



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492

Daniel Salerno, *Chair* | Cate O'Keefe, PhD, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 9, 2026
TO: Scallop Advisory Panel and Scallop Committee
FROM: Melanie Griffin, Scallop Committee Chair
SUBJECT: Purpose for Scallop AP and Committee meetings on September 9 & 10, 2026

The Council will hold the upcoming meeting of the Scallop Joint Advisory Panel (AP) and Plan Development Team on September 9, followed by a meeting of the Scallop Committee on September 10. These meetings will be held in Boston, MA and via webinar. Documents for this meeting will be posted to a Sharefile site and then to the [Council's website](#) as they become available. You will receive a link to access files ahead of the meeting.

Purpose: The main objectives of the meetings are to discuss:

- 1) 2027 & 2028 (default) specifications: Review results of 2026 scallop surveys and other fishery data. The primary focus of this meeting will be to develop input on the range of potential specification alternatives for FY 2027 and FY 2028. The action will set ABC/ACLs, days-at-sea, access area allocations, total allowable landings for the Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) management area, targets for General Category incidental catch, General Category access area trips and trip accounting, and set-asides for the observer and research programs for fishing year 2027 and default specifications for fishing year 2028;
- 2) Framework 42: Discuss the development of measures to establish regional-DAS and Northern Gulf of Maine sub-management areas;
- 3) Scallop Work Priorities: Review the draft Scallop 3-Year Work Plan; and
- 4) Discuss other business, as necessary.

Webinar: In order to participate in the meetings, you will need to register for the webinar. Please register before the meeting begins. You can use the following links to register:

Scallop AP & PDT:

<https://nefmc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/2yDWxam2SRKqQ4z94DmnDg>

Scallop Committee:

<https://nefmc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/mgSWiypnQvu3HsYE6E9PyA>

1. **Participating in the meeting:** To participate, you **MUST register for the meeting**. If you do not register, staff will not be able unmute you.

The public and Committee members will be able to participate in the webinar. Council staff will be working closely with the Chair to accommodate remote participation during the meeting. Staff will review how individuals can participate during the meeting. As with in-person meetings,

questions about presentations will be entertained before taking comments. The Committee will have the first opportunity to weigh-in, followed by the public. Individuals interested in speaking should raise their hand on the webinar.

2. **Motions via Webinar:**

- a. **Making Motions:** The preferred approach is for AP and Committee members to e-mail motions to Connor Buckley (cbuckley@nefmc.org) and Jennifer Couture (jcouture@nefmc.org) on Council staff, and cc the AP or Committee Chair.
- b. **Seconding Motions:** AP and Committee: You can raise your hand in the webinar to second the motion. Council staff or the Chair will confirm this by voice over the webinar so it is clear who the maker and seconder of each motion are.
- c. **Discussion on each Motion:** The AP and the Committee will have an opportunity to discuss each motion, followed by an opportunity for the public to comment. Please raise your hand on the webinar if you would like to speak to a motion. The Chair will call on individuals who would like to address the motion. After the AP or Committee has a chance to discuss this motion, the Chair will call on members of the public.
- d. **Voting:** When the Chair is ready to call the vote, Council staff will do a roll call vote. Staff will provide the vote count, which will be confirmed by the Chair. At the discretion of the Chair, motions can also be approved by a show of hands or unanimous consent in lieu of a roll call vote.

MEETING MATERIALS

If you have any questions about the documents, please contact Connor Buckley (cbuckley@nefmc.org; 978-465-0492 ext. 115).

1. Meeting Information
 - a. Meeting Agenda
 - b. Meeting Memo from Committee Chair, Ms. Melanie Griffin
2. Staff presentation
3. 2026 Scallop Survey estimates
4. Framework 42 Discussion Document (draft)
5. Strategic Plan
 - a. Scallop 3-Year Work Plan (draft)
 - b. Scallop Long-Term Strategic Plan
6. Meeting summaries:
 - a. Scallop PDT, July 29th
 - b. Scallop PDT, August 17th
 - c. Scallop PDT, August 26-27th
7. Scallop PDT Memo to Scallop AP re: Commercial Fishery Characterization Scoring (AP Only)
8. Correspondence
9. Background Materials
 - a. [Link to materials from August 26-27, 2026 Scallop PDT meeting, including survey group short reports and presentations](#)
 - b. [Fishery Performance Report - Scallop landings, grades, and LPUE](#)
 - c. [Scallop RSA Priorities 2027-2028](#)

FY 2027 & 2028 Specifications: Survey Results and Projections

Recent Activity: The Council voted in June to separate development of an action to set scallop fishery specifications for fishing years (FY) 2027 and 2028 (default) from Framework 42, an action to develop management measures. Five survey groups (NEFSC, VIMS, SMAST, CFF, and ME DMR) completed survey work during the 2026 field season. The Scallop PDT has met on August 17 and August 26 - 27, to discuss survey results and consider the fishery outlook for FY 2027 and 2028 (default).

Key Survey Findings: Surveys continued to detect the strong 4-year-old year-class in the Nantucket Lightship South (NLS-S) region that was first detected in 2023. The mean survey abundance estimate from this region was approximately 3.3 billion animals. While this year class continues to represent more than 50% of the scallop biomass on Georges Bank (>40mm), they continue to grow more slowly than scallops elsewhere on Georges Bank. A large recruitment event was detected this year in the eastern portion of Closed Area II, which was closed to scallop fishing beginning in FY 2026. Small areas of recruitment were detected also around the northern Mid-Atlantic (Block Island, Long Island), in the northern portion of the Great South Channel, Area I, the Nantucket Lightship North, and in the Southern Flank. While no incoming year classes were observed throughout the rest of the Mid-Atlantic, the current 4-year old cohort continue to survive and grow, although the region saw heavy fishing effort after the survey season. Overall, surveys suggest a slight increase in biomass on Georges Bank driven by growth of the Nantucket Lightship cohort, and in the Mid-Atlantic, with one large year class on the cusp of entering the fishery. Fishing opportunities in the Stellwagen Bank region of the Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area (NGOM) are expected to be similar or slightly lower in FY 2027 compared to FY 2026.

Potential Topics for the AP & Committee Discussions: In addition to discussing survey results and projections, the groups may wish to discuss the following topics:

1. 2026 fishery performance and outlook for 2027,
2. Growth of large year class in NLS-S and the treatment of this area in FY 2027,
3. Recruitment event in Area II and the continued closure to protect small scallops,
4. Landings per unit effort (LPUE) and outlook for open bottom, projection performance,
5. Opportunities for LAGC IFQ access area fishing in FY 2027, and
6. Outlook for NGOM fishery in FY 2027.

Anticipated Outcomes:

1. Tasking motions for the PDT to evaluate options for 1) access area fishing and 2) open area DAS for FY 2027 and 2028 (default). Motions should indicate what the FT LA trip limit would be.
2. Input from the AP and Committee on issues related to specifications.
3. Tasking motion for F rates to set the total allowable landings for the NGOM management area. The Council's preferred range for the F rate in this area was identified as $F=0.15$ to $F=0.25$ in Amendment 21.

Framework 42

Recent Activity: The Council voted in June to separate development of an action to set scallop fishery specifications for FY 2027 and 2028 (default) from Framework 42, an action to develop management measures. The Scallop PDT has met to discuss the development of management measures to establish regional DAS management and NGOM sub-management areas, including on July 29, August 26 & 27, and via correspondence.

Anticipated Outcomes: The Advisory Panel and Committee will review the Framework 42 Discussion Document and provide input regarding the development of measures for regional DAS management and NGOM sub-management areas. The Advisory Panel and Committee will not be providing recommendations regarding a range of alternatives at this meeting, but the Committee may wish to make tasking motions for additional analysis or provide further direction on the scope of this action.

Scallop Work Priorities

Recent Activity: Progress has continued toward completing 2026 work priorities. With the Scallop Committee's input from the June 3 meeting, the Scallop PDT has met to develop a draft 3-Year Work Plan. This document is intended to serve as an implementation tool for the Scallop Advisory Panel and Committee to sequence work priorities over a 3-year period. While the work plan would not constrain the Committee's ability to make annual priority recommendations that are not included in the work plan, recommendations from outside of the work plan should consider how the work would further the objectives of the Scallop Strategic Plan and be weighed against work already specified in the work plan.

Anticipated Outcomes: The Advisory Panel and Committee will review the Strategic Plan and draft 3-Year Work Plan, and the Advisory Panel and Committee may wish to make a motion or consensus statement to approve the 3-Year Work Plan for 2027-2029.

Other Business

Anticipated Outcomes: Additional items and issues may be taken up under other business.

Please review all documents before the meeting. If you have any questions about these enclosures, please contact Connor Buckley (cbuckley@nefmc.org; 978-465-0492 ext. 115).