

#2

Motions

Scallop Advisory Panel Meeting
June 2, 2026
9:00am
Providence, RI

1. MOTION (Fulcher/Brighton)

Recommend that the NGOM be left as status quo, with no split sub-management areas.
The fishing mortality rate of $F=0.25$ should be set for the entire area, annually.

Rationale: Separate sub-areas may not achieve the stated objective of reducing vessel crowding and limiting fishing mortality on Stellwagen Bank.

MOTION #1 CARRIED 10-4

3	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse
Scallop AP				
James Gutowski (Chair)				
Brent Fulcher	X			
Peter Hughes		X		
Kyle Grant	X			
Jay Elsner	X			
Ben Martens		X		
Kirby Aarsheim	X			
Alex Todd		X		
Chris Merl	X			
Wes Brighton	X			
Walter White	X			
Ed Mullis	X			
Brady Lybarger	X			
Michael Marchetti		X		
Bob Keese				
Alex Todd				
Cassie Larsen	X			
TOTAL VOTE	10	4	0	

2. MOTION (FULCHER/GRANT)

Recommend that Scallop Committee task the Scallop PDT with further analysis of an appropriate in-shell possession limit within the Northern Gulf of Maine management area.

Rationale: Current in-shell possession limits in the Northern Gulf of Maine allow for 1,666 lb seaward of the demarcation line, which has led to concerns of moving shell stock outside of the NGOM management area or into state waters, as well as facilitating large deck loads that lead to increased discard mortality.

MOTION #2 CARRIES UNANIMOUSLY BY CONSENT

3. MOTION (MERL/AARSHEIM)

Recommend that regional-DAS allocations are not developed further for Scallop Framework 42, and that DAS allocations remain general across the open-bottom, as well as no changes to DAS carryover.

Rationale: Regional-DAS allocations decrease flexibility for the fleet, and would further concentrate effort in smaller regions.

MOTION #3 FAILED 5-9

3	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse
Scallop AP				
James Gutowski (Chair)				
Brent Fulcher		x		
Peter Hughes		x		
Kyle Grant		x		
Jay Elsner	x			
Ben Martens		x		
Kirby Aarsheim	x			
Alex Todd		x		
Chris Merl	x			
Wes Brighton		x		
Walter White	x			
Ed Mullis		x		
Brady Lybarger		x		
Michael Marchetti	x			
Bob Keese				
Alex Todd				
Cassie Larsen		x		
TOTAL VOTE	5	9		

3. MOTION TO SUBSTITUTE (FULCHER/MULLIS)

Recommend that regional-DAS allocations be developed for implementation in FY 2028, when the Regional Office can support implementation of DAS trading. The Scallop AP does not support further development of differential counting of DAS. DAS carryover would remain status quo.

Rationale: There are benefits of regional-DAS allocations in reducing vessel concentration in a single region, but trading of DAS would be necessary to provide sufficient flexibility for vessel operations.

2	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse
Scallop AP				
James Gutowski (Chair)				
Brady Lybarger	x			
Alex Todd			x	
Wes Brighton	x			
Walter White		x		
Ben Martens	x			
Cassie Larsen		x		
Alex Todd				
Chris Merl		x		
Jay Elsner		x		
Kyle Grant		x		
Brent Fulcher	x			
Ed Mullis	x			
Peter Hughes		x		
Michael Marchetti		x		
Bob Keese				
Kirby Aarsheim		x		
TOTAL VOTE	5	8	1	

MOTION TO SUBSTITUTE FAILED 5-8-1

CONSENSUS STATEMENT #1

The Scallop AP recommends including the following near-term priorities in the 2027-2029 Work for implementing the Long Term Strategic Plan:

- In-season adjustment triggers and improving real time data collection to inform them.
- Managing in high-density areas for accessibility and sustainability
- Developing a technical definition of high grading

Longer term, the AP supports the continued development of measures to improve fishing practices, and/or electronic monitoring to address high grading.

CONSENSUS STATEMENT #2

The Scallop AP recommends no changes to the Scallop RSA priorities for 2027-2028, relative to the Scallop RSA priorities for 2025-2026

Motions
Scallop Committee Meeting
June 3, 2026
9:00am
Providence, RI

1. MOTION (SMITH/BRAWN)

Move to task the PDT to develop an alternative for sub-management areas in Northern Gulf of Maine that utilizes a north/south partition at the Cape Ann longitude of 41°15'N (referencing Figure 1 of Document 3a) with sub-options for this alternative that include harvesting the areas either 1) consecutively or 2) concurrently.

Rationale: When specifications are determined for NGOM, typically using exploitable biomass estimates of several survey areas combined, harvest effort is concentrated on Stellwagen Bank, resulting in the removal of legal biomass that exceeds what was determined as the maximum poundage at $F=0.25$. (For example, FY2026, Stellwagen contributed 209K pounds of exploitable biomass, however, the specifications were set at 437K, but the majority of those pounds were removed from Stellwagen, exceeding the $F=0.25$.) Preliminary calculations indicate that harvest on Stellwagen reached an F-rate of 0.38.

MOTION #1 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY CONSENT WITH ONE ABSTENTION

2. MOTION (SMITH/BRAWN)

Move to task the PDT to evaluate alternatives to address modifications in possession limits, including but not limited to combinations of in-shell and shucked meats.

Rationale: Limiting the possession limit of total scallops on vessel could deter high-grading and potentially reduce incidental mortality of un-kept scallops.

MOTION #2 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY CONSENT WITH ONE ABSTENTION

CONSENSUS STATEMENT #1

The Scallop Committee supports the continued development of measures to allocate region-specific DAS, and tasks the Scallop PDT with additional analysis. The Scallop Committee does not support reducing the 10 DAS carryover provision.

CONSENSUS STATEMENT CARRIED WITH ONE ABSTENTION

CONSENSUS STATEMENT #2

The Committee recommends that the Council adopt the following Scallop Research Set-Aside priorities for 2027 and 2028.

High Priority

1. SCALLOP RESOURCE SURVEYS:

- Establish a small-scale survey of access areas each year to provide additional data on the resource prior to the start of the fishing year on April 1 (Strategy 2.3)
- Increase survey effort at the end of an access areas rotational cycle to reduce projection uncertainty (Strategy 2.4)
- Interest in surveying areas with high densities of juvenile scallops and how they propagate over time.

Medium Priority:

2. SCALLOP BIOLOGY:

3. COMMERCIAL FISHING GEAR:

- Adopt Scallop PDT recommendation

4. BYCATCH:

- Research could include evaluating the impact of high-grading and fishing behavior on incidental mortality.

5. FISHING IN HIGH DENSITY AREAS:

- Adopt Scallop PDT recommendation

6. SCALLOP RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT:

- Adopt Scallop PDT recommendation

General Priorities:

7. HABITAT CHARACTERIZATION AND FISHERY IMPACT RESEARCH

- Adopt Scallop PDT recommendation

8. TURTLES:

9. WIND:

CONSENSUS STATEMENT CARRIED WITH ONE ABSTENTION

CONSENSUS STATEMENT #3

The Scallop Committee recommends that the Council request that NOAA Fisheries communicate the priority change for protected species research to the NMFS Office of Protected Resources so that turtle research can be funded through that office going forward.

CONSENSUS STATEMENT CARRIED WITH ONE ABSTENTION