



New England Fishery Management Council

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John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

July 29, 2020

Dr. Jonathan Hare
Science and Research Director
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543

Dear Jon:

The Scallop PDT met on July 28th, 2020 and discussed the outlook for 2020 survey coverage. With the R/V Sharp not sailing this season, there will be gaps in survey coverage of the scallop resource. The PDT evaluated data needs for the 2021/2022 specifications cycle, and recommends that the following areas be surveyed in 2020, if possible (ranked):

1. Dredge survey of the Great South Channel SAMS area.
 - a. *Rationale: There are multiple reports of scallop seed in this area. It is important to collect biological data for the year classes present in this area. The GSC is an important area for the fishery, particularly if a larger proportion of landings come from open areas in the coming years.*
2. Optical surveys in open areas of the Mid-Atlantic, particularly the Long Island and New York Bight SAMS areas.
 - a. *Rationale: There are reports of scallop recruitment in open areas of the Mid-Atlantic. With fewer access area trips expected in 2021, a larger proportion of landings are likely to come from the open bottom over the next two fishing years. Optical data for these areas will be used with dredge survey data for projections.*

Based on this input, I recommend that the Center continue to work with survey groups funded through the 2020/2021 Scallop RSA (i.e., CFF, SMAST, and VIMS) to survey the areas recommended by the Scallop PDT. We appreciate the work that the Center has already done to expand coverage of the SMAST drop camera system to the Great South Channel SAMS area, and hope that further arrangements can be made with RSA survey partners to address the above recommendations.

Thank you for considering this input. Please contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Nies
Executive Director

Attachment: Scallop PDT evaluation of likely survey coverage from 2020 survey season on Georges Bank and the Mid-Atlantic.

Table 1 - Overview of expected 2020 survey coverage for Georges Bank SAMS areas including areas the Scallop PDT recommends expanding dredge coverage to.

GB	Dredge	Optical	Total Surveys	Notes
CL1-Access			0	Not likely to be fished as AA
CL1-Sliver	VIMS		1	Not likely to be fished as AA
CL1-South			0	
CL2-North			0	HAPC area
CL2-Southeast	VIMS	SMAST, CFF	3	
CL2-Southwest	VIMS	SMAST, CFF	3	
CL2-Ext	VIMS	SMAST, CFF	3	
NLS-North	VIMS	SMAST	2	
NLS-South-Shall	VIMS	SMAST, CFF	3	
NLS-South-Deep	VIMS	SMAST, CFF	3	
NLS-West	VIMS		1	Not likely to be fished
NF			0	
GSC	<i>RECOMMEND</i>	SMAST	1	SMAST surveying, Reports of seed
SF	VIMS (some)	CFF	1, VIMS partial	Reports of seed

Table 2 - Overview of expected 2020 survey coverage for Mid-Atlantic SAMS areas including areas the Scallop PDT recommends expanding optical coverage to.

MidAtlantic	Dredge	Optical	Total Surveys	Notes
BI	VIMS		1	
LI	VIMS	<i>RECOMMEND</i>	1	
NYB	VIMS	<i>RECOMMEND</i>	1	
MAB-Nearshore	VIMS		1	
HCS	VIMS	CFF	2	
ET Open	VIMS	CFF, SMAST	3	
ET Flex	VIMS	CFF, SMAST	3	
DMV	VIMS		1	

