New England Fishery Management Council
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Daniel Salerno, *Chair* | Cate O'Keefe, PhD, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 21, 2026

TO: Scallop Advisory Panel and Scallop Committee

FROM: Melanie Griffin, Scallop Committee Chair

SUBJECT: **Purpose for Scallop Joint Committee Advisory Panel meeting on October 27, 2026**

The Council will hold the upcoming meeting of the Scallop Joint Committee and Advisory Panel (AP) on October 27. This meeting will be held in New Bedford, 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) FY 2027 & 2028 (default) specifications: Provide input on the range of potential access area and day-at-sea (DAS) allocations for the 2027 and 2028 (default) fishing years. The action will set ABC/ACLs, DAS, 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) Discuss the draft 2027 Priorities: Provide feedback for Council considerations at the December 2026 Council meeting; and
3) 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 (register here).

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 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 Advisory Panel followed by the Committee will have the opportunity to weigh-in, followed by the public. Individuals interested in speaking should raise their hand on the webinar.

2. **Motions via Webinar:** Only the Committee can make motions during this meeting.

a. **Making Motions:** The preferred approach is for Committee members to e-mail motions to Connor Buckley (cbuckley@nefmc.org) and Jennifer Couture (jcouture@nefmc.org) on Council staff, and cc the Committee Chair.
b. **Seconding Motions:** 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 Committee will have an opportunity to discuss each motion, followed by an opportunity for the Advisory Panel and 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 Committee has a chance to discuss this motion, the Chair will call on members of the AP and 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 (this document)
    b. Meeting Memo from Committee Chair, Ms. Melanie Griffin
2. Staff presentation
3. FY 2027 & 2028 (default) Specifications
    a. Discussion Document (draft)
    b. Scallop PDT memo to the SSC re: FY 2027-2028 (default) OFLs, ABCs
    c. Scallop Risk Policy Report
    d. SSC Report re: Scallop OFL & ABC
4. Draft 2027 Priorities
5. Meeting summaries:
    a. Joint Scallop PDT and AP, September 9th
    b. Scallop Committee, September 10th
    c. Scallop PDT, October 16th
6. Correspondence

FY 2027 & 2028 Specifications: Projections, Specifications Alternatives

Recent Activity: The Scallop PDT has met several times to discuss survey results and develop projections for FY 2027 and 2028 (default). The SSC met on October 7, 2026 and recommended OFL and ABC values for the next two fishing years. The PDT has been working to complete Committee tasking from the September 10, 2026 meeting. Staff will present the PDT's analyses to support the Committee tasking at your meeting next week.

The PDT has developed a Risk Policy Report for Atlantic sea scallop following the Risk Policy guidelines approved by the Council in June 2026. The report recommends an intermediate risk tolerance for the

Atlantic sea scallop fishery. Biomass (-2) and climate (-4) factor scores supported less risk tolerant management, while the commercial fishery characterization (+3) factor score supported greater risk tolerance. The recruitment factor score (0) was neutral, indicating no positive or negative trend.

Anticipated Outcomes:
Motions for alternatives to be included in the specifications action that identify:

1. Full-Time Limited Access (LA) DAS or an associated target open area fishing mortality (F) rate.
2. Access areas, trip limits, and total access are allocations for full-time LA, part-time LA allocations, and the distribution of Limited Access General Category (LAGC) IFQ access area trips for FY 2027.
3. Rotational closures for FY 2027.
4. Default measures for FY 2028, and specifically whether an access area trip should be allocated as part of default measures.
5. Target F rate for the Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) for FY 2027, and default measures for FY 2028.
6. Access areas where Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) compensation fishing can occur, if any.

2027 Scallop Work Priorities

Recent Activity: NEFMC approved the Scallop Work Plan for 2027 – 2029 as originally drafted by the Scallop PDT; the Council explicitly voted to not include "the ability to limit DAS fishing time in closed areas as a time limiting access area management tool as expeditiously as possible", a tabled motion from the Scallop Committee during its September 10th meeting. The work plan does not constrain the Committee's ability to make annual priority recommendations that are not included in the work plan. During the October 27th meeting, the Committee will discuss the draft 2027 Priorities and provide feedback for Council consideration at the December 2026 Council meeting.

Anticipated Outcomes: The Advisory Panel and Committee will discuss the draft 2027 Priority list and the Committee will make recommendations for sequencing topics and provide initial input on the purpose and need and scope for items included in the draft list. This feedback will help determine feasibility for completion and staff time estimates that will be further discussed the Council's Executive Committee in November.

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).