



## New England Fishery Management Council

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### **MEETING SUMMARY**

#### **Scallop Committee**

Hilton Garden Inn, Boston, MA

November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017

The Scallop Committee met in Boston, MA on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to: (1) review Framework 29 alternatives and preliminary analysis, (2) identify final preferred alternative recommendations for Framework 29, and (3) discuss other business.

#### *MEETING ATTENDANCE*

Ronald Enoksen, James Gutowski (Advisory Panel Chair), Eric Hansen, Kirk Larson, Brady Lybarger, Michael Marchetti, Ed Mullis, Paul Parker, Kristan Porter, Tom Reilly, Charles Quinn, Paul Vifides, and Jonathon Peros (PDT Chair).

Vincent Balzano, Chair of the Scallop Committee, was in attendance, along with approximately 8 members of the public.

*SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:* (1) [Staff Presentation](#), 1a) [Meeting Agenda](#), 1b) [Meeting Memo from Mr. Vincent Balzano, Scallop Committee Chair](#), (2) [Draft Framework 29](#)—(a) [FW29 Decision Document](#), (b) [Draft Framework 29 economic analysis](#), (3) [Scallop Framework 29 Action Plan](#), (4) [Memo from Scallop PDT to Scallop Committee re: Evaluation of Projected Flatfish Catch in Framework 29 \(November 22, 2017\)](#), 5) [Memo from Scallop PDT to SSC re: OFL and ABC values for 2018 and 2019 \(default\)](#), 6) Recent Meeting Summaries—(a) [October 25, 2017 Joint Scallop AP/PDT meeting summary](#), (b) [October 26, 2017 Scallop Committee meeting summary](#), (c) [November 9, 2017 Scallop PDT meeting summary](#), (7) [Council staff memo re Scallop fishery catch of CC/GOM yellowtail flounder](#), (8) [Scallop PDT memo to Groundfish PDT re: Scallop fishery bycatch projections for FY2018](#), (9) Correspondence, and (10) [Memo on Executive Committee recommendations for 2018 Priorities & Council rankings](#).

#### *KEY OUTCOMES:*

- The Scallop Committee provided the Council with recommendations on final preferred alternatives for Scallop Framework 29.

The goal of this meeting was to review Framework 29 measures and supporting analysis, and to potentially identify preferred alternative recommendations for the Council. Scallop Committee motions are provided here with a brief summary of discussion relevant to each motion.

**OFL and ABC Motions:**

**Motion 1- Hughes/Reid**

The Committee recommends that the Council adopt Alt. 4.1.2 as preferred for Alternative 4.1, Overfishing Limits and Acceptable Biological Catch.

*Rationale:* These values reflect estimates that use the most recent survey information (2017). These values are conservative, and account for slow growth in NLS and ET Flex.

The motion carried on a show of hands. (12-0-0)

Discussion: There was no discussion with regard to Motion 1.

**Northern Gulf of Maine Motions:**

**Motion 2 – Stockwell/Patterson**

The Committee recommends that the Council adopt Alt. 4.2.2.2 as preferred. (Fish NGOM at F=0.18, FY 2018: 200,000 lb overall TAC, FY 2019: 135,000 lb overall TAC)

The motion carried on a show of hands. (12-0-0)

Discussion: There was no discussion relative to Motion 2.

**Motion 3 – Stockwell/Patterson**

The Committee recommends that the Council adopt Alt. 4.2.2.2.1b as preferred. (70k, then 50/50 split.

LAGC TAC=135,000 lbs and LA TAC at 65,000 lbs).

*Rationale:* 70,000 is the historical baseline for the area. 50/50 equally shares the SW JL windfall. The additional pounds to LAGC helps to address the early FY 2017 closure of the area that left some of the LAGC TAC unharvested. Not intended to be precedent setting.

The motion carried on a show of hands. (11-0-1)

Discussion: Committee members expressed support of Motion 3 with the understanding that this does not set a precedent for allocation of NGOM TAC in the future. Three members of the audience also supported Motion 3. Other members of the audience believed a 25/75 split would be a better idea, noting that the proposed 50/50 split could be overly restrictive to the LA component.

**Motion 4 – Stockwell/Griffin**

The Committee supports the following process for awarding NGOM RSA:

1. Successful projects indicate interest in fishing NGOM RSA
2. Priority is given to projects doing research in NGOM
3. NMFS only allocate NGOM RSA pounds up to the LA TAC

The motion carried on a show of hands. (12-0-0)

Discussion: There was no discussion around Motion 4.

**Closed Area I Carryover Motion:**

**Motion 5 – Hughes/Griffin**

The Committee recommends that the Council adopt Alt. 4.3.2 as preferred for CAI carryover.

*Rationale:* Intent is to follow the allocation order explained in FW29. (Allocate to Closed Area I before NLS-West, and no allocation if no change through OHA2 and pounds stay on the books).

The motion carried on a show of hands. (12-0-0)

Discussion: Staff confirmed that the CAI carryover pounds and subsequent F rate were accounted for in the SAMS model when projected biomass was calculated for FY2018.

**Motion for Specifications Alternatives:**

**Motion 6 – Griffin/Hughes**

The Committee recommends that the Council adopt 4.4.4.2 as preferred if both CAI and NLS-West are open through passage of OHA2. (6 trips at F=0.295)

The Committee recommends that the Council adopt 4.4.5.2 as preferred if only NLS-West is open through passage of OHA2. (F=0.40 with 31 DAS)

The Committee recommends that the Council adopt 4.4.6 as preferred if only CAI is open through passage of OHA2. (F=0.36 with 23 DAS)

The Committee recommends that the Council adopt 4.4.2.2 as preferred for FW 29 specifications if there is no change through OHA2. (F=0.4 and 26 DAS)

The motion carried on a show of hands. (11/1/0)

***Rationale:***

All measures would modify access area configurations as specified in Section 4.4 of FW29.

Alternative 4.4.4.2: This option would reduce area swept and bycatch relative to other alternatives. This open area F rate is below what the fishery has operated at in recent years. This is the Committee's first choice as an alternative if both NLS-W and CAI open, and results in highest revenues and landings, lowest area bycatch and swept area.

Alternative 4.4.5.2: Two days of steam time to go out to the east, and higher DAS could help to get vessels to fish in the CAII-ext. This open area F rate is below what the fishery has operated at in recent years.

Alternative 4 4.4.6: Prefer to have 2 AA trips in the MAAA vs. 3 trips. This open area F rate is below what the fishery has operated at in recent years.

Alternative 4.4.2.2: This is only preferred if there are no changes made through OHA2.  $F=0.4$  is lower than  $F$  rates fished in recent actions.

4.4.4.2, 4.4.5.2, and 4.4.4.6 reduce trips in the MAAA relative to BASE option 4.4.2.2. These options are also supported by the AP.

Discussion: A member of the Committee expressed concern with using an open-area  $F$  of 0.40 because the PDT recommended applying a conservative open-area  $F$  with the intent of sustaining the current open area resource for the next several years.

**Motions for LAGC IFQ Access Area Fishing:**

**Motion 7 – Stockwell/Godfroy**

The Committee recommends that the Council adopt 4.5.1.2 and 4.5.2.2 as preferred for LAGC IFQ AA allocations.

The motion carried on a show of hands. (12-0-0)

Discussion: There was no discussion with regard to Motion 7.

**Motion re: additional measures to reduce scallop fishery impacts:**

**Motion 8 – Reid/Hughes**

The Committee recommends that the Council adopt 4.6.2 as preferred for measures to reduce fishery impacts.

*Rationale:* Opening some access areas will alleviate issues of price on 2018 RSA comp trips. This adds flexibility to get more value for RSA pounds.

The motion carried on a show of hands. (12-0-0)

Discussion: There was no discussion with regard to Motion 8.

**Motion re: LA Part-Time Allocations and FY 2019 default measures:**

**Motion 9 – Hughes/Stockwell**

The Committee recommends that LA PT measures and FY 2019 default measures (4.4.8) as written in FW29.

*Rationale:* Follows the approach used in FW28. This approach follows advice from the PDT.

The motion carried on a show of hands. (12-0-0)

Discussion: There was no discussion relative to Motion 9.

**Motion re: Flatfish Accountability Measures**

**Motion 10 – Hughes/Stockwell**

The Committee recommends to the Council the following alternatives to address flatfish accountability measures:

4.7.3.1 as preferred for Northern Windowpane

4.8.3.1 as preferred for Georges Yellowtail

4.9.2 as preferred for SNE Yellowtail

*Rationale:* gear modifications and GRA's are preferred over time area closures.

The motion carried on a show of hands. (12-0-0)

Discussion: There was no discussion relative to Motion 10.

**Other Business**

Council staff cited recent discussion had by the Executive Committee (see Doc 10 for details) and asked the Committee for input on preferred work priorities for 2018. One member of the Committee believed that NGOM management measures was not a top priority relative to addressing the LAGC IFQ trip limit. Others believed that, despite no longer being in crisis mode in the NGOM, it may not be wise to put this work item off to a later date as a way to lessen the workload of the Scallop PDT, AP, and Committee.

No other business was discussed, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.