

Scallop Committee Report

Jonathon Peros

Council Staff

NEFMC
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New England
Fishery Management Council

Scallop Report Outline:

1. LAGC IFQ Program Review (Doc.3)
2. 2018/2019 RSA Priorities (Doc.4a, 4b)
3. FW29 Update (Doc. 5a-d)
4. Control date motion on limiting movement between permit LAGC categories (NGOM and Incidental) (Doc. 6)
5. Scallop Dredge Exemption Areas

- Several motions for Council to consider today.

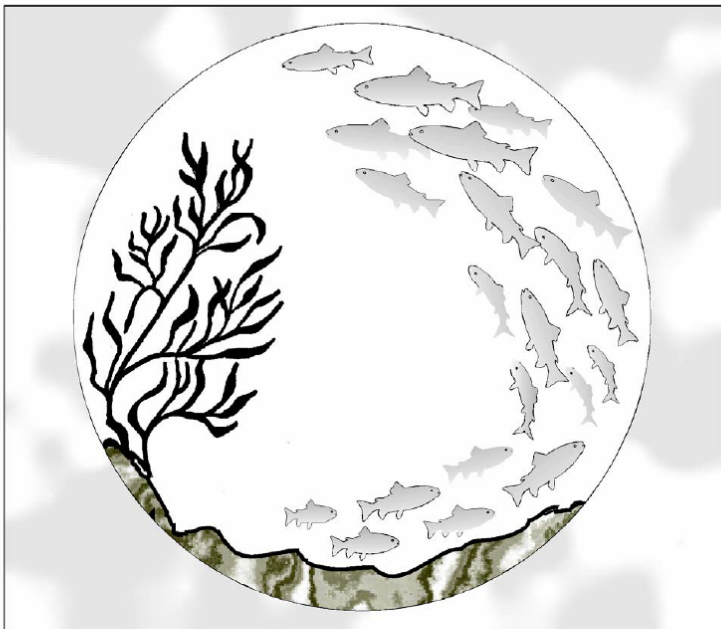


I. LAGC IFQ Program Review (Doc. 3)

Purpose, Need, and Scope of Report



Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service

- Magnuson-Stevens Act requirement to review CSPs
- NOAA Guidance for Conducting Reviews of CSPs
- NOAA Catch Share Policy
- Goals and Objectives of Amendment 11 to FMP



Technical Work Group

GARFO:

- Travis Ford
- Ben Galuardi
- Shannah Jaburek

NEFSC:

- Eric Thunberg
- Greg Ardini
- Matt Cutler

Council:

- Demet Haksever
- Deirdre Boelke
- Sam Asci
- Jonathon Peros

In addition to technical working group, several individuals and groups assisted in data gathering, input, and analyses for this review: Min-Yang Lee, John Walden, Lisa Colburn, Tammy Murphy, Dvora Hart, Tess Petesch, Gabriela Stocks, Northeast VMS team, OLE, APSD, IRM.

History of GC management

- Scallop FMP in 1982
- Limited entry in 1994 (Amendment 4)
- GC category for vessels that did not qualify – open access with possession limit
- In 1999 increase in GC fishing activity (average of 0.2 mil lbs. between 1994-2000; 1.0 million in 2001-2003, and 3-7 million each year between 2004-2006)
- Control date on November 1, 2004
- Council developed Amendment 11 (2005-2007), effective June 1, 2008



Amendment I I

- Primary goal of controlling capacity and mortality in the GC scallop fishery, prevent overfishing
- Participation in the GC fishery at different levels

“A fleet made up of relatively small vessels, with possession limits to maintain the historical character of this fleet and provide opportunities to various participants including vessels from small communities”

Amendment I I

- Implemented a limited entry and ITQ program
- Criteria: 1,000 pounds during and year (FY2000-2004), individual allocation based on best year indexed by # of years active in the fishery
- Vessel and ownership caps
- NGOM and Incidental limited entry programs
- 10% of projected catch allocation in FY2008 and 2009, and 5.5% of projected catch allocation starting in FY2010
- Pre-AI I there were about 2,500 permits, post-AI I about 700 permits for 3 limited entry permit categories

Post A I I modifications to LAGC program

- Amendment 15 (2011)
 - Allow 15% rollover of IFQ
 - Increase possession limit to 600 pounds
 - Increase vessel cap restriction to 2.5%
 - Allow splitting of LAGC allocation from permit
 - Allow partial leasing and leasing during the year even if some fishing has occurred
- Other modifications through FW actions

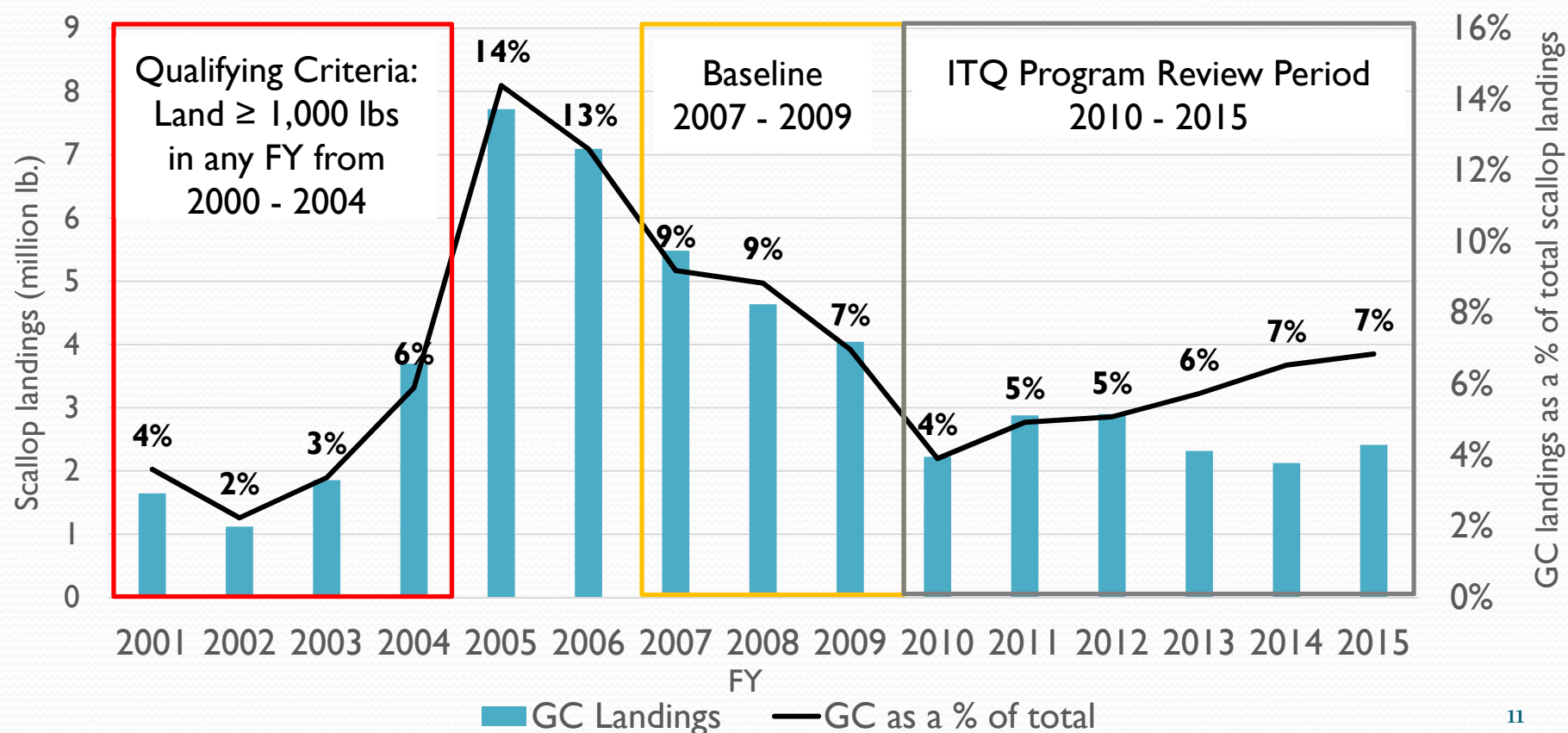


Key Questions:

- Has the LAGC IFQ Fishery:
 1. Resulted in benefits to the Nation, including the evaluation of biological, economic, and social criteria in such decision making?
 2. Preserved the ability for vessels to participate in the general category fishery at different levels? Has the IFQ program prevented excessive shares?
 3. Controlled capacity, mortality, and promoted conservation and management?
 4. Promoted safety, compliance, and enforcement?

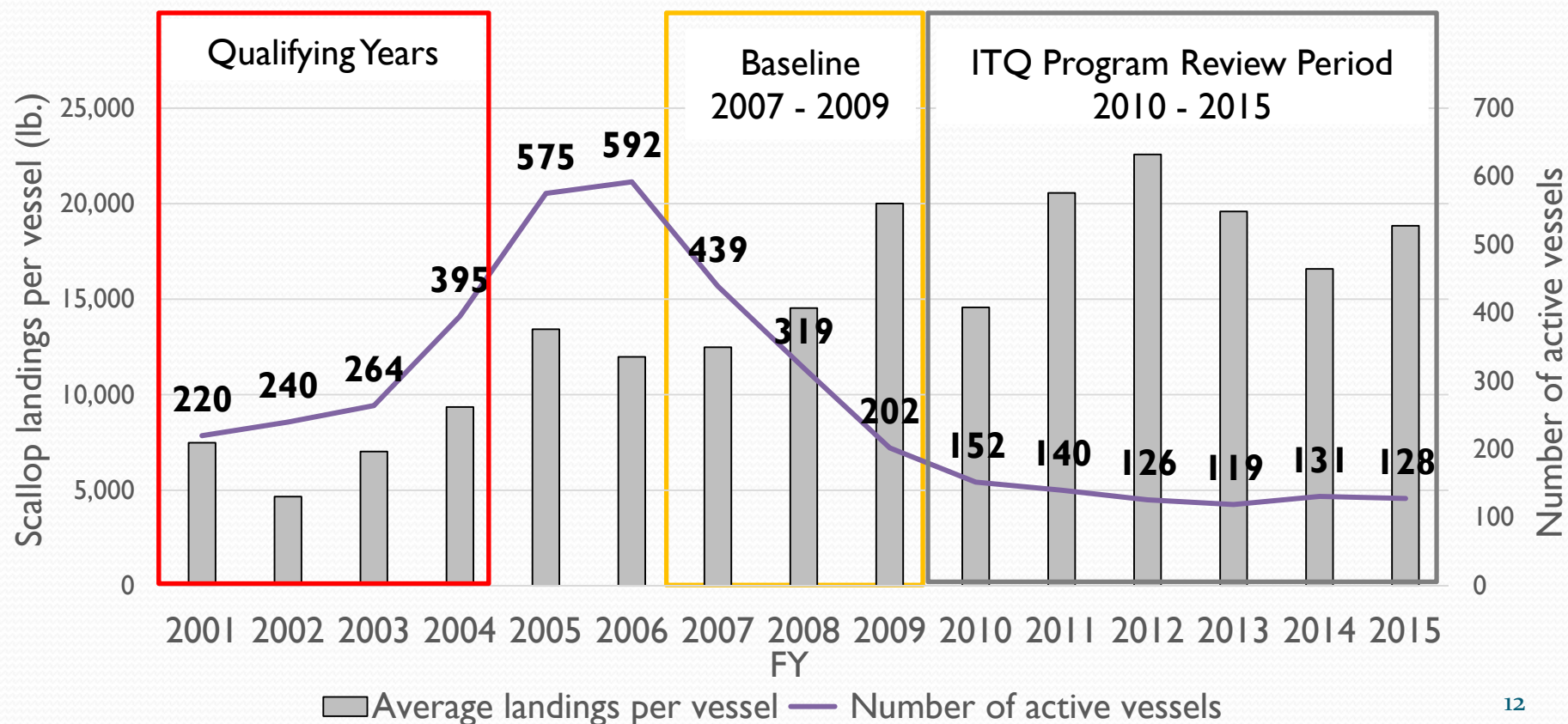
GC Landings by Fishing Year

- Peak in 2005, followed by **decline** (lbs landed, % of total).
- IFQ landings have not exceeded sub-ACL



Active GC vessels by FY

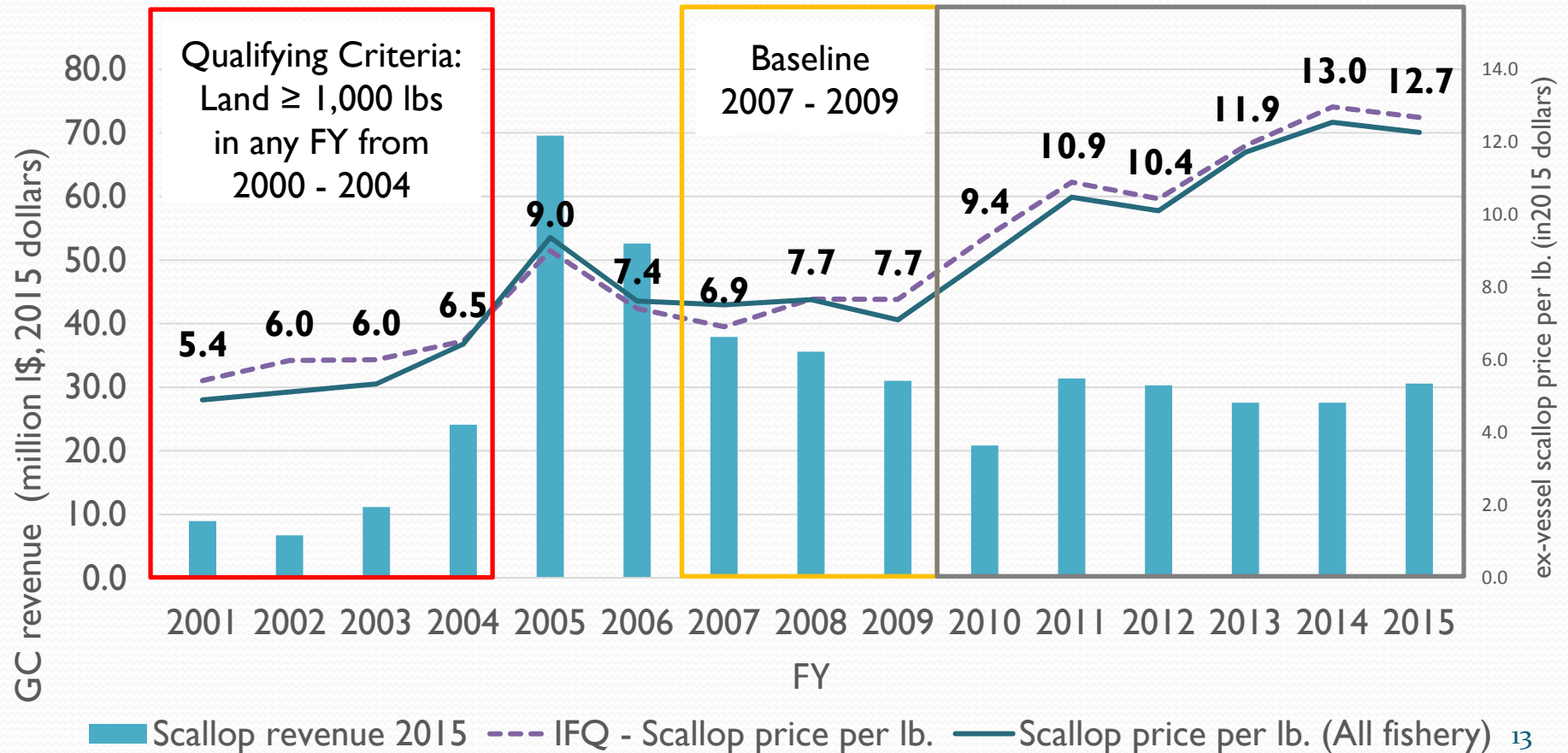
- Decline in active vessels from peak in 2006
- Average scallop landings varied, generally **increased**



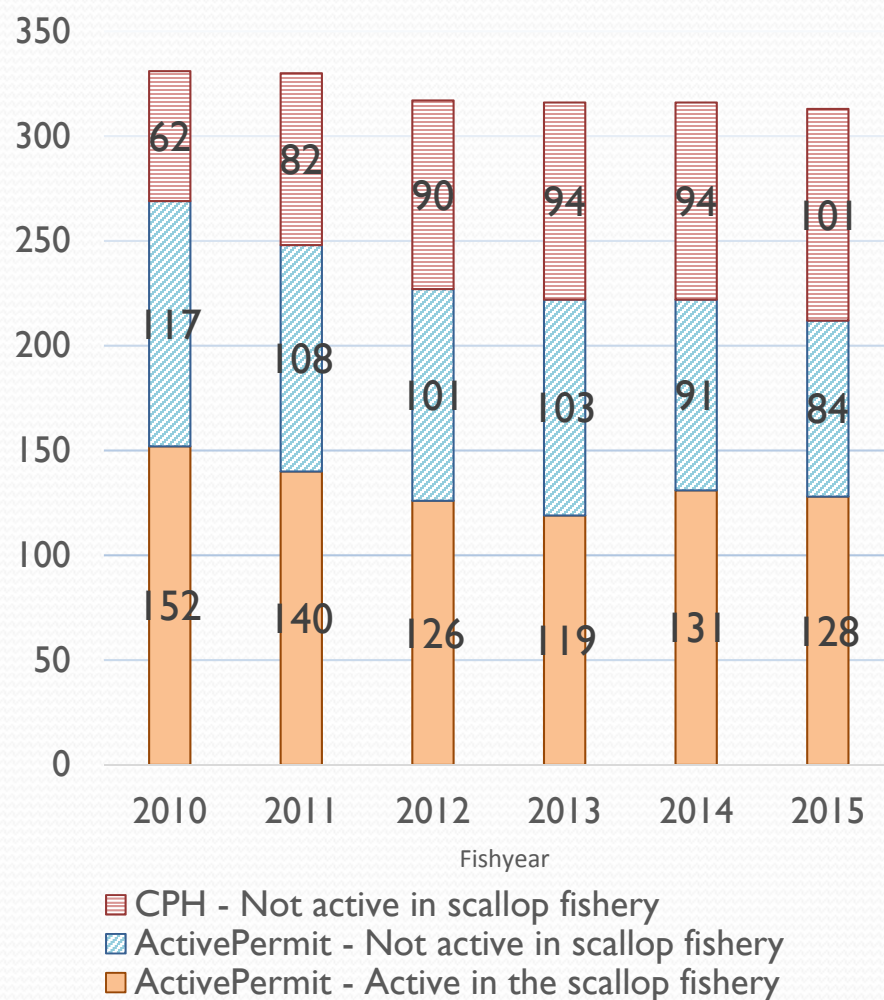
GC Ex-Vessel Price, Revenue

- Scallop Ex-Vessel Price
- General Category Revenue

ITQ Program Review Period
2010 - 2015



Number of permits by activity

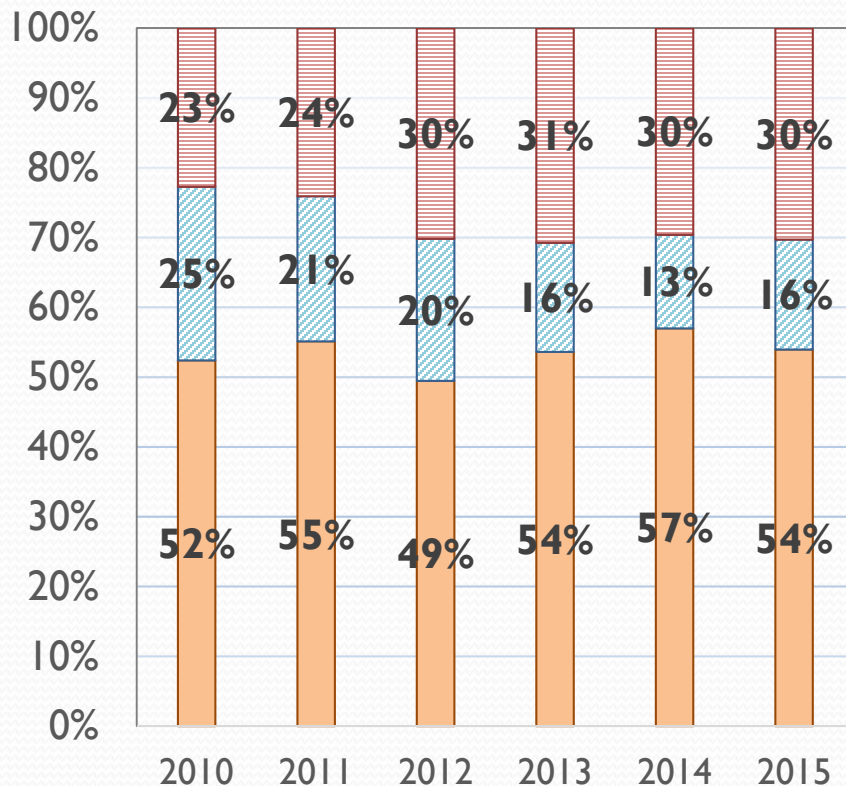


DECREASE in active permits active in scallop fishery (152 → 128)

DECREASE in active permits that were not active in scallop fishery (117 → 84)

INCREASE of permits in CPH, not active in scallop fishery (62 → 101)

Distribution of allocations by activity status



- CPH - Not active in scallop fishery
- ActivePermit - Not active in scallop fishery
- ActivePermit - Active in the scallop fishery

SLIGHT INCREASE in the % share of quota by permits active in scallop fishery (52% → 54%)

DECREASE in the % share of quota by active permits with no landings in the scallop fishery (25% → 16%)

INCREASE in the % share of quota by CPH permits (23% → 30%)

Affiliations by activity status

- If Jonathon and Demet hold a permit, and Demet and Sam hold a permit, we are affiliated.

- Active Affiliations

- # of affiliations **declined**: 127 → 102
- # of permits **declined**: 210 → 181 (active + CPH)
- Active vessels in the IFQ fishery: 152 → 128
- Inactive in IFQ fishery, active in other fisheries: 58 → 53
- With no fishing activity (CPH): stayed constant 15

- Inactive Affiliations

- # of affiliations **declined**: 106 → 90
- # of permits **increased**: 121 → 132
- Inactive in IFQ fishery, active in other fisheries: 58 → 53
- With no fishing activity (CPH): 64 → 79





Producer Surplus: Baseline vs. Program Period

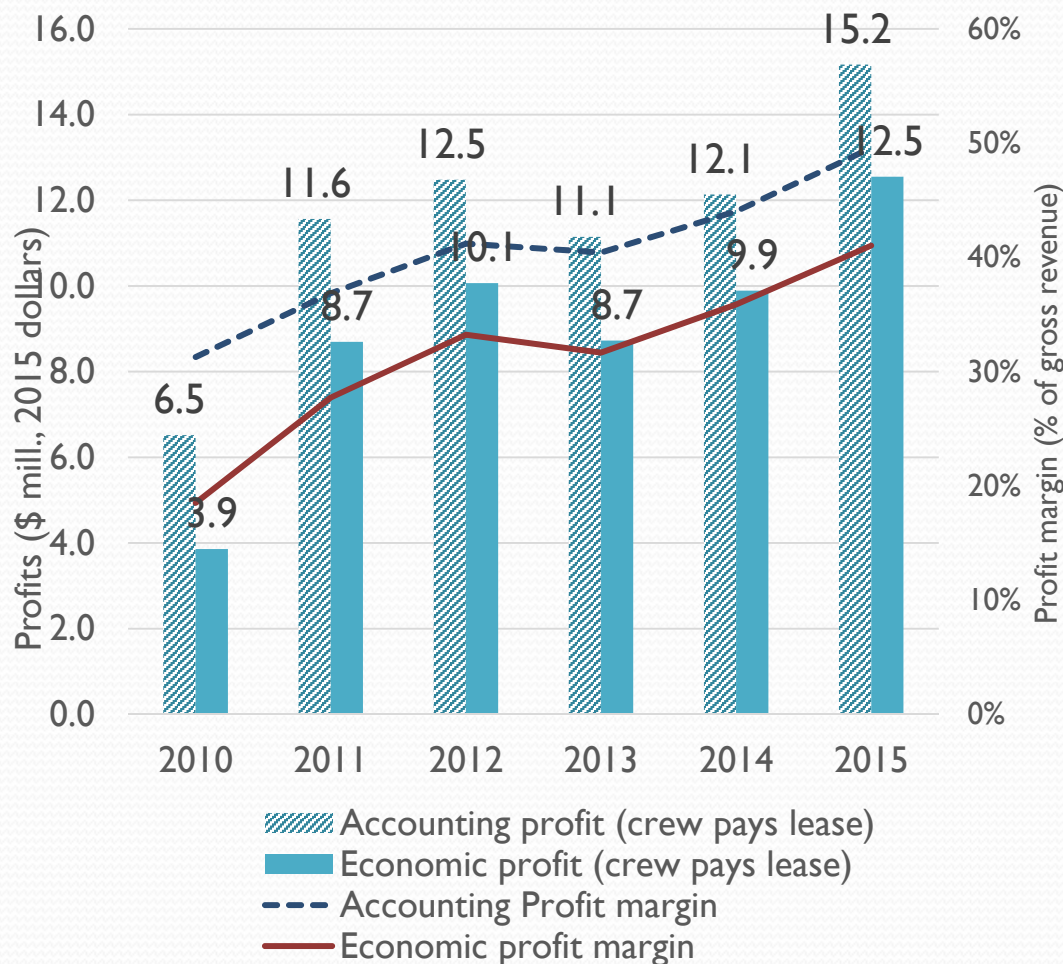
- Positive impacts net economic benefits (as measured by producer surplus) relative to the baseline period of three years (2007-2009) before implementation.
- Producer surplus under the IFQ program was estimated to be 16% to 22% higher during 2010-2015
- Increased productivity and concentration of effort in fewer vessels and affiliations resulted in higher profits from the baseline period as well as compared to the FY 2010 levels.

Changes in net revenue, producer surplus

% change in 2015 from 2010 levels

- Produced surplus **increased** by 60%,  trip limits,  fuel cost
- Average net revenue per active affiliation **increased** by 88%
 - \$152k in 2010 → \$282k in 2015
- Average net revenue per active vessel **increased** by 79%
 - \$125k in 2010 → \$225K in 2015
- Average leasing revenue per inactive affiliation **quadrupled**
 - Lease prices more than doubled
 - \$9.4k in 2010 → \$36.7k in 2015

Profits for all affiliations (active and inactive)



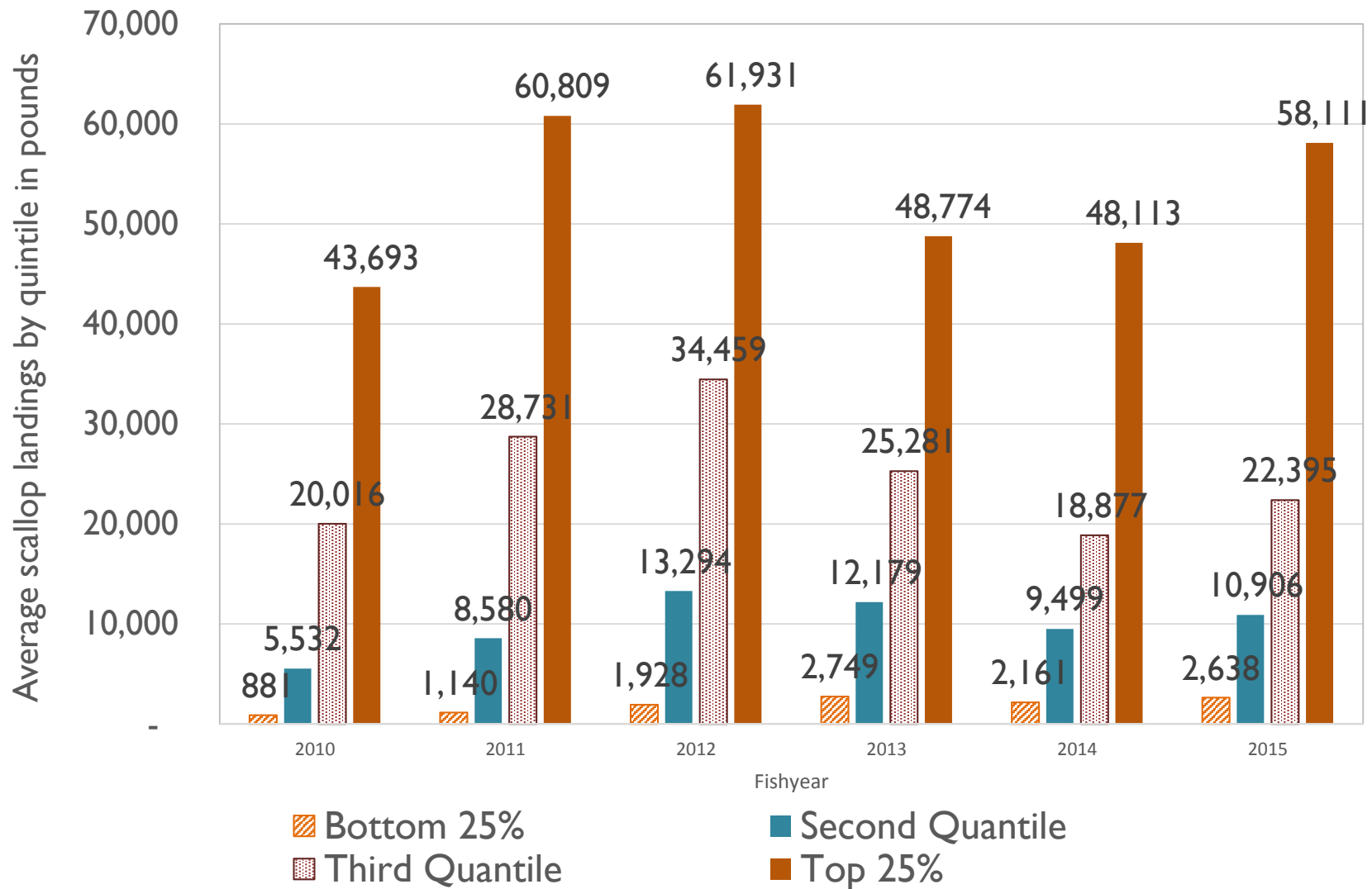
- Assumes crew pays for lease costs
- Aggregate accounting profits for active affiliations more than **doubled**.
- Economic profits **tripled**.
- If lease costs are shared, accounting profit for 2015 declines ~\$3 million.



Diversity and Distribution

- IFQ affiliations participate in the scallop fishery at varying levels
 - Half of the affiliations derive <50% of their revenue from scallops
 - Decline in the number of affiliations that derive >25% of their revenue from scallops
- Landings, revenues and profits concentrated among the top 25% of active affiliations.
 - About 32 affiliations account for about 63% of total scallop landings
 - Bottom 25% account for about 3% of scallop landings
- No significant changes in these trends from 2010-2015

Scallop landings per active affiliation





Crew incomes

- Total crew income increased over program period, best years 2011 & 2012.
- Estimates of crew income were dependent upon whether or lease costs came from crew share
 - If crew pays lease cost, 9% **decline** in income per DAS from 2010
 - If lease costs are shared, 15% **increase** in income per DAS from 2010
- Increase in the total employment by 15% in 2015 (measured by CREW*DAS)

LAGC IFQ by Region/State

- Number of active vessels in the Mid-Atlantic **declined** from 2010 – 2015. (94 → 69), while the number of active vessels in the New England was fairly consistent.
- Majority of landings in Massachusetts and New Jersey
 - Also landings in RI, CT, NY, MD, VA, NC

Number of active vessels by homeport state (FY 2010 – FY 2015)						
STATE	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015
MA	41	41	39	36	39	41
NC	23	16	10	10	9	9
NJ	43	44	38	39	43	41
NY	16	15	14	12	13	12
Oth.Mid.At	12	11	10	8	8	7
Oth.NE	17	13	14	13	19	18

Top Ports by Landings

- Cumulative landings by LAGC IFQ from 2010 - 2015

1. Barnegat Light, NJ
2. Point Pleasant, NJ
3. New Bedford, MA
4. Chatham, MA
5. Atlantic City, NJ
6. Cape May, NJ
7. Provincetown, MA



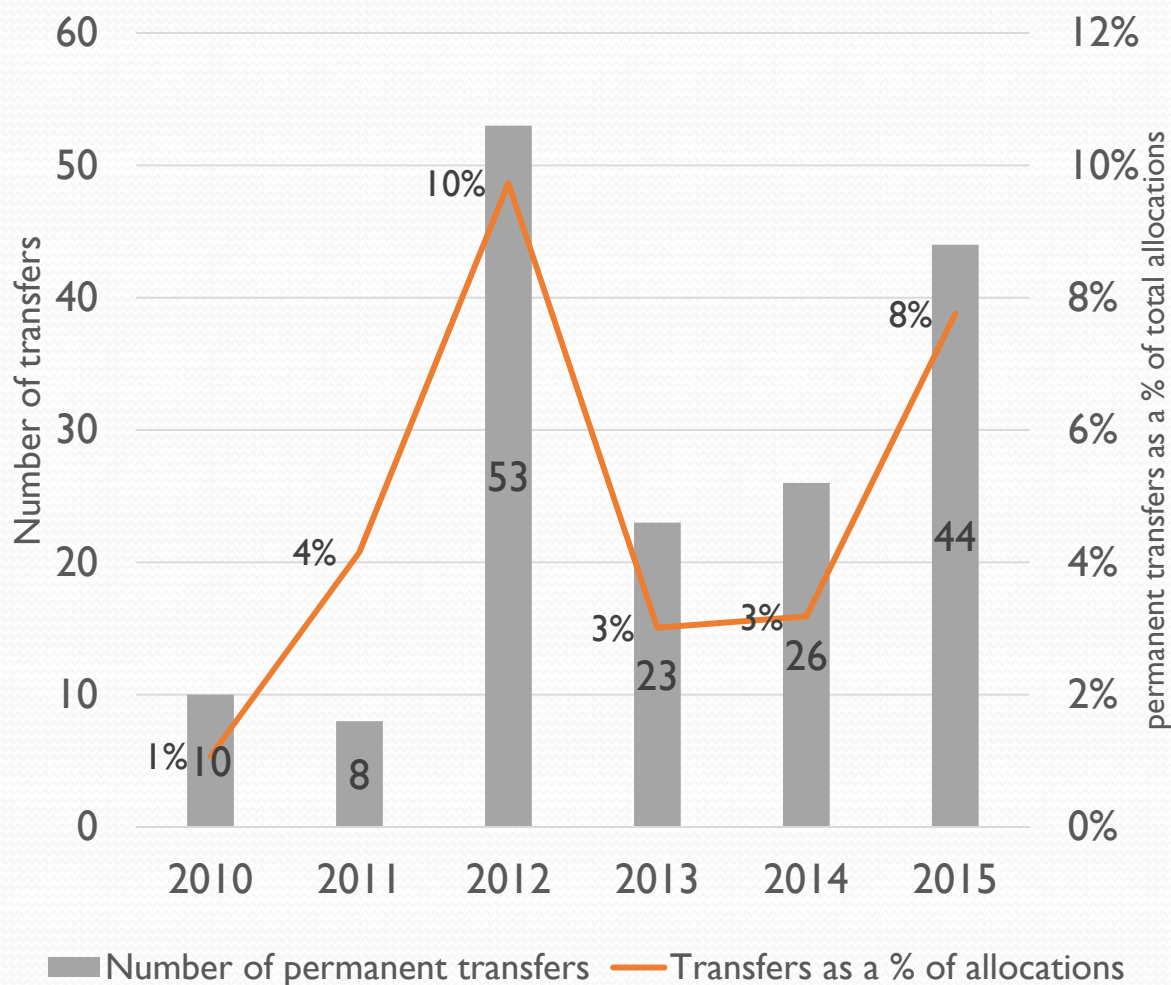
Photo: http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/business/small-business-loans-give-a-little-egg-harbor-township-man/article_edif5fec-b751-5a97-9f34-092dde9b8288.html



Quota Transfer and Leasing Market

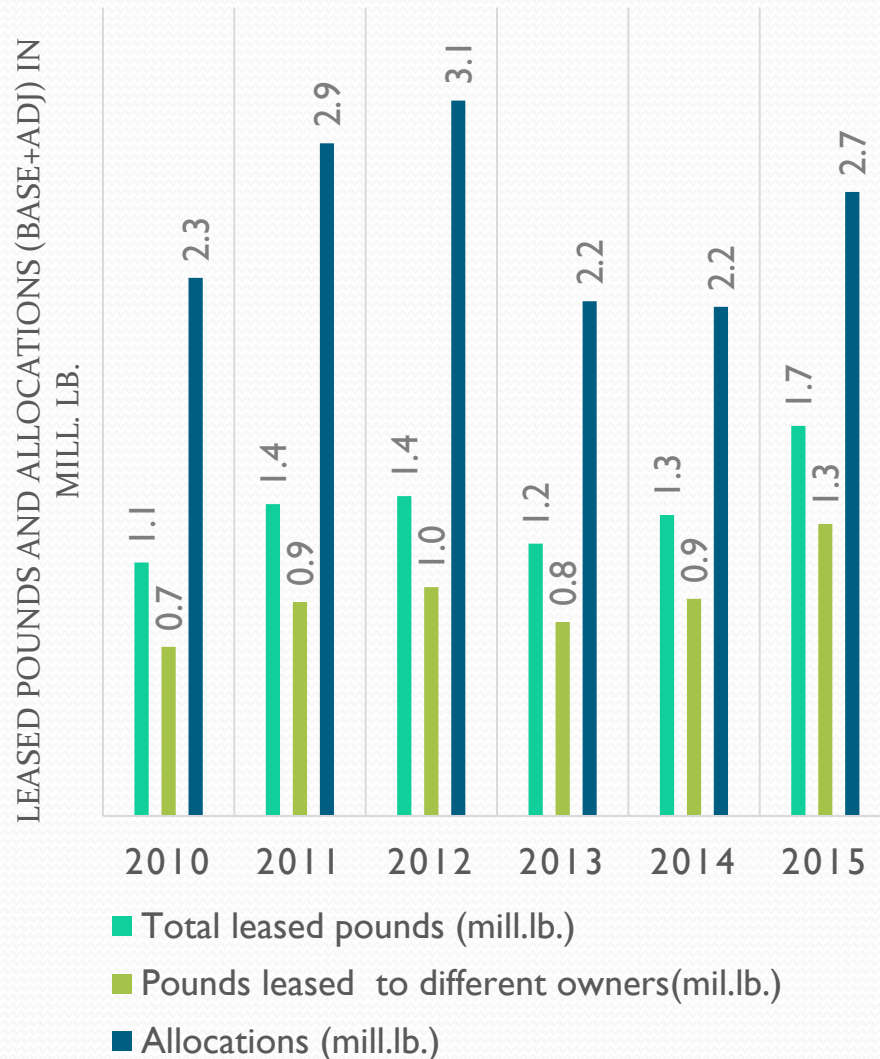
- Transfer is a permanent sale; lease non-permanent
- Share transfer market: few participants, low cohesion, and one-time transfers between businesses
- Quota leasing market: many participants, increasing cohesion, multi-year participation
- See Appendix J

Quota transfers



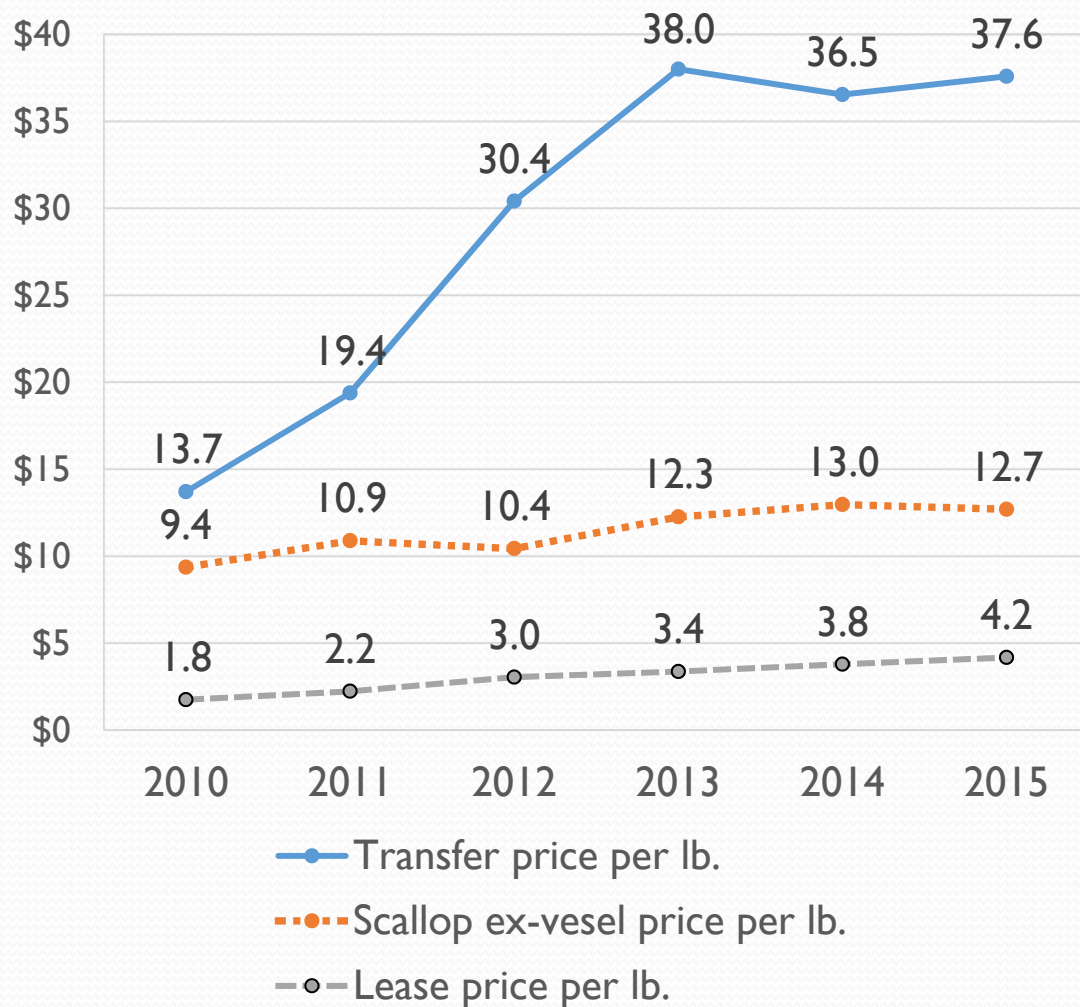
- Increase in the number of transfers in the 2012 fishing year, increasing from 1% in 2010 to 10% of the base allocations in 2012
- Surge coincides with changes made through AI5

Quota Leasing



- Extensive use of leasing market
- Permit banks – about 15% of leased pounds
- The number of lease transactions almost **doubled** in 2015 compared to 2010
- About 47% of overall quota leased out to different owners in 2015, up from 31% in 2010

IFQ transfer, lease and ex-vessel price per pound of scallops



- Increase in quota price
\$13.7 → \$37.6
- Increase in lease price
\$1.8 → \$4.2 (permit banks excluded)
- Ratio of quota price to scallop price: 1.5 in 2010, stabilized around 3 since 2012
- Ratio of lease to quota prices: 9% to 13%.

Quota Holdings and Concentration

- Quota holdings among affiliations were unequally distributed, but became less unequal over program period
 - In 2010, 90% held 57% of the quota, top 10% held 43%
 - In 2015, 90% held 64%, top 10% held 36% quota
- With the HHI value standards, distribution of the quota holding were competitive both within the active and inactive affiliations.
- At a 5% share cap the smallest possible number of affiliates would be 20, but in 2015 there were 192 affiliates, which is 9.6 times that of the level the share cap would allow.



Capacity and Mortality

- Decline in active vessels from 592 in 2006 → 128 in 2015
 - 15% decline in active vessels over program period
- LAGC IFQ fleet capacity decreased between 2010 – 2015.
 - LAGC fleet capacity index decreased by 33.2%
 - Average length and gross tonnage decreased, HP nearly same
 - <50' group increased, decline in 50' to 74' and $\geq 75'$
- IFQ allocated 5.5% of sub-ACL; harvest has not exceeded limit during the program period.
- Program has been effective at controlling mortality and preventing overfishing.



Bycatch

- Bycatch considerations: stock status, scallop ACLs and AMs, spatial constraints of LAGC IFQ fishery, availability of scallop resource
 - IFQ component is jointly accountable with LA component for scallop fishery overages
 - Accounts for ~20% of fishery's SNEYT bycatch
 - IFQ component bycatch estimates declined for SNE Windowpane
 - d/K ratios **declined** or remained low (<4%) in IFQ dredge fishery for key yellowtail and windowpane stocks (2007 – 2015)
 - d/k ratios **declined** for IFQ trawl fishery for SNEYT (2010 – 2015)



VMS pre-land compliance

- VMS pre-land compliance **increased** on IFQ declared trips
 - 69% in 2010 → 80% in 2015
 - Total annual IFQ declared trips: 6,610 in 2010; 5,742 in 2015
- VMS pre-land compliance **increased** on non-IFQ declared trips (ex: groundfish, surf clam and ocean quahog)
 - 17% in 2010 → 33% in 2015; compliance remains low
 - Total annual non-IFQ declared trips: 170 in 2010; 302 in 2015

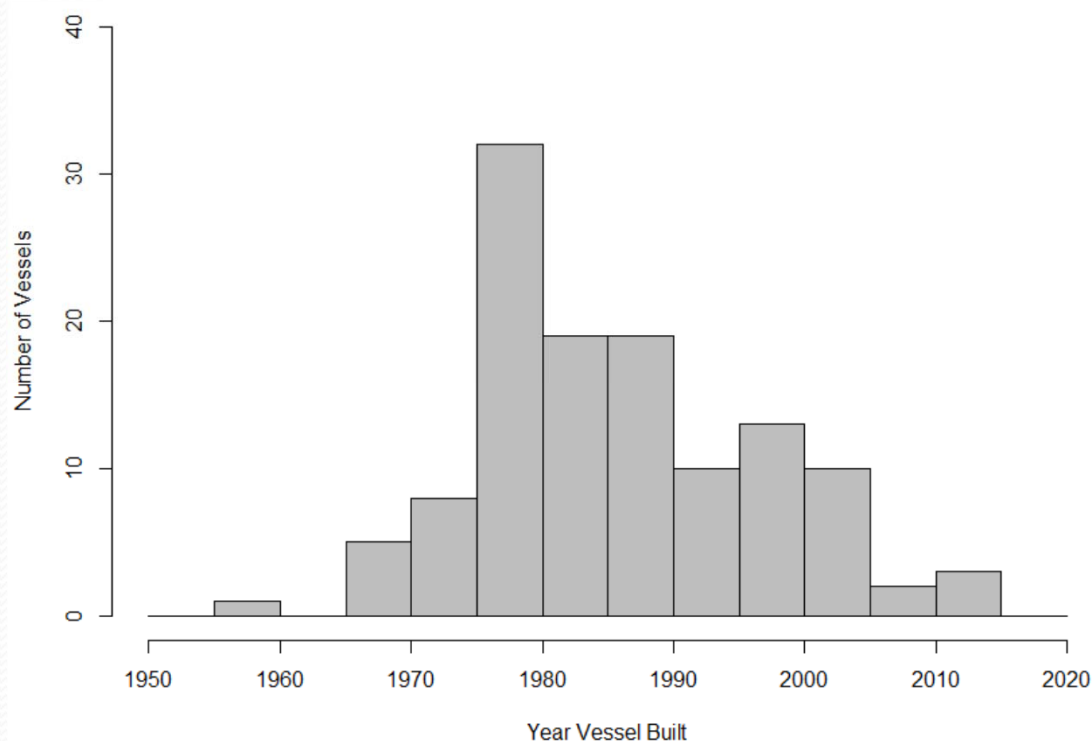
Compliance and Enforcement

- **Decline** in number of IFQ MRIs with quota overages
 - 23 in 2012 → 6 in 2015
- IFQ overages small portion of overall allocation
 - High of 38,760 in 2014, followed by low of 5,426 in 2015.
- Total number of monitored offloads remains very low
 - <1% of total trips
- Total # of scallop violations remained ~14 per year
 - High of 42 in 2011, Low of 6 in 2013.

Safety

- **Increase** in the average year built among active vessels during program period. 1982 → 1986
 - Oldest vessels in fleet (pre-1940 builds) became inactive over this time

Histogram of year built (active vessels in 2015)








Non-qualifiers

- Analysis of non-qualifiers focuses on vessels that were active during the qualification period, and program period
 - Vessels primarily engaged in groundfish, surf clam/ocean quahog, and squid fisheries during qualification years.
 - Some vessels that did not qualify for IFQ continue to land scallops under NGOM and Incidental permits
 - The percent revenue from scallop landings has increased for this group from 0.1% during the qualification period to 1.2% during the program period.

Key Questions: Summary

- Has the LAGC IFQ Fishery:
 1. Resulted in benefits to the Nation?
 -  producer surplus from baseline to program period.
 -  net revenues during program period, crew outcomes may vary
 2. Preserved the ability for vessels to participate at different levels? Has the IFQ program prevented excessive shares?
 - Vessels participating at different levels across broad geographic distribution. Non-qualifiers remain active in fishery. Active lease market.
 - Slight decline in quota holdings by top 10% of affiliations.
 - Number of affiliations is 9.6 times that of the level the share cap would allow.

Key Questions: Summary

- Has the LAGC IFQ Fishery:
- 3. Controlled capacity, mortality, and promoted conservation and management?
 - Reduction in number of vessels, landings. IFQ component has not exceeded catch limits during the program period.
 - Bycatch of key stocks has remained constant or declines (as % of scallop catch)
- 4. Promoted safety, compliance, and enforcement?
 - Improved compliance with VMS requirements. Non-IFQ trips remains low.
 - Total number of monitored offloads low, size and frequency of overages 
 - Average age of vessels increased over the program period



Next Steps:

- Presentation to Scallop PDT this summer, AP and Committee in September.
- If Committee has any recommended changes to the IFQ program, consider as part of 2018 scallop priorities.

Questions?



RSA Discussion Materials

- Doc #4a – Committee's RSA recommendations
- Doc #4b – Summary of RSA Awards
- See recent meeting summaries for additional information on PDT and AP discussions
- **RSA Goal for Today**
 - I. Develop Recommendations for 2018/2019 RSA priorities



Background

- Scallop RSA program began in 1999
- Evolved over time but overall 1.25 million pounds set-aside each year to fund research projects (over \$10mil)
- About 10-15 projects are funded annually
- At least biennially the Council recommends the research priorities that are used in the funding announcement
- Process coordinated by NEFSC and NEFMC
- No federal funds – awards in pounds of scallop – allocated through competitive grants process



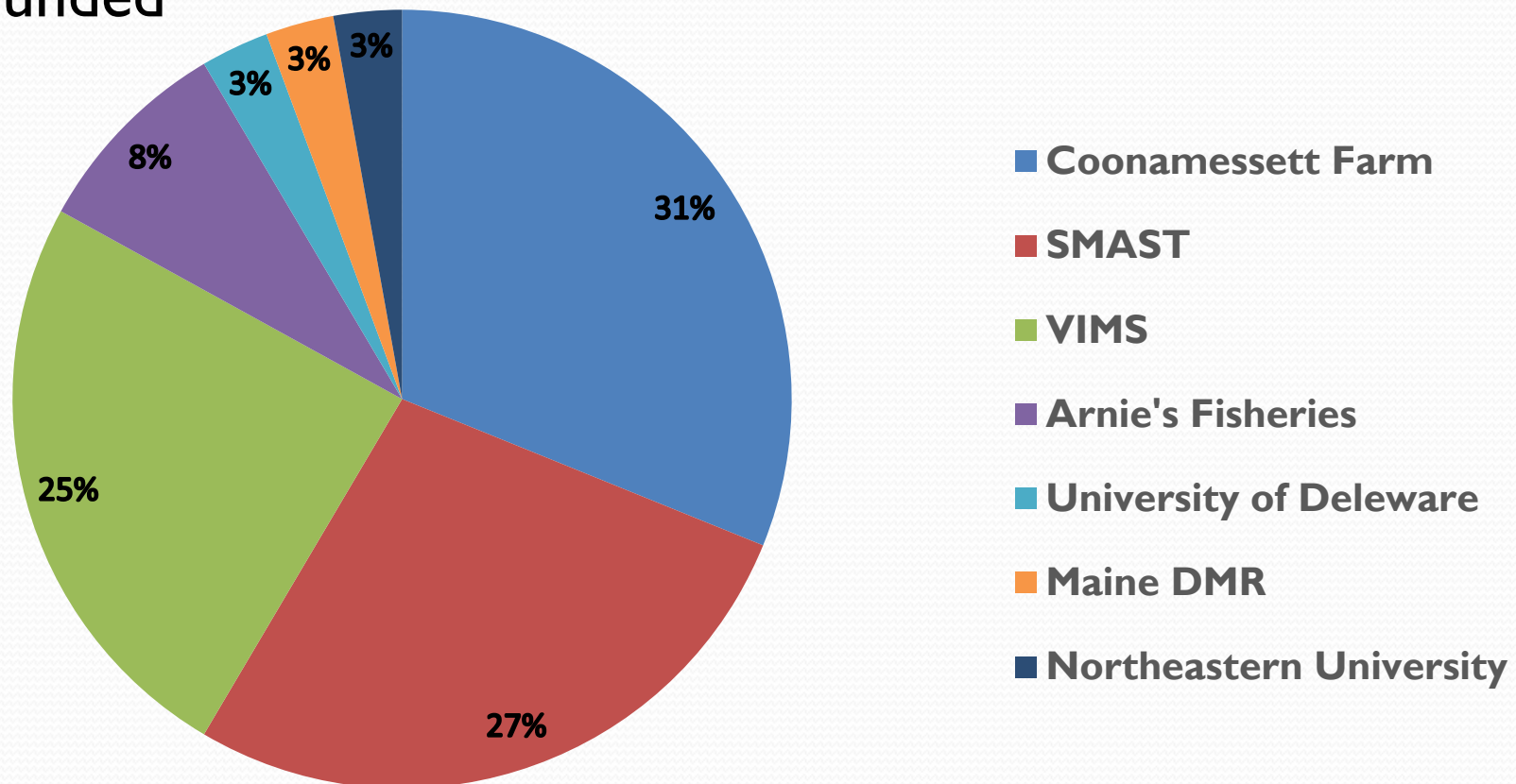
Awards: 2010 - 2017

- ~\$97 million awarded over 8 year period (Doc.4b)
 - (Average scallop price) x (set-aside lbs) = Total funding
 - Total funding includes *compensation fishing* and *research*

Priority	Number of Projects		Funding	
Survey	47	(42%)	\$36,584,185	(38%)
Bycatch	28	(25%)	\$29,182,167	(30%)
Turtle	9	(8%)	\$7,226,437	(7%)
Non-harvest mortality	8	(7%)	\$6,643,424	(7%)
Ecosystem/ Habitat	7	(6%)	\$6,412,691	(7%)
Biology	6	(5%)	\$4,974,064	(5%)
Meat Quality	5	(4%)	\$2,965,334	(3%)
LPUE	1	(1%)	\$270,199	(>1%)
Survey/Habitat	1	(1%)	\$2,665,944	(3%)
Grand Total	112		\$96,924,445	

Recipients: 2010 - 2017

- 12 groups received funding through 112 successful proposals
- Pie chart shows groups that have had at least 3 projects funded





Two year projects & allocated lbs

- Several projects funded for 2 years in 2016 and 2017.
- NGOM Surveys funded through 2018 RSA (13,734 lbs)

Award years	2016 lbs	2017 lbs	2018 lbs	Total lbs
2016/2017	1,250,000	92,118	-	1,342,118
2017/2018	-	1,157,882	132,370	1,290,252

Upcoming RSA: 1.11 million 2018 lbs, 1.25 million 2019 lbs



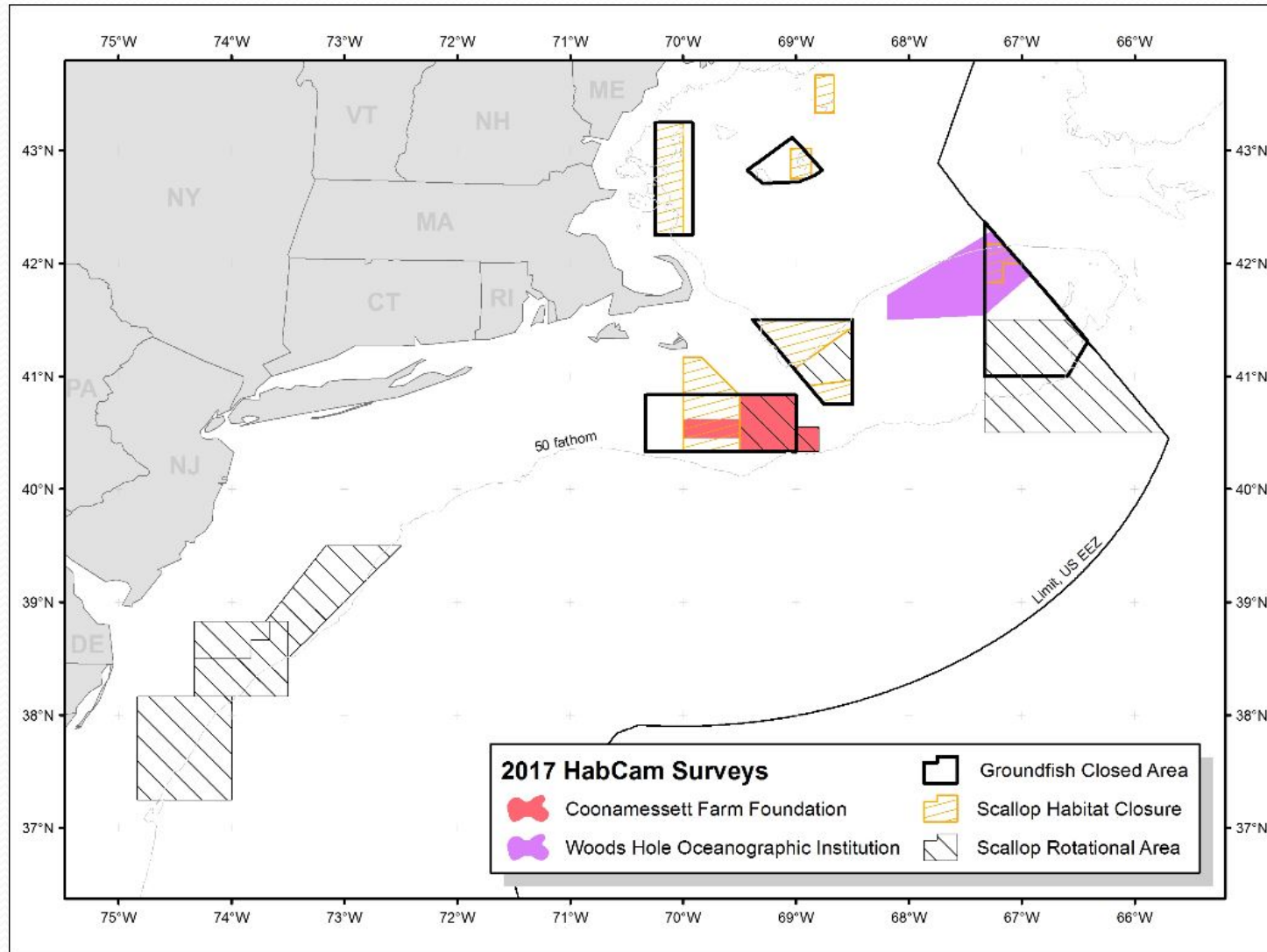
2017/2018 RSA Awards

- RSA Awards Announced on March 17, 2017
- 17 projects recommended for funding, over 30 researchers from 15 organizations (Doc. 3)
 - Surveys (dredge, drop camera, HabCam)
- 1.25+ mil. lb set-aside expected to generate more than \$15 million dollars - \$3.8 to fund research, \$11.5 in compensation fishing
- 3 projects funded for 2017/2018, 1 for 2018 only
- Multiple survey projects funded in 2016/2017 that will be on the water this year
- Two proposals amended to survey parts of NGOM

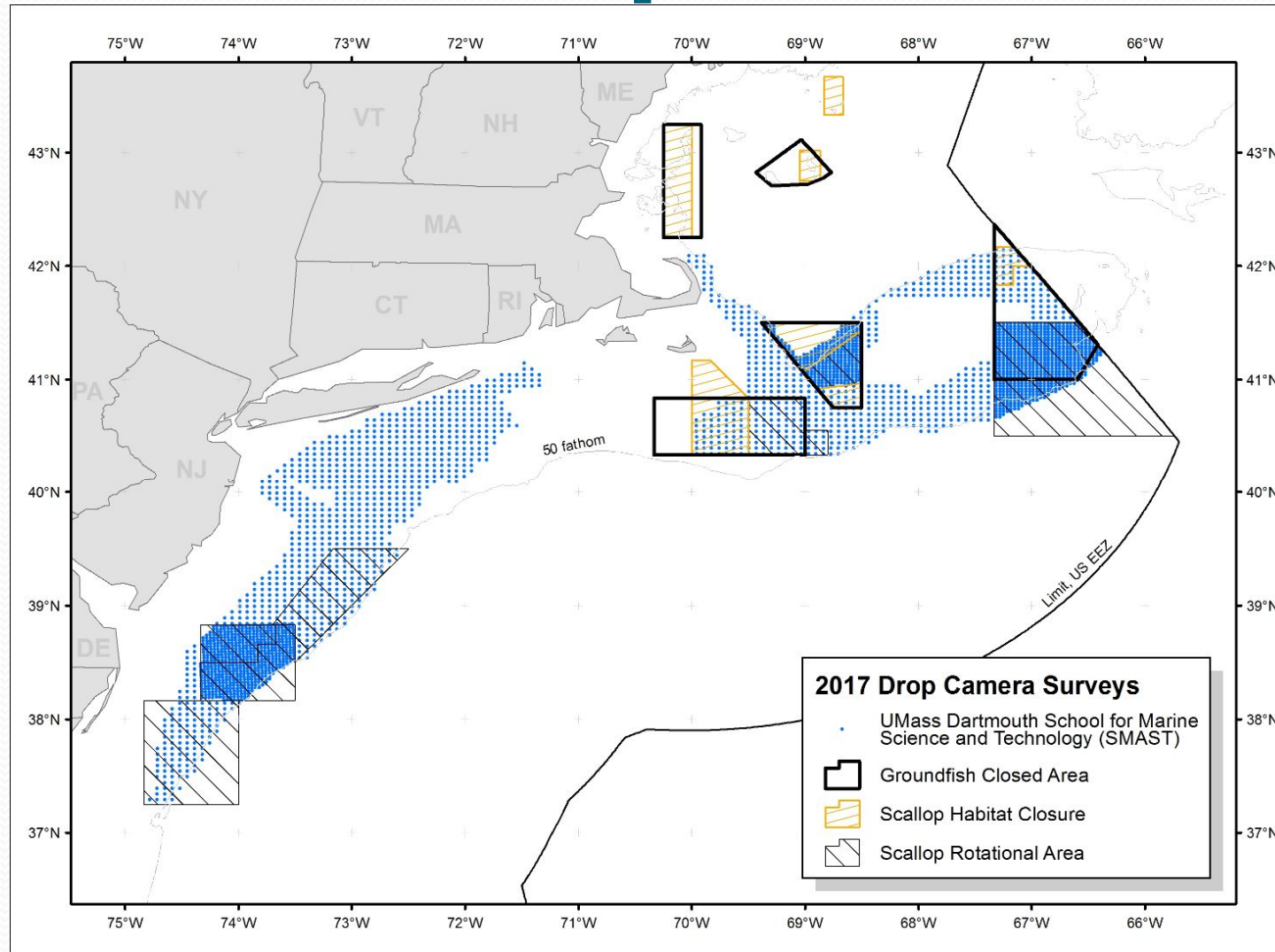
2017/2018 Awards

RSA Priority	Priority Rank	Projects Funded	Funding
Survey	Highest	7	\$4,619,425
Bycatch	High	5	\$5,518,181
Non-harvest mortality	Medium	1	\$2,226,996
Ecosystem/Habitat	Other	1	\$1,356,260
Turtles	Medium	1	\$899,000
Meat Quality	High	1	\$428,160
LPUE	Other	1	\$270,199

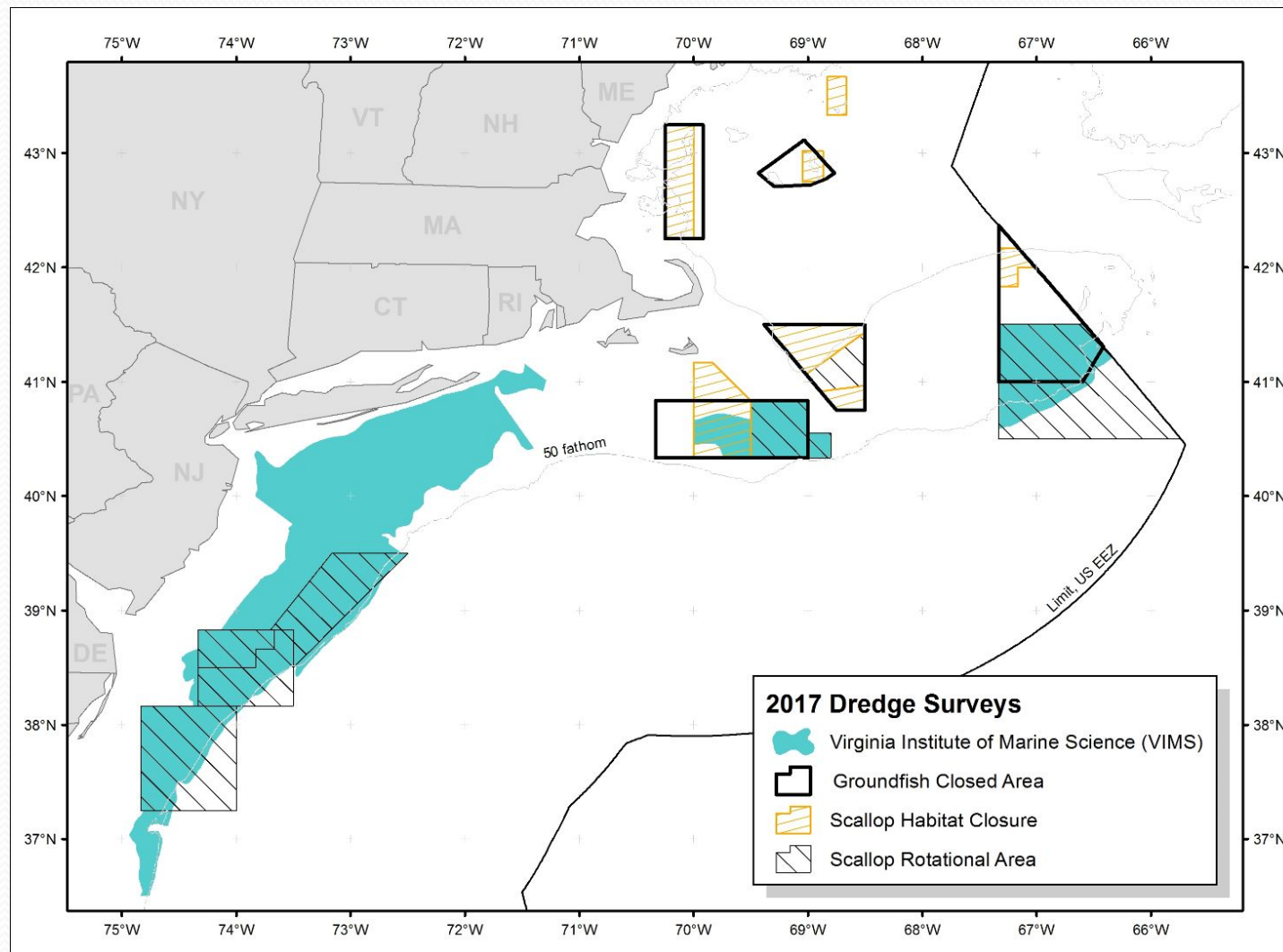
2017 RSA HabCam Surveys



2017 RSA Drop Cam Surveys

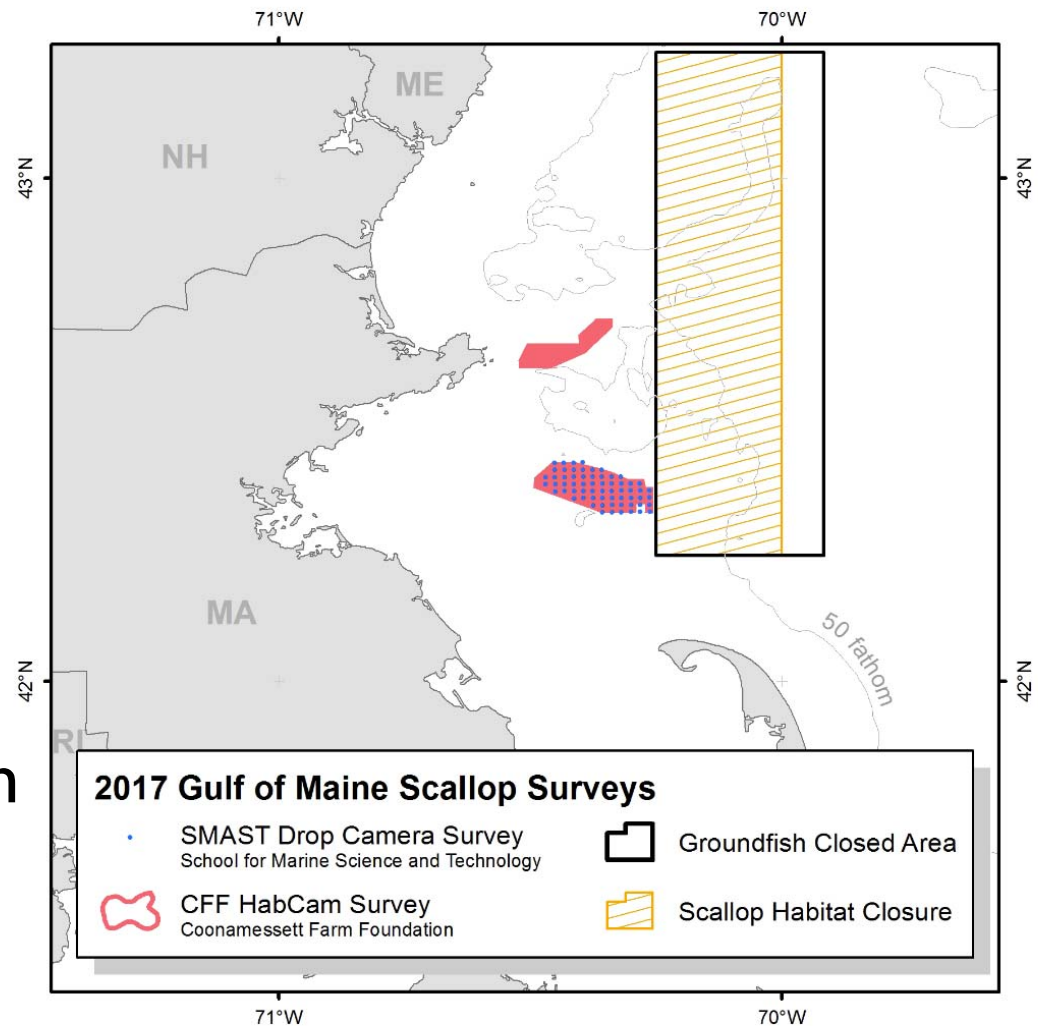


2017 RSA Dredge Surveys



2017 RSA NGOM Surveys

- Council letter in April
- 2017 surveys funded through RSA program
- ~14,000 lbs awarded
- CFF HabCam Survey on Jeffreys Ledge and Stellwagen Bank
- SMAST Drop Camera on Stellwagen Bank





Current Scallop RSA research priorities (2017/2018)

- **Highest** – Surveys: intensive for access areas, intensive for candidate access areas, broad resource wide (equal importance)
- **High** – Bycatch, scallop meat quality (equal importance)
- **Medium** – non-harvest mortality, turtles, spat and seeding projects (in order of importance)
- **Other** – habitat characterizations, environmental stressors/biology projects, LPUE, other surveys (equal importance)

Committee's RSA Recommendations

(Document 4a)

- **Highest** – Survey Related Research (Ia – Id)
 - Ia: Expand list to include entire MAAA (ET and 'flex', HC, DMV), keep Closed Area II and extension, Nantucket Lightship
 - Ib: Replace “candidate access areas” with “areas of importance”
 - Ib: Include HMA areas in NLS and CA I, HAPC in CA II
 - Ib: Include portions of NGOM
 - Id: Resource wide survey of scallops within the Gulf of Maine
 - Ia, Ib, Ic of equal importance, Id lower priority

Committee's RSA Recommendations

(Document 4a)

- **High** – Scallop meat quality and Bycatch (2 & 3)
 - 2. Scallop Meat Quality: added reference to sea turtles, focus on distribution and “transmission”, include research on natural mortality, expand list of predators to include snails.
 - 3. Bycatch: Add language around the enforceability and feasibility of gear modifications as a consideration.
- In priority order (Meat Quality > Bycatch)

Committee's RSA Recommendations

(Document 4a)

- **Medium** – Turtles and Biology Projects (4 & 5)
 - 4. Turtles: Broaden priority beyond just loggerhead turtles, but link priority to the potential impacts on fishery. Expand the geographic area of interest to include Georges Bank.
 - 5. Elevate scallop biology research (recruitment processes, growth) from “OTHER” to “Medium” and combine with seeding and spat collection.
 - Non-harvest mortality (discard and incidental mortality) moved to OTHER (#12) from MEDIUM, text referring to last benchmark removed.

Committee's RSA Recommendations

(Document 4a)

- **Other** – priorities 6 - 9
 - 6. Make investigation of dredge efficiency to *improve survey estimates* its own category
 - 7. Habitat characterization and 8. Environmental factors: no change to language, moved text to other priority areas.
 - 9. Add text to LPUE priority to address identifying major sources of management uncertainty. (From Council's draft research priorities)

Committee RSA Recommendations

(Document 4a)

- **Other** – priorities 10 - 12
 - 10. No proposed changes to other resource surveys
 - 11. Add priority to evaluate the social and economic impacts of the area rotation program. (From Council's draft research priorities)
 - 12. Non-harvest mortality: incidental and discard mortality, strike reference to upcoming benchmark assessment, moved from MEDIUM

Questions?



Framework 29

- FW29 initiated at April Council Meeting
- Likely range of alternatives:
 - Specifications
 - Northern Gulf of Maine TAC, management measures
 - Flatfish Accountability Measures
 - OHA2 – Modify Closed Area I Access Area boundary
- **Simple → Increased likelihood FW in place for April 1.**
- Input in June, range of alternatives developed for Sept.





Follow-up to Scallop Survey Review

- Several issues identified for follow-up, two track approach
 - PDT sub-group, 2018 scallop benchmark assessment
- First sub-group meeting held on April 13, 2017 (Doc. 5d)
- Planning for additional analyses in specs process, SSC
 - Comparison of paired tows between HabCam and dredge
 - Generate biomass estimates using geostatistical methods that incorporate data from all surveys
 - Sensitivity analyses around dredge efficiency in high density areas
 - Continue to track growth parameters in NLS
 - Focus on documenting PDT work and process for upcoming SSC and benchmark assessment meetings

Flatfish AMs

- Committee tasking motion:
 - Focus on gear modifications (5-row apron and 1.5:1 hanging ratio), potentially consider seasonal closures
- Focus on three stocks:
 - Georges Bank yellowtail
 - SNE/MA yellowtail
 - Northern windowpane (regulatory requirement)
- PDT call planned for June 27th, 2017



Northern Gulf of Maine

- Doc. #5c
- Problem Statement develop at April Council meeting.
- Committee tasking motion at June 1 meeting.
- Potential management measures presented to AP/Committee/Council in September.
- Simple → Increased likelihood FW in place for April 1.



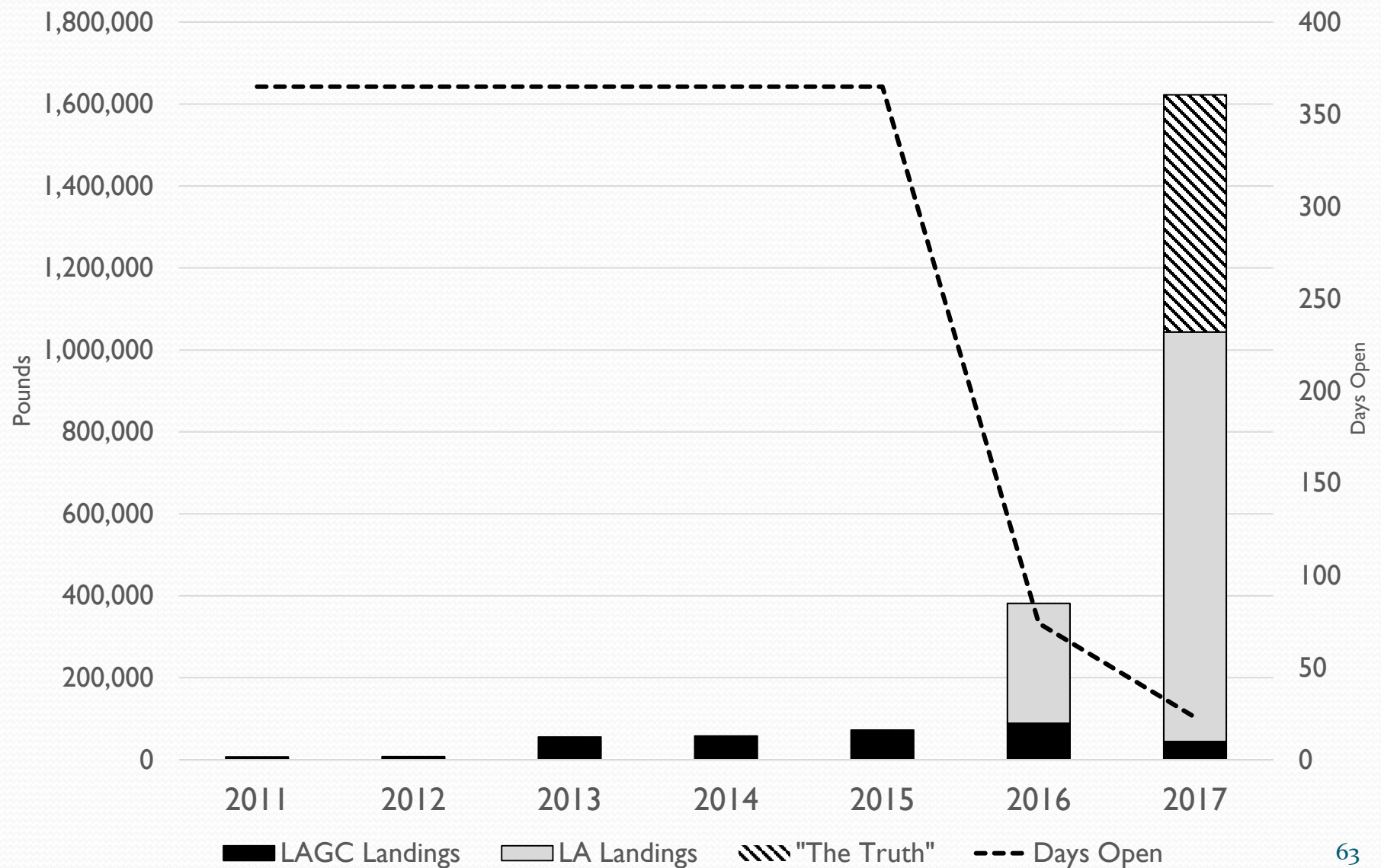


Updated 2017 LA Landings Estimate

- Initial LA estimate used daily VMS catch reports.
- Updated estimate: VMS data and dealer records.
 - LA trips that fished inside and outside of NGOM.

Lower Bound	“The Truth”	Upper Bound
VMS catch reports		VMS data, dealer records
~1,000,000		1,578,020

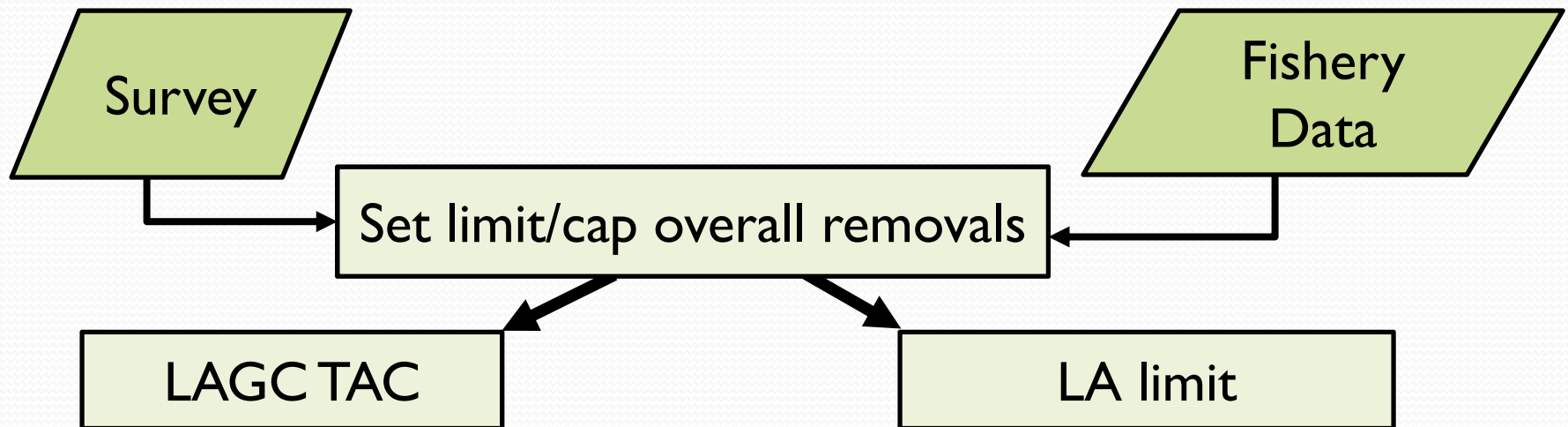
NGOM Landings Estimate



NGOM Problem Statement:

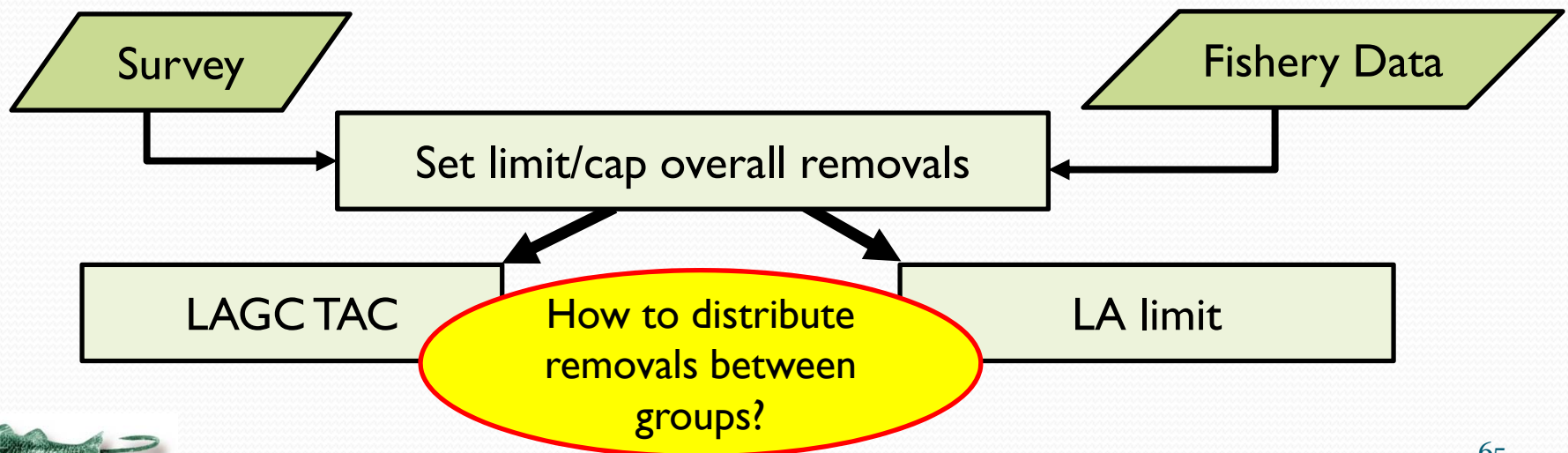
Problem: Unknown biomass and recent high landings

Goal: Understanding total removals and improving management



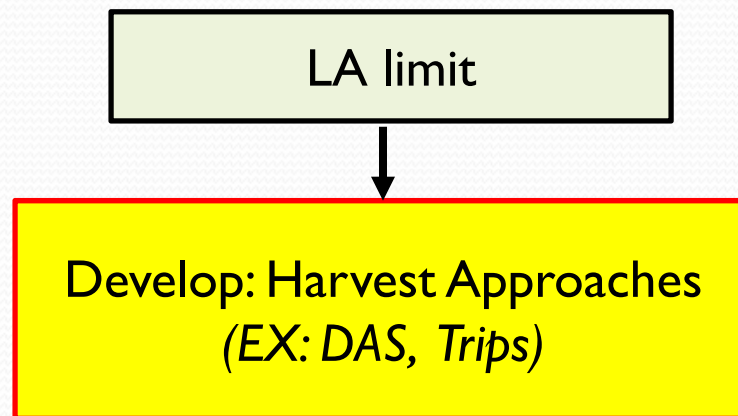
NGOM TAC Consideration #1:

- I. How to distribute removals between groups?
- NGOM TAC is not part of annual projected landings
 - Committee tasking motion for PDT on this issue



NGOM TAC Consideration #2:

2. Develop harvest approach for LA component.
 - Council motion calls for status quo regs for LAGC.
 - Overall TAC may inform what approaches are feasible.
- Existing approaches used in Scallop FMP:
 - DAS
 - Trips



NGOM TAC Timeline

- April – Council letter recommending a survey
- Summer – 2017 surveys of NGOM areas
- August – Results of 2017 survey efforts
- Fall, with Final Action in December: Council develop range of alternatives for:
 1. Overall TAC
 2. Distribution of TAC between fishery components
 3. LA harvest approaches



Questions?





#4 - Control Date re: LAGC permits

- Motion from March Committee Meeting.
 - Control date could be used to address movement between LAGC NGOM and LAGC incidental permits.
- Control date can be used to establish eligibility criteria for determining levels of future access.
- Establishing a control date does not commit the Council to taking future action.
- Some correspondence received on this issue.
- 7 IFQ permits have permanently switched to NGOM permits.

#4: LAGC Cat. B and C

- All: maintain diverse nature and flexibility within GC component
- Same Criteria: A vessel qualified for the NGOM or Incidental permit if they were issued a GC permit as of Nov. 1, 2004.
- No landing requirement for eligibility.
- Mandatory VMS requirement.
- IFQ permit holders (Cat.A) have option for 1 time switch to other LAGC permit categories.
- Vessel owners have 1 opportunity each FY to request a switch between permit categories (w/in 45 days of the effective date of the vessels permit).

LAGC Cat. C - Incidental Landings

- Landings data from 2011 – 2017 for Category C permits by Stat area
- Landings attributed to Incidental permits in NGOM are considered confidential.
- Cat. C activity outside of the NGOM:
 - ~521,000 lbs attributed to Cat. C
 - Very small proportion of Cat. C landings attributed to GOM
 - Majority of harvest in SNE/MA

Region	Percentage of Incidental Catch
GOM	0.09%
GB	13.56%
SNE/MA	83.68%

Participation in the NGOM fishery

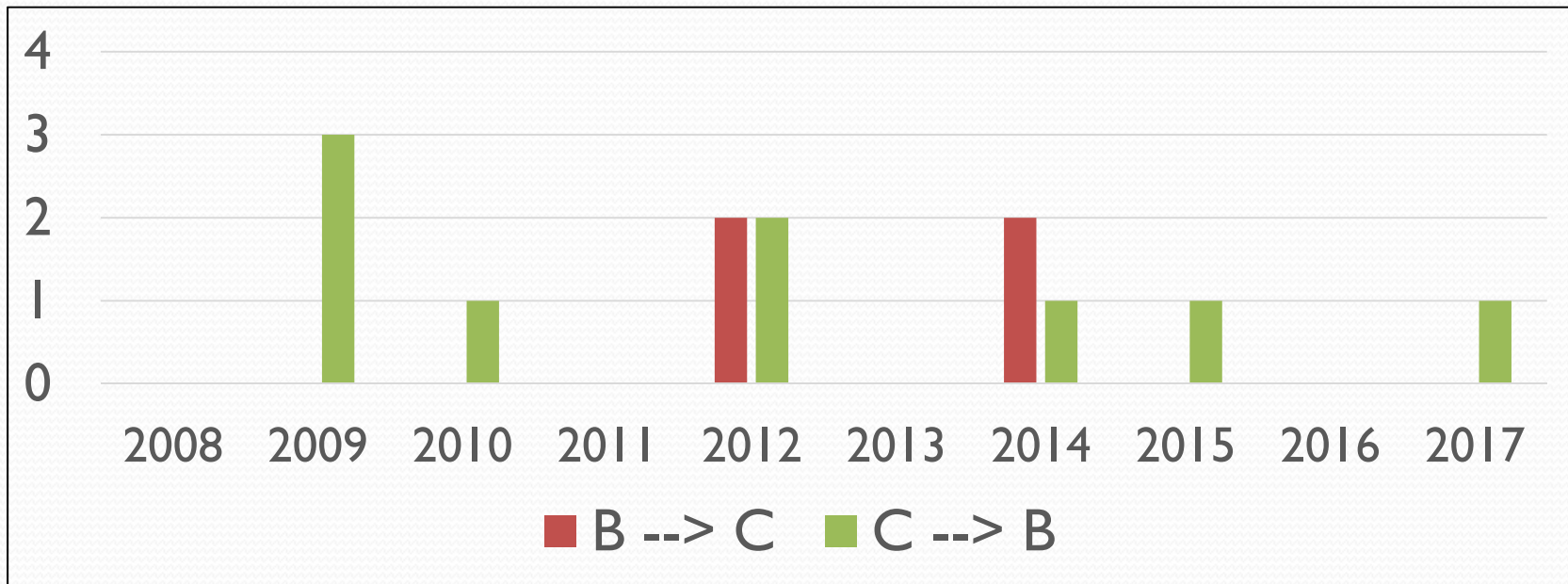
- 41 distinct NGOM permits active since 2008
- 2016 – 16% of the active vessels participated in fishery for first time

	Number of Active LAGC Permits by Fishing Year	
FY	LAGC IFQ	LAGC NGOM
2011	6	4
2012	3	6
2013	7	11
2014	8	17
2015	8	20
2016	12	25
2017	10	28

NGOM Permits: Number of Years Active	
	# permits
1-2 years	25
3-4 years	10
5-8 years	6

NGOM (Cat. B) & Incidental (Cat. C)

- Official Permit Count: 99 NGOM permits, and 242 Incidental permits held by LAGC and LA components. 80 CPH.
- 13 total switches between LAGC Cat. B & C over 10 years.
- From NGOM → Incidental: 4 total
- From Incidental → NGOM: 9 total

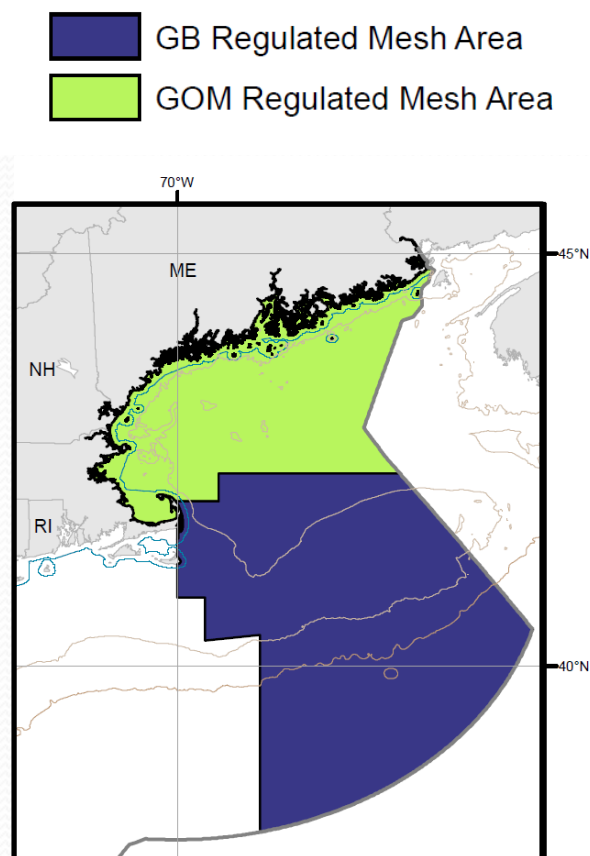


Questions?



#5 – Dredge Exemption Areas

- LAGC IFQ scallop fishing is restricted to four exemption areas, plus some access areas (ex: Nantucket Lightship, CA I)
- Sep. 6, 2016: Industry Letter from AFM and CCCFA requesting the expansion of scallop dredge exemption areas to include regulated mesh areas, excluding habitat and year-round closures
- Motions at recent Groundfish Advisory Panel, Scallop Advisory Panel, and Scallop Committee meetings in support of modifying the exemption areas

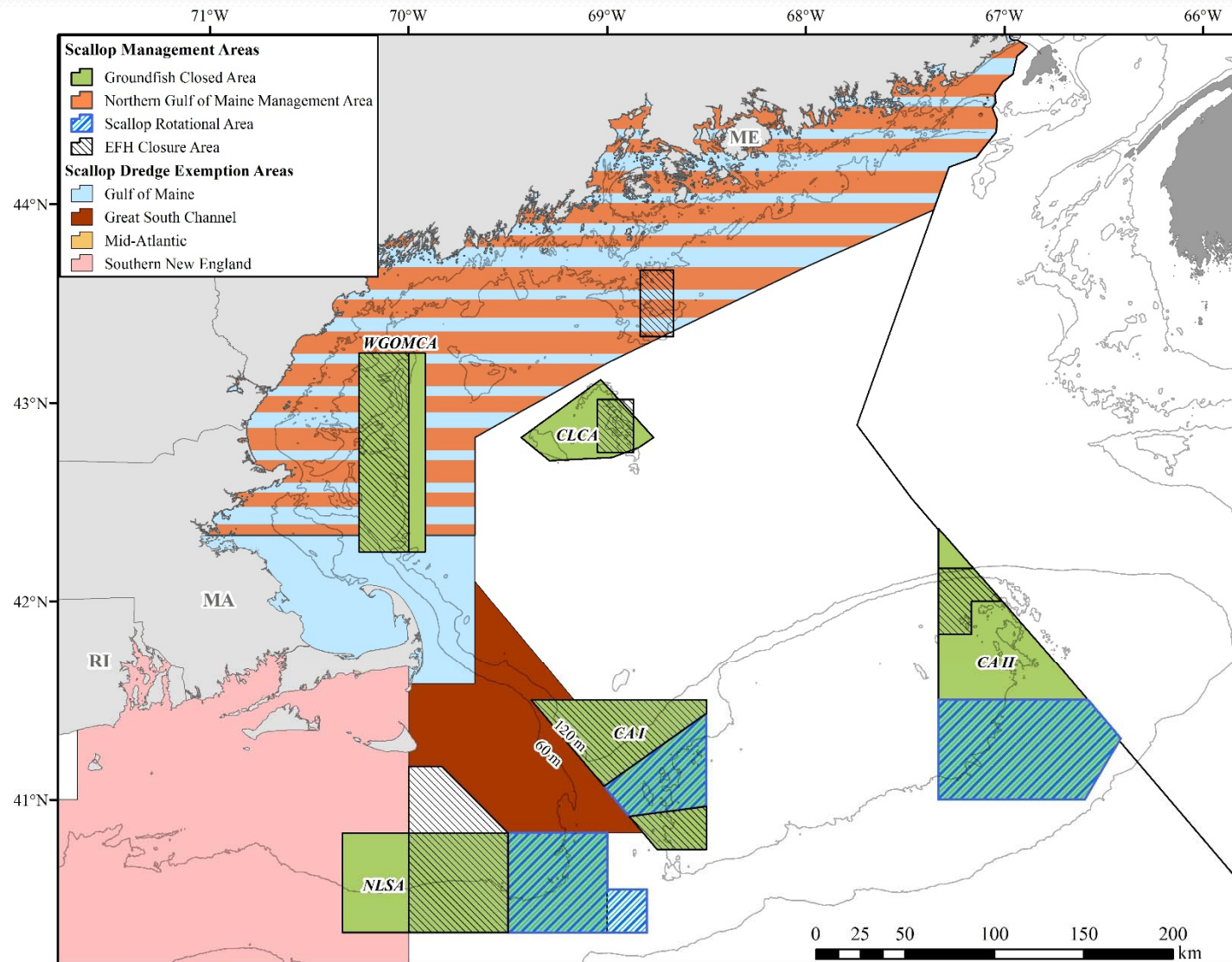




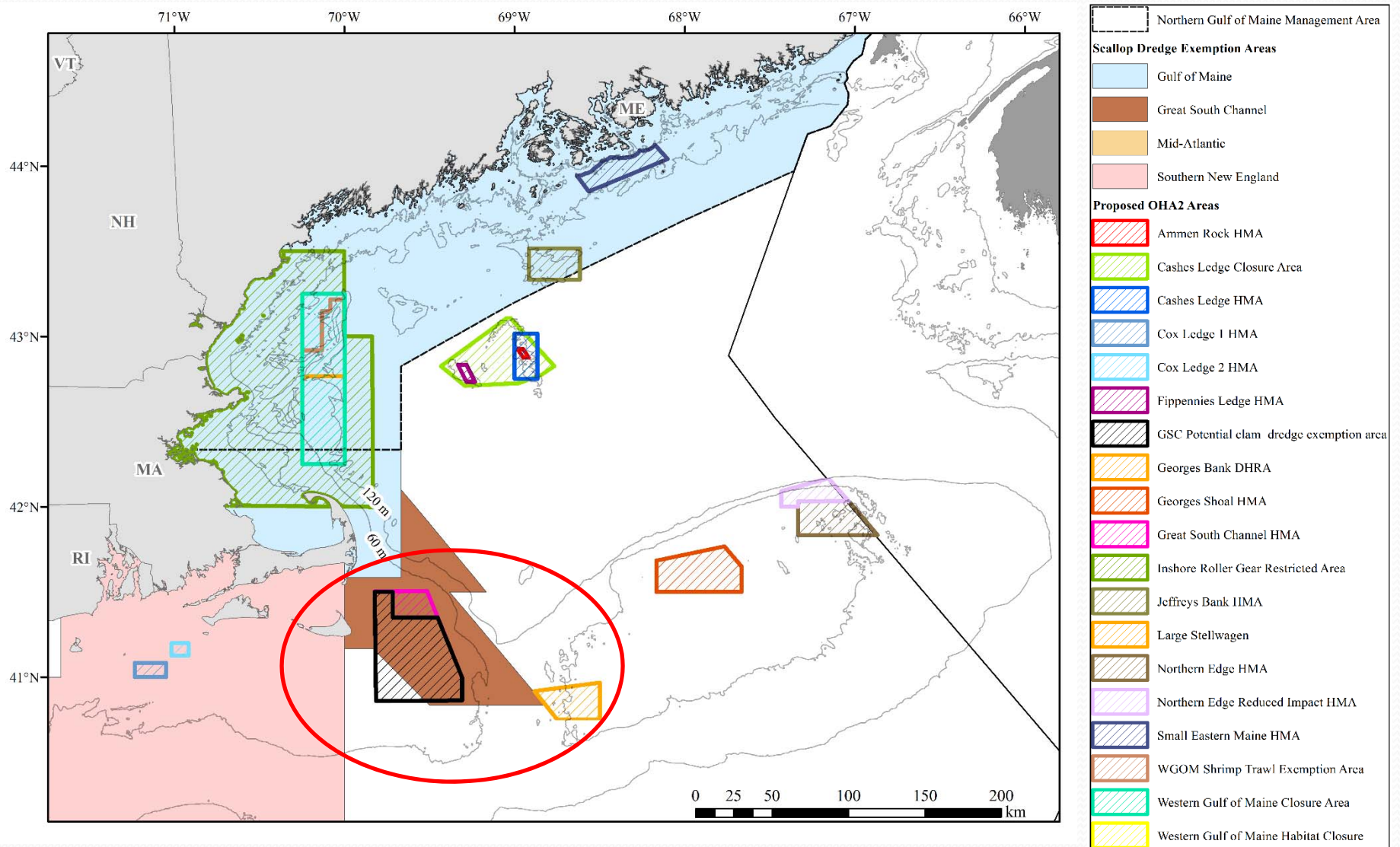
Exempted Fishery Considerations

- Percentage of regulated multispecies caught as bycatch is, or can be reduced to, less than 5% of total catch AND
- Such an exemption would not jeopardize fishing mortality objectives
- Need to show that change in exemption area will not delay a rebuilding program
- Status of stock rebuilding, and recent recruitment also considerations
- See Groundfish Amendment 13.

GOM/GB Dredge Exemption Areas



Dredge Exemption Areas w/ OHA2





NMFS Letter re: Industry Request

- Letter from Mr. John Bullard to Mr. Tom Nies dated June 13, 2017:
 - Agency has not made a determination about AFM/CCCFA request.
 - Concerns around implementing request through RA authority provided to the Council relative to specific FMPs.
 - Groundfish: Impacts on resource, data limitations for analysis
 - Scallops: Differential access, expansion of SNE/MA exemption areas, no reactive GBYT AM for LAGC
 - Habitat: Interactions with pending OHA2, CA I sliver
- Request that the Council provide feedback on issues outlined in letter, including whether or not the RA authority is the most appropriate mechanism to evaluate this potential action given NMFS concerns.



Questions?