

# Scallop Report

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**January 27, 2021**  
**NEFMC Webinar**



# Today's Meeting

- **FW33 & 2021 Work Priorities**

- Review options and draft impacts of FW33.
- Review 2021 priorities and recap Committee discussion on changing work priorities.
- **Council Action: Final Action on Framework 33.**

- **Outlook:**

- Delay in Final Action by adding new measures will further delay the Framework.
- “Decision Draft” submission of FW33 in February.
- Following submission of FW33 focus will shift back to A21 submission.

# FW 33 Overview – 5 actions, 7 decision points

- 4.1 – OFL and ABC for 2021/2022
- 4.2 – Northern Gulf of Maine TAC
  - 4.2.1 – NGOM TAC for 2021
  - 4.2.2 – NGOM TAC for 2022
- 4.3 – Specifications for FY 2021 and FY 2022 (default)
- 4.4 – LAGC IFQ fishing in Access Areas
- 4.5 – Measures to Reduce Fishery Impacts
  - 4.5.1 - Where RSA compensation fishing can occur
  - 4.5.2 – Seasonal Closure of CAll to mitigate impacts on NWP & GBYT Flounder

# Framework 33: Purpose and Need

- **Need:**

- Prevent overfishing
- Improve yield per recruit
- Manage total removals from NGOM



- **Purpose:**

- Set Specifications, including Annual Projected Landings
- Set landings limits for LA and LAGC in NGOM



High Density in Nantucket Lightship.  
Photo Credit: SMAST

## Biological Considerations

- The stock is not overfished, and overfishing is not occurring.
- Risk of overfishing is low for all alternatives under consideration.
- Recent years: decline in biomass from record highs, below-average recruitment → Lower OFL and ABC estimates.
- 2019 and 2020 projections were overly optimistic in most areas. Adjusted growth expectation in this Framework.
- LPUE for open bottom was reduced to reflect current conditions, LPUE over-estimated in FWV32.
- High density areas in CAII, NLS-South, and Elephant Trunk.
- Changing dynamics of fishery, with majority of biomass now found on eastern Georges Bank. Twilight of exceptional 2012- and 2013-year classes.
- Roughly 1.9 mil. lbs in the CAI. F rates in Closed Area I high even with limited removals by GC and RSA.

## Actions I: Overfishing Limit and Acceptable Biological Catch

### *Committee Preferred Alternatives (Jan 2021)*

#### Action I. OFL and ABC (Sec. 4.1)

Alternative 1:  
No Action  
Default OFL and ABC for FY 2021

Alternative 2:  
Updated OFL and ABC for FY 2021 and  
FY 2022





## Action 2: Northern Gulf of Maine TAC (2021 & 2022)

### Committee Preferred Alternatives (Jan 2021)

- TAC sharing approach used in FW29 – FW32, expected to change next year (A2I approach).
- Alt 2: Based on projected exploitable biomass in Ipswich Bay, Machias Seal Island, and on Jeffreys Ledge and Platts Bank (4 areas).
- Stellwagen Bank is closed to protect recruits.
- Default measures higher than all TAC options for 2021. (45k lb difference with Option 2)
  - Incoming 2022 TAC will likely be several times higher than any overage that could occur.

#### Action 2. Northern Gulf of Maine TAC Setting (Sec. 4.2)

##### Alternative 1:

No Action

FW32 Default TAC: 265,000 lbs

LAGC Share: 167,500 lbs

##### Alternative 2:

Set NGOM TAC, with first 70,000 lbs to LAGC, then 50/50 split between LA and LAGC

#### 4.2.2.1 – Select FY 2021 NGOM TAC

##### Option 1:

TAC at  $F=0.18$ , 160,000 lbs

LAGC Share: 115,000 lbs

##### Option 2:

TAC at  $F=0.2$ , 175,000 lbs

LAGC Share: 122,500 lbs

##### Option 3:

TAC at  $F=0.25$ , 210,000 lbs

LAGC Share: 140,000 lbs

#### 4.2.2.2 – Select FY2022 NGOM TAC (Default – Replaced in next FW)

##### Sub-Option 1:

TAC at  $F=0.2$ , 74,000 lbs

LAGC Share: 72,000 lbs

Stellwagen Closed

##### Sub-Option 2:

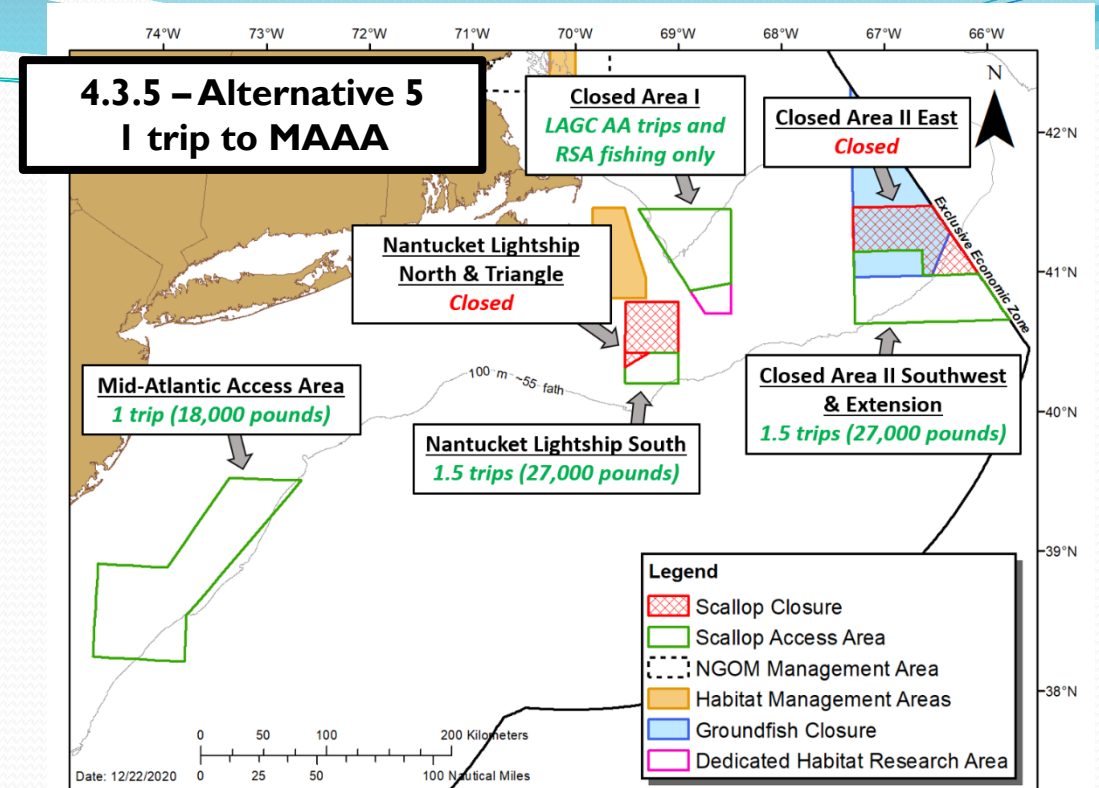
TAC at  $F=0$ , 0 lbs

LAGC Share: 0 lbs

Management Unit Closed

## Action 3: Specifications

- **9 Total Options, including No Action**
  - **2 DAS options (24 or 26)**
  - No Action: 1 trip to MAAA, 18 FT LA DAS
- Options in this action would result in allocations for 2021 that range between 41 – 37 million pounds.
- Access area trips in three regions: Mid-Atlantic, Closed Area II, NLS-South.
- LAGC IFQ and RSA compensation fishing in CAI on limited exploitable biomass.



Access Area Trip Allocations Associated with Each Alternative in Action 3.

	<b>4.3.1 – Alt 1</b> <b>No Action</b>	<b>4.3.2 – Alt 2</b> <b>3.5 Trips</b>	<b>4.3.3 – Alt 3</b> <b>1 trip CAII</b>	<b>4.3.4 – Alt 4</b> <b>1 trip in NLS</b>	<b>4.3.5 – Alt 5</b> <b>1 trip MAAA</b>
<b>Closed Area II</b>		1 trip	1 trip	1.5 trips	1.5 trips
<b>NLS-South</b>		1.5 trips	1.5 trips	1 trip	1.5 trips
<b>MAAA</b>	1 trip	1 trip	1.5 trips	1.5 trips	1 trip
<b>Total Trips</b>	1 trip	3.5 trips	4 trips	4 trips	4 trips

## LA Part Time Allocations

- 40% of Full Time Allocations; 9.6 DAS with Committee preferred
- PT AA allocation for 4 trip specs option: 14,400 lb trip limit (28,800-pound allocations), 1 trip to MAAA, 1 trip to either CAII or NLS-South

## FY 2022 Default Measures

- LA – 75% of DAS, plus one access area trip in the MAAA, opens May 1, 2022
- LAGC IFQ – 75% of 2021 allocations, LAGC access area trips would be available in the MAAA and NLS-South

## Opportunity to Fish AA Trips in FY 2022

- Like previous actions, LA access area trips allocated for FY 2021 would be available for the first 60 days of FY 2022, even if the area is scheduled to close in FY 2022.

## Action 3: Specifications

### Committee Preferred Alternatives (Jan 2021)

#### Action 3. Specifications (Sec. 4.3)

Alternative 1: No Action  
Default Measures from FW32

Alternative 2: 3.5 FT LA trips  
24 DAS      26 DAS

Alternative 3: 4 Trips, 1 in CAII  
24 DAS      26 DAS

Alternative 4: 4 Trips, 1 in NLS  
24 DAS      26 DAS

Alternative 5: 4 Trips, 1 in MAAA  
24 DAS      26 DAS

2022 Defaults: Change → 1 MAAA, opens May 1.

Alt. 2-5, CAI rotational area for RSA & GC IFQ trips



# Access Area Comparison

Sub-Area	Projection of Exploitable Biomass 2021 (Rank)	Year Classes in the Area	Recruitment?	Average Size (2020 Dredge surveys)	FT LA Trips	F rate
Hudson Canyon	7.9 mil. Lbs (6)	2013 YC	No	Survey: 110 mm Comm: 119 mm	MAAA (one area) 1.5 trips: F=0.38 1 trip: F=0.23	
Elephant Trunk Flex	9.3 mil. Lbs (5)	2013 YC	No	Survey: 114 mm Comm: 123 mm		
Elephant Trunk Open	17 mil. Lbs (4)	2013 YC	No	Survey: 124 mm Comm: 121 mm		
NLS-South	27.7 mil. Lbs (2)	2012 YC	No	Survey: 86 mm Comm: 94 mm	1.5	F=0.33
					1	F=0.21
Closed Area II SW	32.3 mil. Lbs. (1)	One YC 4 years old	No	Survey: 91 mm Comm: 94 mm	1	F=0.15
					.75	F=0.1
Closed Area II Ext	23.6 mil. Lbs (3)	2+	Yes	Survey: 76 mm Comm: 106 mm	.5	F=0.12
					.25	F=0.06
Closed Area I Sliver	1.1 mil. Lbs (1.9 in CAI overall)	2	Yes	Survey: 97 mm Comm: 122 mm	856 GC Trips	F=0.35

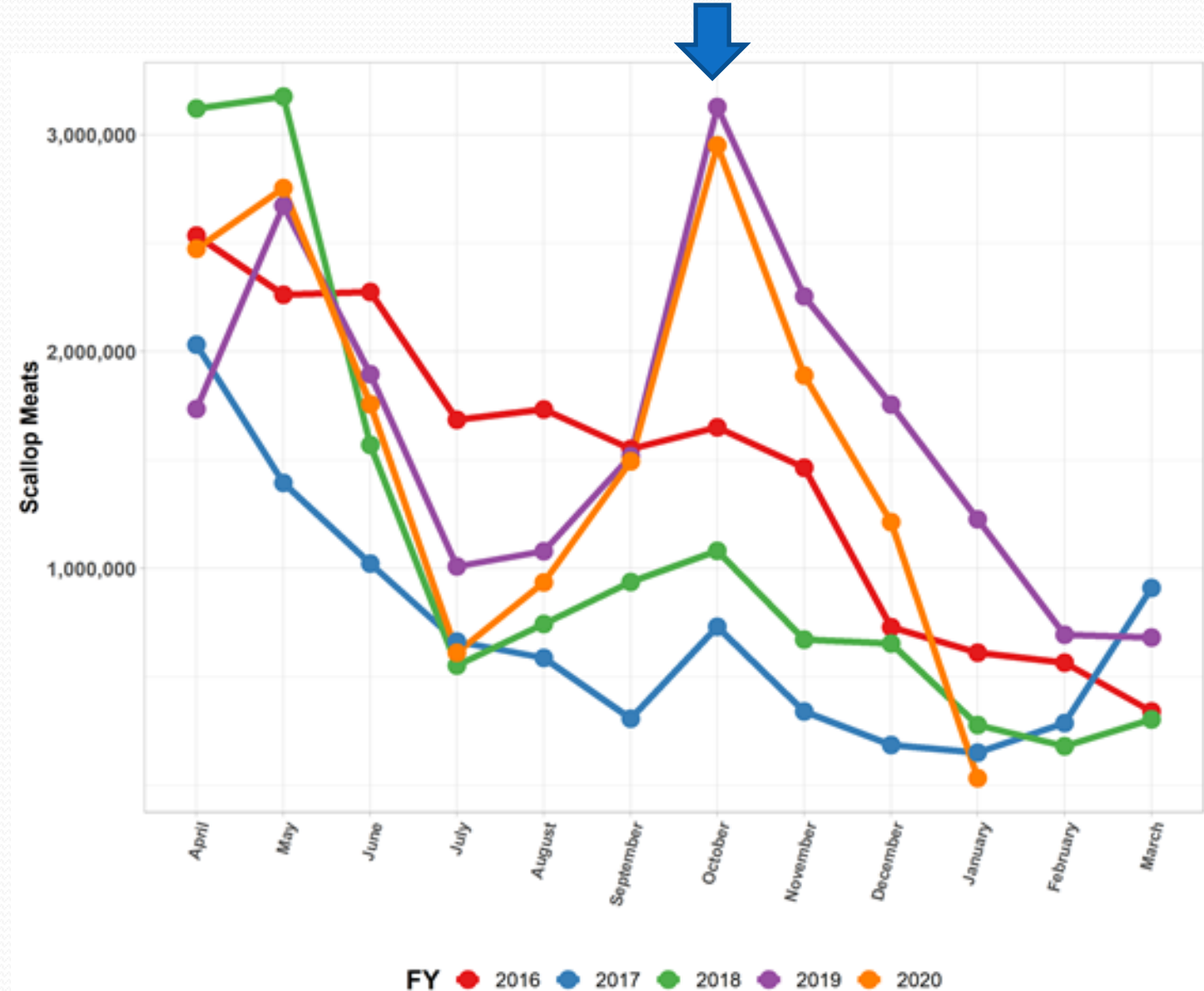
# Landings by month in the Mid-Atlantic Access Area

## Recent Allocations:

- 2016 – 2021: ~90 mil. lbs

## 2022 Outlook:

- Fishing one FT LA trip from the area (6 mil. Lbs) increases the likelihood that another 6 mil. Lbs could be harvested in 2022.



## Summary of Economic, Social & EFH Impacts

Alternatives/Runs	Alt1 NA 4.3.1	Alt2 24das 4.3.2.1	Alt2 26das 4.3.2.2	Alt3 24das 4.3.3.1	Alt3 26das 4.3.3.2	Alt4 24das 4.3.4.1	Alt4 26das 4.3.4.2	Alt5 24das 4.3.5.1	Alt5 26das 4.3.5.2	SQ 4.3.6
Landings (mil lbs)	19.070	37.068	38.281	40.104	41.317	40.153	41.381	40.045	41.273	39.130
Revenue (mil.\$)	\$207.04	\$362.25	\$371.36	\$393.03	\$401.84	\$394.45	\$403.33	\$387.07	\$396.06	\$389.90

- Revenue estimates range from \$362 to \$403 million dollars across Alternatives 2 - 5.
- Compared to recent FWs, decline in overall landings and revenue.
- Difference in landings, revenue driven by DAS and expected market grades of landings.
- Differences in economic and social benefits would be relatively small both in the short- and long-term.
- Spatial management focuses harvest on high densities in three areas under consideration.
- Habitat efficiency expected to decline from recent years.

## Protected Resources

- There are fewer PR interaction concerns in GB access areas (turtles or sturgeon) vs. MAAA.
- Harvest in MAAA is less than to recent levels.
- DAS fishing anticipated across GB and MAAA, all options keep DAS effort at or just above recent levels (24 DAS pref.)
- NGOM fishery levels lower than in recent years.

## Flatfish Bycatch Estimates

- The projections are forecasts (with error) and should not be taken as precise estimates.
- Preliminary estimates are around expected sub-ACLs for FY 2021.
- CAI projections based on 2017 data. High densities of scallops, projection likely over-estimated.

	<b>NWP</b>	<b>SWP</b>	<b>SNE MAYT</b>	<b>GBYT</b>
<b>2021 sub-ACL</b>	<b>31 mt</b>	<b>129 mt</b>	<b>2 mt</b>	<b>12 mt</b>
Range (Alt 2 - 5)	26 – 31	66 - 80	2 - 3	12 - 17
Alt. 5 (CTE pref.)	29.2	72.2	3	16.7

## Action 4: LAGC IFQ AA Trip Allocations

Action 4. Access Area Trip Allocations to the LAGC IFQ Component (Sec. 4.4)

Alternative 1: No Action  
Default Measures from FW32  
MAAA: 571 trips

Alternative 2: CAII allocation to CAI only  
*Trips associated with Alt. 5 in Action 3, CTE pref.*  
MAAA: 571  
NLS-South: 856  
CAI: 856

Alternative 3: Distribute Closed Area II Access Area Allocation evenly across the Mid-Atlantic Access Area, NLS-South, and Closed Area I  
*Trips associated with Alt. 5 in Action 3, CTE pref.*  
MAAA: 856  
NLS-South: 1141  
CAI: 286

## Action 5.1: RSA Fishing *Committee Preferred Alternatives (Jan 2021)*

Action 5.1. RSA Compensation Fishing (Sec. 4.5.1)

Alternative 1: No Action  
RSA compensation fishing in open bottom only.

Alternative 2:  
Open areas, plus Mid-Atlantic Access Area, NLS-South, Closed Area II (June 1 – Aug. 15), and Closed Area I, with limited RSA compensation fishing in the NGOM Management Area

## Action 5.2: CAII Seasonal Closure

Action 5.2. Seasonal Closure of Closed Area II Access Area to Reduce Impacts on Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder and Northern Windowpane Flounder (Sec. 4.5.2)

Alternative 1: No Action  
No change to the current Aug. 15 – Nov. 15 closure in CAII.

Alternative 2:  
Extend Seasonal Closure of Closed Area II Access Area through November 30th in FY 2021  
Include CAII-Ext in Seasonal Closure



# 2021 Scallop Work Priorities

- In Progress/Ongoing:
  - Amendment 21
  - Framework 33
  - Scallop Survey Advisory Panel
  - RSA support
  - Tracking flatfish
- Have not started:
  - Framework 34 (initiate in June)
    - IFQ trip counting
    - Implement A21 measures
  - Evaluate rotational management
- Cross-plan items:
  - Northern Edge (Habitat)

# Possible Timelines for 2021 Actions

	Amendment 2 I	Framework 33	Framework 34	Scallop Survey WG
January		Final Action		
February	Preliminary Submission	Preliminary Submission		SOPPs finalized, WG formed
March		Proposed Rule, NMFS Reviews FW		
April		NMFS Reviews FW, Council Final submission		First meeting, Set TORs
May - June	Final Submission	Publish Final Rule, Implementation FW33	Initiate FW- consider implementation of A2I measures	
June	Proposed Rule/NOA			
July				
August			Survey Data	
September	Decision (determine what measures are needed in FW34)		Run Projection Model	
October			Start developing RUNS	
November				
December			Final Action	

# Request to change 2021 priorities

- Scallopers Campaign request on Nov. 3, 2020:

*We request the Council reconsider the results of its scallop priorities from the October 27, 2020 webinar at the upcoming December Council meeting and add LA scallop leasing listening sessions to its 2021 schedule to provide the industry with a fair hearing.*

- Committee discussed the SC request on January 22, 2021. Did not take up the AP motion recommending that the Council add leasing listening sessions to 2021 work priorities.
- Additional correspondence since Nov. 3, including January 15, 2021 request for the NOAA Administrator to prepare an amendment under authority provided to the Secretary in Sec. 304(c)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1854).