

Scallop Report

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**January 29, 2019
Scallop Report
Portsmouth, NH**



New England
Fishery Management Council



Today's Report:

Goals/Objectives:

- Approve scoping document for Amendment 21 & consider adding a new priority to address in the action
- Consider a Committee motion to send letters to NOAA and the US Coast Guard requesting expedited processing of key documents

Meeting Outlook:

- Anticipate Amendment 21 scoping meetings late Feb. – early April



Update on Framework 30:

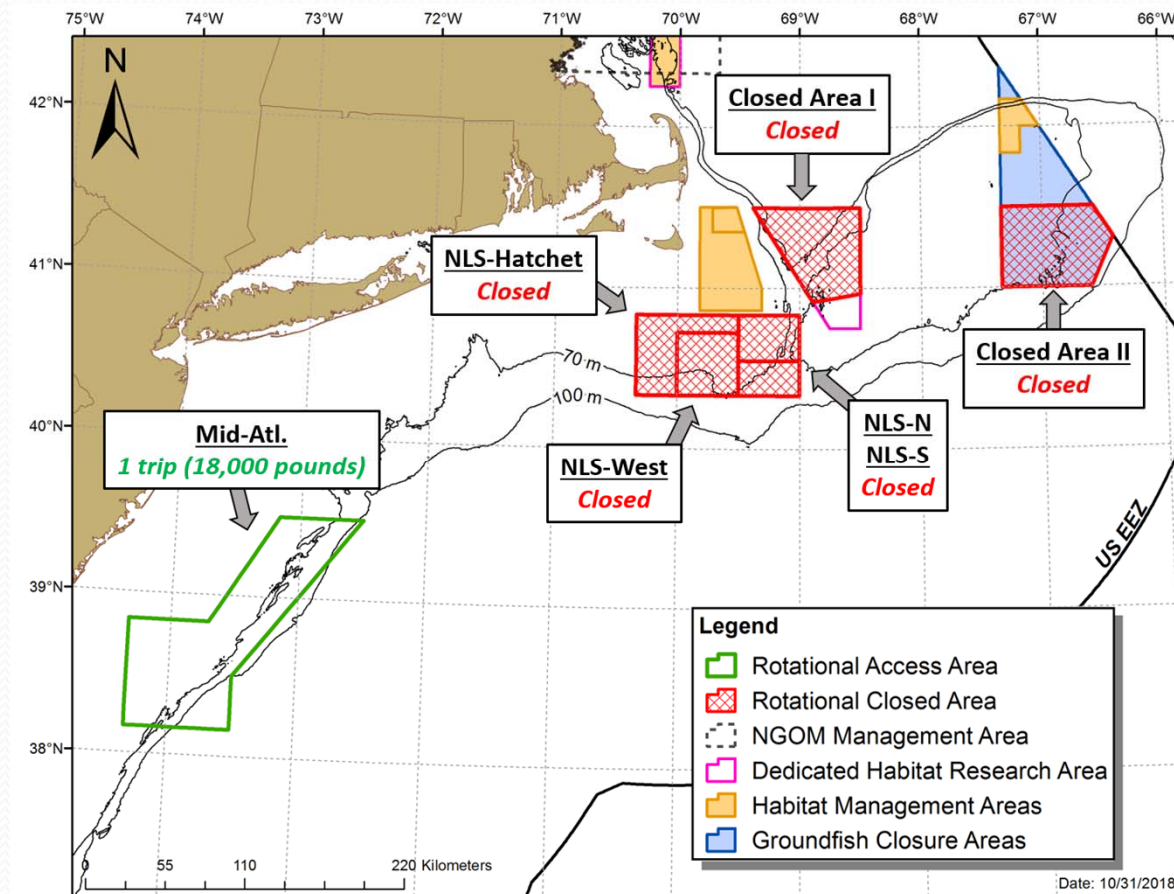
- **The goal (is always): measures are implemented by April 1.**

Timeline:

- “Decision Draft” submission of FW30 on December 19, 2019 began rule making process.
- Government Shutdown: Dec. 22, 2018 – Jan. 25, 2019 (35 Days)
- This week:
 - GARFO staff working on rule package.
 - Council staff are completing FW30 for preliminary submission.

What if Framework 30 is delayed?

- **Framework 29 Default Measures – On April 1, 2019:**
 - **FT LA:** 18 DAS and 1 MAAA trip at 18,000 lbs
 - **LAGC IFQ:** 75% of 2018 quota, trips in MAAA
 - **NGOM:** LAGC TAC 102,500 lbs (replaced by 137,500 lbs)





Government Shutdown:

- Prior to the shutdown ending, AP and Committee expressed concern about the impact the shutdown could have on the processing and renewal of:
 - Vessel documentation from USCG
 - Vessel Permits from GARFO
 - Exempted Fishing Permits and Letters of authorization from GARFO
 - LAGC IFQ quota transfers from GARFO
 - 2019/2020 RSA awards from NEFSC
- See Doc. [4a](#) and [4b](#)

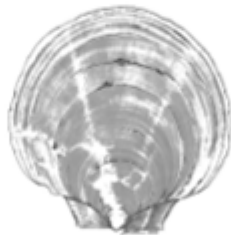
2019 Scallop Priorities

- Several ongoing work items (Regulatory Requirements).
- Anticipate working on an amendment to the FMP to address NGOM scallop management and LAGC IFQ possession limits.
- Develop approaches to other priorities in first part of 2019.

Regulatory Requirements	Other 2019 Work Priorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specifications for FY2020 and FY2021 (default)• Support annual Scallop RSA process• Estimate flatfish bycatch (ongoing)• Specify allocation review triggers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NGOM Scallop Management & LAGC IFQ trip limits• Evaluate rotational management program• Action to mitigate impacts on YT flounder

Amendment 21:

**SCOPING DOCUMENT
for
Amendment 21
to the
Atlantic Sea Scallop
Fishery Management Plan**



**(Northern Gulf of Maine and Limited
Access General Category Amendment)**

Prepared by the
New England Fishery Management Council

- [Doc. 3](#) (updated since CTE mtg)
- Consider measures to address:
 - NGOM Management
 - LAGC IFQ possession limits
- Consider adding ability for LA to transfer IFQ to LAGC.
- Additional Council input?
- Looking for motion to approve the scoping document for public hearings.



Amendment 21:

Add LA transfer of IFQ to LAGC?

Current Rules/Status:

- LA vessels that qualified for IFQ: 0.5% of APL
- LA vessels cannot transfer IFQ
- 600 lb trip limit

Committee Motion:

“One way” transfer:

LA → LAGC

**WOULD BE A NEW
2019 PRIORITY**

FY	LA w/ IFQ (lbs)	Total IFQ (lbs)
2013	222,714	2,449,856
2014	220,286	2,423,145
2015	271,168	2,971,828
2016	405,650	4,473,174
2017	227,076	2,489,016
2018	279,987	3,086,468



Northern Gulf of Maine - Why is the Council proposing to take Action:

Doc. 3, page number “1” (4)

- Consider measures that will support a growing directed scallop fishery in federal waters in the NGOM.
 - Prevent unrestrained removals from the NGOM management area
 - Allow for orderly access to the scallop resource in this area by the LAGC and LA components.
 - Establish mechanisms to set allowable catches and accurately monitor catch and bycatch.”



LAGC IFQ Possession Limits- *Why is the Council proposing to take Action:*

Doc. 3, page number “1” (4)

- Measures that will increase the LAGC IFQ possession limit as a way to improve overall economic performance of the LAGC IFQ component.
 - LAGC IFQ component remains profitable
 - Continued participation in the GC fishery at varying levels.
 - Reduce the impacts of decreases in ex-vessel price and increases to fixed costs and variable costs on vessels and crews.

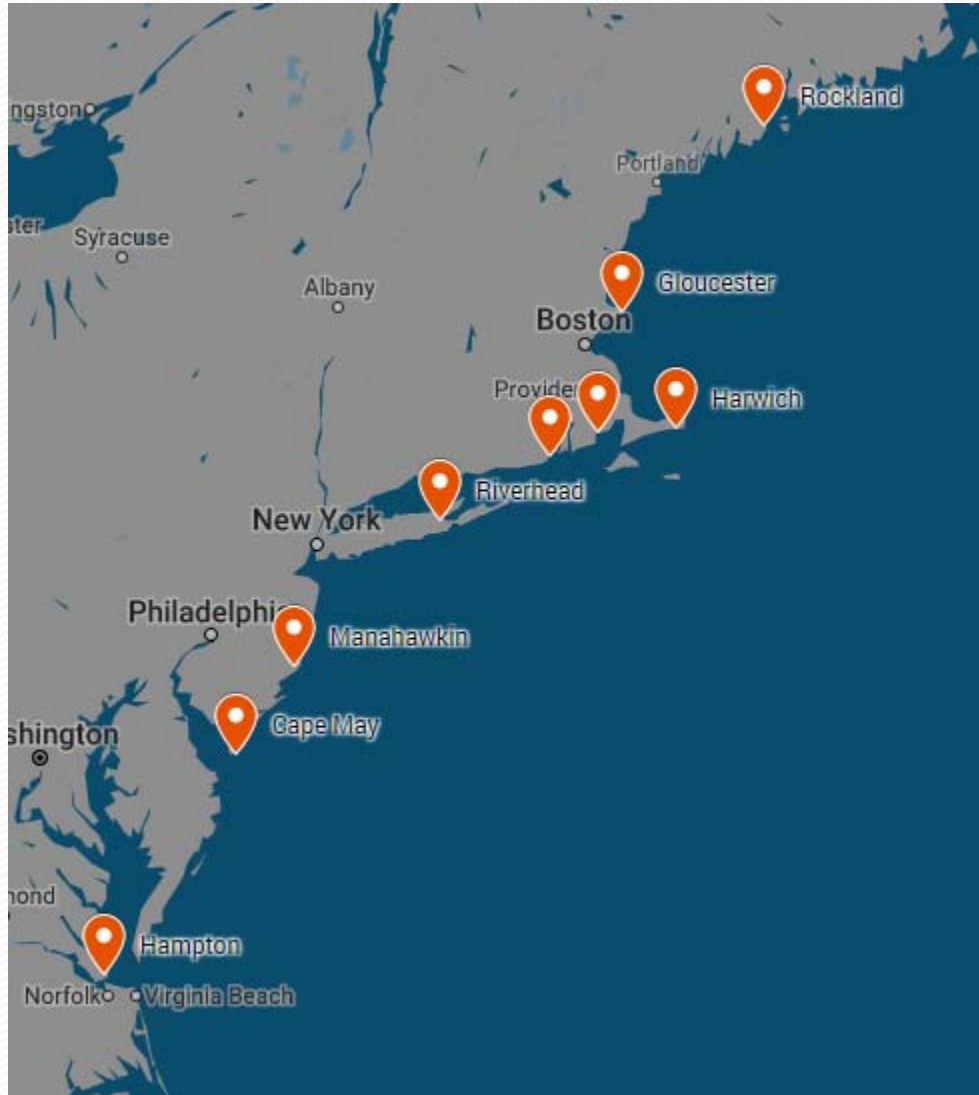


What Action is the Council Considering:

Doc. 3, page number “10”

- **Focus:** Potential range of alternatives. What might the action consider. *Examples from [Doc.3](#)*
- **Northern Gulf of Maine:** *Broad range of issues*
 - set-asides, allocation split, monitoring, effort controls, boundary of the area, etc.
- **LAGC IFQ possession limits:** *Narrow(er) range of issues*
 - changes to trip limits in open area and access areas, or aggregate landings limits (e.g. weekly limit), accompanying measures that aim to achieve its vision for the LAGC component.

Amendment 21 scoping



- Maine to Virginia
- Timing: February – April
- Locations based on:
 - Fishing activity
 - Permit database
 - Landings data
 - Proximity to ports
- Plan to finalize locations following the Council meeting

Amendment 21: **Draft** Timeline

2019

- January: *Approve Scoping Document*
- June: Review scoping comments; develop goals/objectives
- Sept or Dec 2019: Approve Range of Alternatives

2020

- Early 2020: Writing A21 *and* FW31/specs impacts

Key Issue: Will there be significant effects? (NEPA)

- *EIS process: target implementation no later than April 2021.*

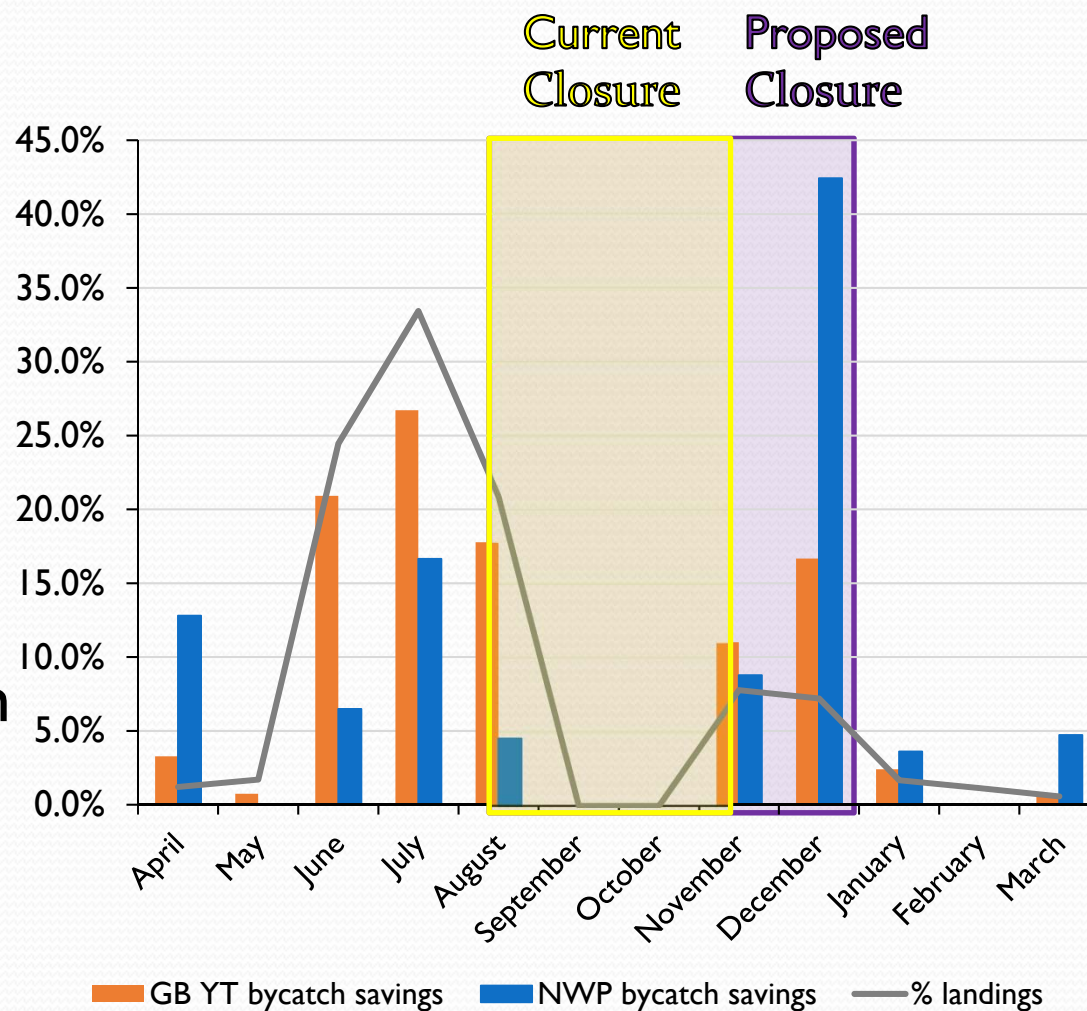


Mitigate Impacts on Yellowtail Flounder

Committee tasking for the PDT:

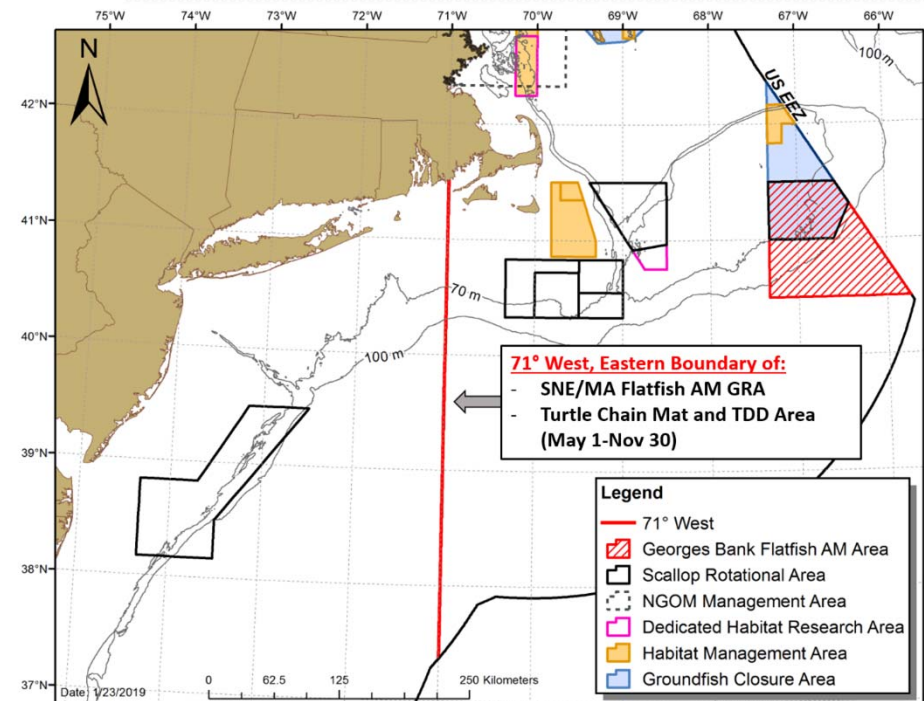
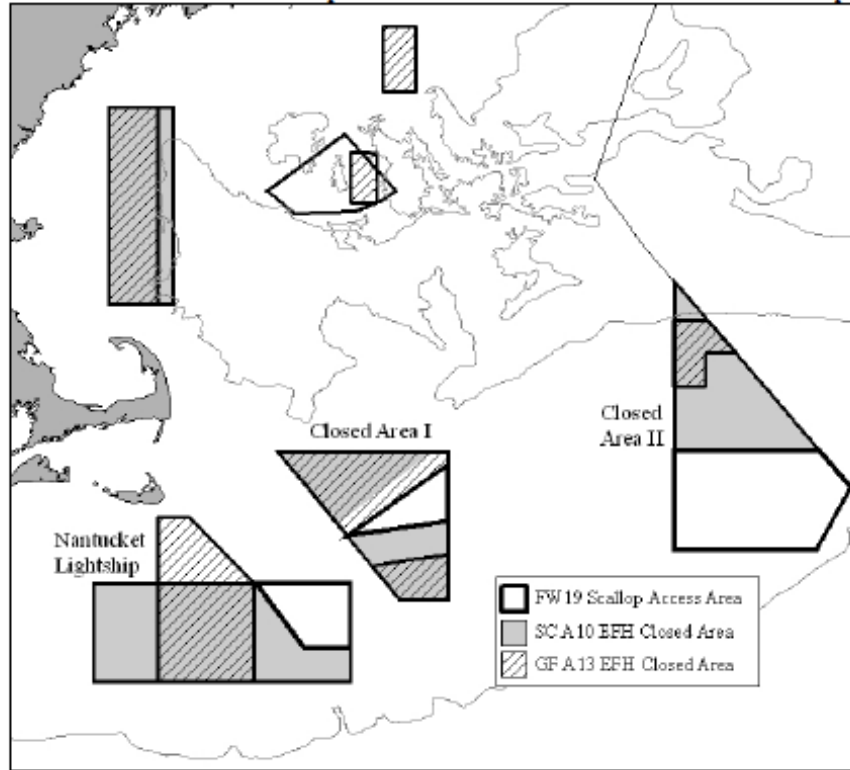
Analyze options for reducing bycatch of Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder.

Several options analyzed in FW29 → PDT plans to revisit this work as a starting point.



Evaluation of Rotational Management

Figure 14 – Habitat closed areas and groundfish mortality closed areas that apply to the scallop fishery (Solid areas closed for EFH under Scallop A10 and Hatched areas closed for EFH under Multispecies A13).



- *Focus:* Review of A10 criteria used to structure area rotation. PDT discussed topic Jan. 9, 2019 conference call.

Research Set-Aside Program

- Update on RSA program review at this meeting
- 2019/2020 awards: consider sending a letter to NEFSC requesting that award making process be expedited.
- We hope to have another RSA Share Day in 2019.
- Council is expected to set the 2020/2021 priorities at the June meeting.



Scallop from the high density area in Nantucket Lightship South in July. Photo Credit: VIMS



NLCA Station: 260 Quadrat: 4 Temperature: 10.24°C Depth: 42.80 Fathom 40.408818N 69.303692W 5:09:44.000 AM 5/13/2018

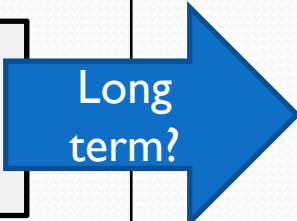
High Density in Nantucket Lightship South. Photo Credit: SMAST



DRAFT: 2019 Priorities and Vehicles

Each column represents a way to address the priority

Specs Package	Framework	Other	Amendment
<div>Specifications (likely FW)</div>	<div>Mitigate impacts on YTF (FW, ?)</div>	<div>RSA Support</div> <div>Tracking flatfish catch</div> <div>Evaluate Rotational Management</div> <div>Allocation Review Triggers</div>	<div><u>Amendment 21:</u> NGOM Management Measures, LAGC IFQ Trip Limits</div>



END

