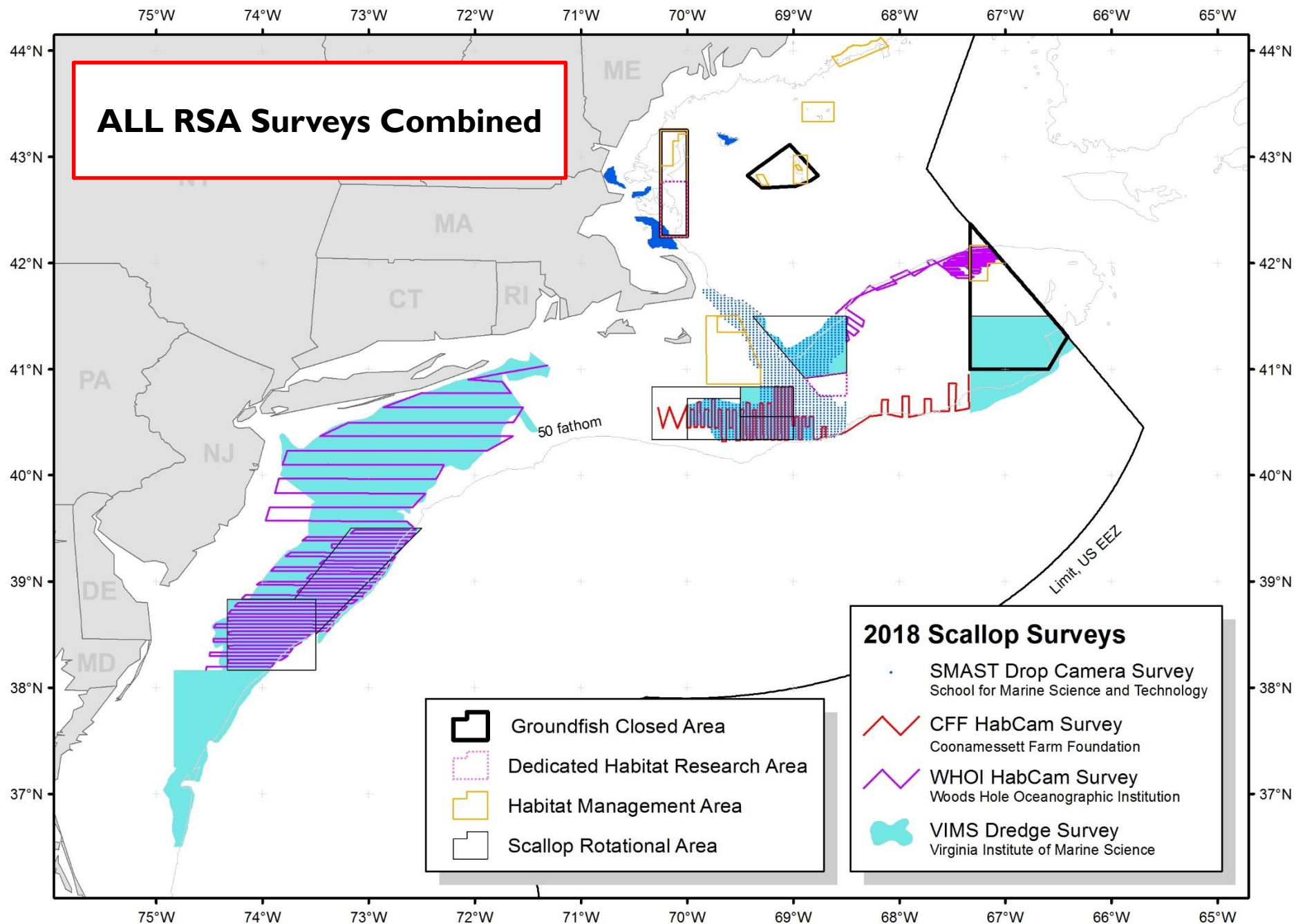








Graphic Credit – NOAA Fisheries



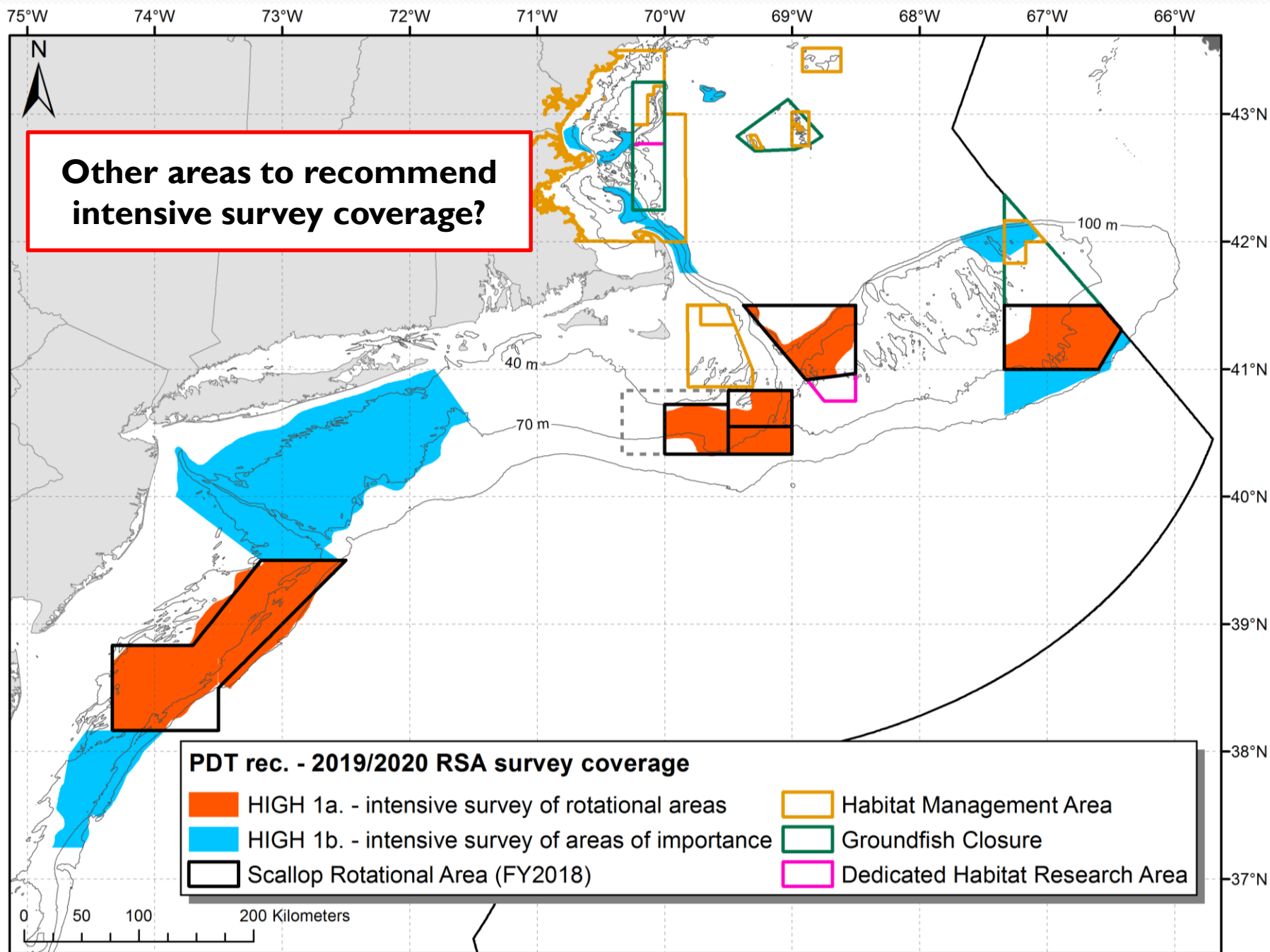
Graphic Credit – NOAA Fisheries

Current Scallop RSA research priorities (2018/2019)

- **Highest** – Surveys: intensive for access areas, intensive for areas of interest, broad resource wide (equal importance), GOM broadscale
- **High** – Meat quality, bycatch (in order of importance)
- **Medium** – turtles, scallop biology projects (in order of importance)
- **Other** – dredge efficiency, habitat characterizations, environmental stressors, LPUE, other surveys, socio-economic impacts of area rotation, incidental and discard mortality (equal importance)

PDT Input for 2019/2020

- Surveys remain HIGH(est) Priority
 - Support follow-up to OHA2
- Council may wish to re-order/re-rank the MEDIUM and OTHER priorities.
 - Ideas from PDT:
 - Two categories: HIGH and OTHER
 - Move dredge efficiency to HIGH, below surveys
 - Move turtle research to OTHER
- Research can focus on existing datasets



PDT RSA Recommendations

- **HIGH** – Surveys (Doc.5c, page 2) *Equal Importance*
 - Ia: Focus on CAI, CAII, NLS, ET, HC
 - Ib: Include HAPC in CAII, Southeast parts, DMV, Long Island, and GOM
 - Ic: Broadscale surveys of Mid-Atlantic and Georges Bank
- **MEDIUM** – (Doc.5c, page 2 & 3) *In Order of Importance*
 - 2. Dredge Efficiency – Issue not resolved at benchmark, likely SAW/SARC 65 recommendation
 - 3. Bycatch – Focus still on small scallops and non-target species.
 - 4. Meat quality research
 - 5. Turtle behavior in the Mid-Atlantic & Georges Bank

PDT RSA Recommendations

- **OTHER** – (Doc.5c, page 3) *Equal Importance*
 - 6. Evaluation of current management procedures (MSE)
 - Ties in priorities from last cycle, and concept of an MSE
 - 7. Research on scallop biology
 - Intentionally broad – covers recruitment processes, natural mortality, scallop biology in the Gulf of Maine.
- Emphasis on fewer broader priorities this year. 12 → 7.

AP and Committee Input

- Review RSA Priorities from last year
- Consider status of current research
- Make recommendations
 - Council will consider Committee recommendations during the Scallop Report on June 13, 2018

Looking for input/recommendations as motions or by consensus

