



New England Fishery Management Council

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MEETING SUMMARY

Scallop Advisory Panel Meeting Waypoint Event Center, New Bedford, MA September 14, 2016

This summary consists of final advisory panel motions only.

Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder

Motion #1: Welch/Larson

The Scallop AP requests that the Scallop Committee recommends to the Council that the Georges Bank Yellowtail allocation be adjusted to reflect current usage rates.

Rationale: The GF fishery has not fully utilized its sub-ACL in recent years, while the scallop fishery has come close to or exceeded its sub-ACL. The current in-season transfer provision would allow unused scallop allocation to be transferred to the groundfish fishery in-season.

By consensus, replace the main motion with Motion #2.

Motion #2:

The Scallop AP requests that the Scallop Committee recommend that the current GB YT AM triggers (100% of ACL, 150% of scallop sub-ACL) be revisited in Scallop FW28 to reflect removal of the 150% trigger.

Rationale: The US GB YT ACL has not been utilized in recent years. Under the 150% trigger threshold, the scallop fishery may be subject to an AM even if the overall ACL is not exceeded. Removing the 150% trigger would align the scallop GB YT AM with AM triggers for this stock in the Groundfish FMP.

Vote: The motion carried on a show of hands. (9/0/1)

Framework 28 - Specifications

Motion #3: Parker/Larson

The Advisory Panel suggests the Committee direct the PDT to explore a potential run considering: 1 trip in CA II S, 2 trips in Nantucket Lightship (split between the north and the south, 1 in each & as a single area with 2 trips), 2 trips in the MAAA (Megatron) keeping Delmarva part of the area and using a F=0.1 in Delmarva. Elephant Trunk Closed Area would stay closed, the Closed Area II

extension would stay closed. For CAI, access for only carryover trips with a 2 year window to take those trips (recognizing this is contingent on OHA2).

The motion carried on a show of hands. (11-0-0)

By consensus (#4): The Advisory Panel suggests the Committee direct the PDT to keep open area DAS at 30 days as the anchor run (1st run, top priority for analysis). The Advisory Panel suggests exploratory runs using an F=0.4, F=0.48, and Status Quo DAS (34.6 DAS).

Motion #5: Parker/Larson:

The Advisory Panel suggests to the Committee that RSA compensation fishing be prohibited in: 1) NGOM management area; 2) NLS North; 3) CA I; 4) CA II S (yellowtail concern).

The motion carried on a show of hands. (7/2/2)

Motion #6: Hatch/Maxwell

The Scallop AP requests that the Scallop Committee recommends that the NGOM TAC remain at status quo (70,000 lbs) for the FY2017 fishing year.

Rationale: Keeping status quo, payback will come out of the 70,000 lbs. The NGOM management area will open on March 1 using the FW27 default measures. This value creates consistency in the process, recognizing that a payback from the FY2016 GC overage (~20,000 lbs) will not be implemented until FW28 is implemented.

The motion carried on a show of hands (10/1/0).

Framework 28 – Management Measures

Motion #7 - Hansen/Larson

Move that the AP recommends that the CTE adopt section 1.1.2 in Doc #8, restricting the possession of shell stock inshore of VMS demarcation line north of 42 20 to 50 bushels for LA vessels.

The motion carried on a show of hands. (11/0/0).

Motion #8: Parker/Maxwell

That the AP supports 2.1.2, Fishery allocations based on spatial management. The AP does not support the concept of a ceiling for the LAGC IFQ.

Rationale: All components would be allocated from projected landings to reflect the spatial management of the fishery.

The motion carried on a show of hands. (8/3/0)

Motion #9: Hansen/Keese

The AP recommends that the Scallop Committee move Alternative 2.2 (Doc.8), Management Uncertainty for the LAGC IFQ component, to Considered but Rejected.

Rationale: Applying a management uncertainty buffer to the ACL would not functionally limit LAGC IFQ allocations that would be based on projected landings under spatial management. The motion carried on a show of hands. (11/0/0)

Motion #10: Keese/Parker

That the AP supports expanding the CA I AA to follow the entire HMA boundary to the north of the current CA I AA.

Rationale: This would allow both GC and LA components to fish in the HMA if it opens as the GSC small dredge exemption stops at the current boundary line of CA I closures, and there is scallop biomass in eastern portion, which is closer to regional ports. The motion carried on a show of hands. (11/0/0)

2017 Priorities:

By Consensus (#11) The AP requests that the Committee recommend investigates the divergence in survey results from the 2016, specifically HabCam estimates. Examine instances when estimates vary widely between surveys (ex: NLS NA).

Rationale: The AP discussed the differences in the estimates between each survey (dredge, dropcam, HabCam). Concern was expressed about the variance between the high and low estimates, and that a single estimate can drive (inflate) overall estimates of biomass. The AP also noted very little incoming recruitment was observed by all surveys. The AP expressed interest in understanding how estimates are derived from HabCam.

By consensus (#12) the AP supports removing the small-dredge exemption areas as a groundfish priority for 2017.

Other Business:

Motion #13: Fletcher/Welch

The AP requests that the Committee recommend that the Council write a letter to NMFS recommending that a broader conversation take place between the scallop PDT, sea turtle veterinarians, and biologists to better understand turtle and nematode issues. The motion carried on a show of hands. (10/0/1)

By consensus (#14), the AP requests additional transparency in the survey process, including details about survey results and methods, and would like results to be ready sooner.