



## New England Fishery Management Council

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### MEETING SUMMARY

#### Scallop Committee

Hilton, Providence, RI

November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

The Scallop Committee met in Providence, RI on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 to: (1) review Framework 30 alternatives and analyses, (2) identify final preferred alternative recommendations for Framework 30, and (3) discuss other business.

#### MEETING ATTENDANCE

Vincent Balzano (Committee Chair), John Quinn (Council Chair), Melanie Griffin, Matt Gates, Rick Bellavance, Travis Ford, Cheri Patterson, John Pappalardo, Melissa Smith, Eric Reid, Terry Stockwell, Roger Mann (MAFMC), Gene Martin (NOAA General Council), Jonathon Peros (PDT Chair), and Sam Ascii (Council Staff).

There were approximately 7 members of the public in attendance.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:** (1) [Meeting Agenda](#), (1a) [Staff Presentation](#), (2) [Meeting Memo from Committee Chair, Mr. Vincent Balzano](#), (3) [Scallop Framework 30 \(draft\)](#)—(3a) [FW30 Decision Document](#), (3b) [FW30 Action Plan](#), (3c) [Draft Economic Impact Analyses](#), (4) [Memo from Scallop PDT to SSC re: OFL and ABC values for FY 2019 and FY 2020](#), (5) Recent Meeting Summaries –(a) [Scallop PDT meeting summaries \(Sept. 28, 2018 through November 16, 2018\)](#), (b) [October 23, 2018 Joint Scallop AP/PDT meeting summary](#), (c) [October 24, 2018 Scallop Committee meeting summary](#), (6) [Scallop PDT memo to Groundfish PDT re: Scallop fishery bycatch projections for FY2019](#), and (7) [Correspondence](#).

#### KEY OUTCOMES:

- The Scallop Committee provided the Council with recommendations on final preferred alternatives for Scallop Framework 30.

The goal of this meeting was to review Framework 30 measures and to identify preferred alternative recommendations for the Council to consider at their December 2018 meeting. Committee motions are provided here with a brief summary of discussion relevant to each motion. Meeting materials can be accessed through the Council's website using the links provided above.

Selection of Preferred Alternatives in Scallop Framework 30:

**Motion 1: Stockwell/Patterson**

Recommend that the Council adopt in Section 4.1, Alternative 4.1.2, Updated OFL and ABC for FY 2019 and FY 2020, as the preferred alternative.

*Rationale:* utilizes the latest available science. PDT and AP support

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

*There were no questions or discussion around Motion 1.*

**Motion 2: Patterson/Reid**

Recommend that the Council adopt in Section 4.2, Alternative 2 Sub-Option 1 (4.2.2.1), Set NGOM TAC using exploitable biomass projections for 2019 and 2020, cap removals for all fishery components, and apply LA share of TAC toward RSA compensation fishing. NGOM TAC split: first 70,000 lbs to LAGC, then 50/50 split. Set the NGOM TAC at  $F=0.20$  (2019 TAC at 205,000, 2020 TAC at 170,000) as the preferred alternative.

*Rationale:* Fishing the NGOM at  $F=0.2$  is a conservative approach, most fishing will occur on Stellwagen Bank.

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

*There were no questions or discussion around Motion 2.*

**Motion 3: Stockwell/Reid**

Recommend that the Council adopt in Section 4.3, Alternative 3 Sub-Option 2 (4.3.3.2) as preferred. This alternative would allocate:

- 7 Access area trips (18,000 lb trip limit)
  - 1 Closed Area I FLEX
  - 3 Nantucket Lightship-West
  - 3 Mid-Atlantic Access Area
  - FT LA DAS: 24 ( $F=0.23$ )
  - *2020 Default:* 1 trip to MAAA, 1 trip to NLS-West (18k lbs), 18 FT LA DAS

*Rationale:* PDT and AP supported this as their preferred alternative.

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

Discussion points:

- The Committee briefly touched on AP discussion around FY2019 specifications from the day before, specifically with regard to potential safety considerations in the NLS-West due to the majority of biomass in this area being tightly concentrated. Several members of the public did not believe this was a valid concern and provided examples from past rotational openings, such as the Asia Rip area of the Nantucket Lightship North, where the fleet had directed access area effort into a smaller area than what could be expected for the NLS-West in FY2019.

**Motion 4: Patterson/Griffin**

Recommend that the Council adopt in Section 4.4, Alternative 2 (4.4.2), total LAGC IFQ access area trips based on 5.5% of the total access area allocations, allocate trips proportionally to each area, and allocate Flex trips to only Closed Area I, as the preferred alternative.

*Rationale:* The Committee supports the PDT and AP recommendations. This option would offer more flexibility to the GC.

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

*There were no questions or discussion around Motion 4.*

**Motion 5: Stockwell/Reid**

Recommend that the Council adopt in Section 4.5, Alternative 2 (4.5.2), as the preferred alternative. (Prohibit RSA compensation fishing in CAI and limit RSA compensation fishing in the NGOM).

*Rationale:* Reduce RSA compensation fishing in NGOM. PDT and AP recommendation.

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

*There were no questions or discussion around Motion 5.*

**Motion 6: Patterson/Stockwell**

Recommend that the Council adopt in Section 4.6.1, Alternatives 4.6.1.2, Standardize default open-area DAS for the LA component and LAGC IFQ quota allocation at 75% of the preferred alternative for the previous Fishing Year allocation, as the preferred alternative;

and

Recommend that the Council adopt in Section 4.6.2, Alternatives 4.6.2.2, Standardize LAGC IFQ access area allocations as 5.5% of the total expected access area harvest, as the preferred alternative.

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

*There were no questions or discussion around Motion 6.*

**No other business was discussed. The meeting ended at 10:30am.**