



## New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116  
Eric Reid, *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

### MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** March 22, 2023  
**TO:** Scallop Advisory Panel and Scallop Committee  
**FROM:** Melanie Griffin, Scallop Committee Chair  
**SUBJECT:** **Purpose for Scallop AP and Committee meetings on March 28 & 29, 2023**

The Council will hold the upcoming Scallop Advisory Panel and Committee meetings by webinar on March 28 & 29, 2023. Documents for this meeting will be posted to a Sharefile site and then 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:

- 1) Receive an overview of 2023 scallop work priorities.
- 2) Review goals and objectives for a Northern Edge Framework, and develop recommendations for the Council to consider.
- 3) Discuss possible modifications based on RSA Program Review and Sea Scallop Survey Working Group and begin identifying possible focus areas for 2024/2025 Scallop RSA Priorities.
- 4) Discuss other business.

**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.

AP webinar: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2214017724931485789>

Committee webinar: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6942446589461298268>

The Council has developed an instruction guide for GoToWebinar remote participation. It can be found at [this link](#).

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, AP, 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 AP and 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 Jonathon Peros ([jperos@nefmc.org](mailto:jperos@nefmc.org)) and Sam Asci ([sasci@nefmc.org](mailto:sasci@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 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/Committee have 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 unanimous consent in lieu of a roll call vote.

**Meeting Materials:**

All meeting materials can be accessed at this [link](#).

If you have any questions about the documents, please contact Jonathon Peros ([jperos@nefmc.org](mailto:jperos@nefmc.org); 978-465-0492 ext. 117).

**MEETING MATERIALS**

- 1. Meeting Information
  - a. Meeting Agenda
  - b. Meeting Memo from Committee Chair, Ms. Melanie Griffin
- 2. Presentations (*to be provided*)
  - a. NEFSC Commercial Fishing Business Cost Survey
  - b. Advisory Panel Policies
  - c. Staff presentation
- 3. Northern Edge
  - a. Draft Northern Edge Habitat/Scallop Framework Goals and Objectives
  - b. Draft Northern Edge Habitat/Scallop Framework Goals and Objectives with Habitat Committee Input (*to be provided*)
- 4. Scallop RSA Materials
  - a. Council to GARFO and NEFSC re: Scallop Survey Working Group, January 23, 2023
  - b. Council to GARFO re: Longer Term Scallop RSA Awards, February 6, 2023
  - c. 2023/2024 Scallop RSA Notice of Funding Opportunity
- 5. Meeting Summaries
  - a. Joint Habitat/Scallop PDT meeting, October 13, 2022
  - b. Scallop PDT meeting, February 7, 2023
  - c. Joint Scallop/Habitat PDT meeting, March 14, 2023
  - d. Draft Habitat AP and Committee meetings, March 21 & 23, 2023 (if available)
- 6. Correspondence

**Background Materials**

- 1. Northern Edge White Paper
- 2. Northern Edge Before-After-Control-Impact Final Report (Dr. Scott Gallager)
- 3. RSA Program Review Final Report

## Northern Edge Habitat/Scallop Framework

**Recent Activity:** In December, the Council prioritized work on an action to facilitate scallop access to the Northern Edge of Georges Bank. This action will be developed through the joint efforts of the Habitat and Scallop Committees, Advisory Panels, and Plan Development Teams, consulting with others as needed. The Habitat and Scallop Plan Development Teams have a drafted a common list of preliminary goals and objectives for the action. The Habitat Advisory Panel and Committee had meetings last week, and both groups reviewed the preliminary goals and objectives.

Committee members should come to the meeting prepared to provide feedback on goals and objectives and to make a recommendation to the Council. Staff will provide the combined input of both Committees to the Council for consideration in April. Staff are currently contemplating a workplan, including near-term next steps, and should be able to provide a rough sense of the workplan and timeline during upcoming meetings. A formal timeline and action plan will be specified following the Council's discussion on this topic in April.

### **Anticipated Outcomes:**

- Develop recommendations for goals and objectives of a Northern Edge Habitat/Scallop Framework for the Council to consider at its April 2023 meeting.

## Modifications to the Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program

**Recent Activity:** The Council received a final report from the Scallop Survey Working Group (SSWG) co-Chairs at the December Council meeting. The Council sent the final working group report and appendices to the Northeast Fisheries Science Center on January 23, 2023. This correspondence included a matrix of SSWG recommendations as a way to track follow-up to this multi-year effort, and questions about NMFS's ability to address unfunded or underfunded recommendations of the SSWG. The Council also sent a letter to NMFS requesting guidance on the feasibility and legal requirements to revise the Scallop RSA Program to allow for longer-term survey awards. The Council is still awaiting responses to both letters.

**Next Steps:** At this meeting, Staff will provide an overview of the status of this work item, and outline next steps. Council staff anticipate that the Committee may wish to take some action on this priority in June 2023.

### **Anticipated Outcomes:**

- No Action required.

## 2024/2025 Scallop RSA Research Priorities

**Next Steps:** Council staff anticipate that the 2023/2024 Scallop RSA awards will be announced in the coming weeks. Council staff will review the priorities from last cycle, and provide an update on the outlook for upcoming RSA meetings.

**Anticipated Outcomes:**

- No Action required. Provide feedback on current list of RSA priorities, and suggest areas of focus for PDT and others to consider at upcoming meetings.

### 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 Jonathon Peros (978-465-0492 ext. 117).