

Joint Scallop Plan Development Team & Advisory Panel

SEPTEMBER 9

BOSTON, MA



**New England Fishery
Management Council**

Scallop Committee

SEPTEMBER 10

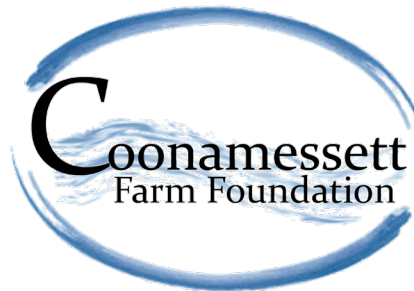
BOSTON, MA



New England Fishery
Management Council

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Thank you to Survey groups and presenters!
- September 9th: Working, technical meeting of PDT & AP; survey groups welcome to participate
- September 10th: Committee meeting aiming to make recommendations for FY 2027 and 2028 (default) specifications.



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Management Council

JOINT PDT AND AP AGENDA

9:00 AM	Introductions, approve agenda, 2026 timeline, and other updates
9:15	Fishing Year (FY) 2027 & FY 2028 Specifications: Review 2026 scallop survey results, preliminary biomass estimates, and other fishery data
10:45	<i>Break</i>
11:00	FY 2027 & FY 2028 Specifications: Develop input on spatial management and day-at-sea (DAS) for the 2027 fishing year
12:00 PM	<i>Lunch</i>
1:00	FY 2027 & 2028 Specifications: Continue developing input for 2027 fishing year
1:45	Risk Policy: Review Scallop PDT scoring results and provide input on the scoring of the Commercial Fishery Characterization factor.
2:15	<i>Break: PDT adjourn</i>
2:30	Framework 42: Discuss the development of measures to establish regional-DAS management and Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) sub-management areas.
3:30	Scallop Work Priorities: Review draft Scallop 3-Year Work Plan
4:30	Other Business
4:45	Adjourn



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SCALLOP COMMITTEE AGENDA

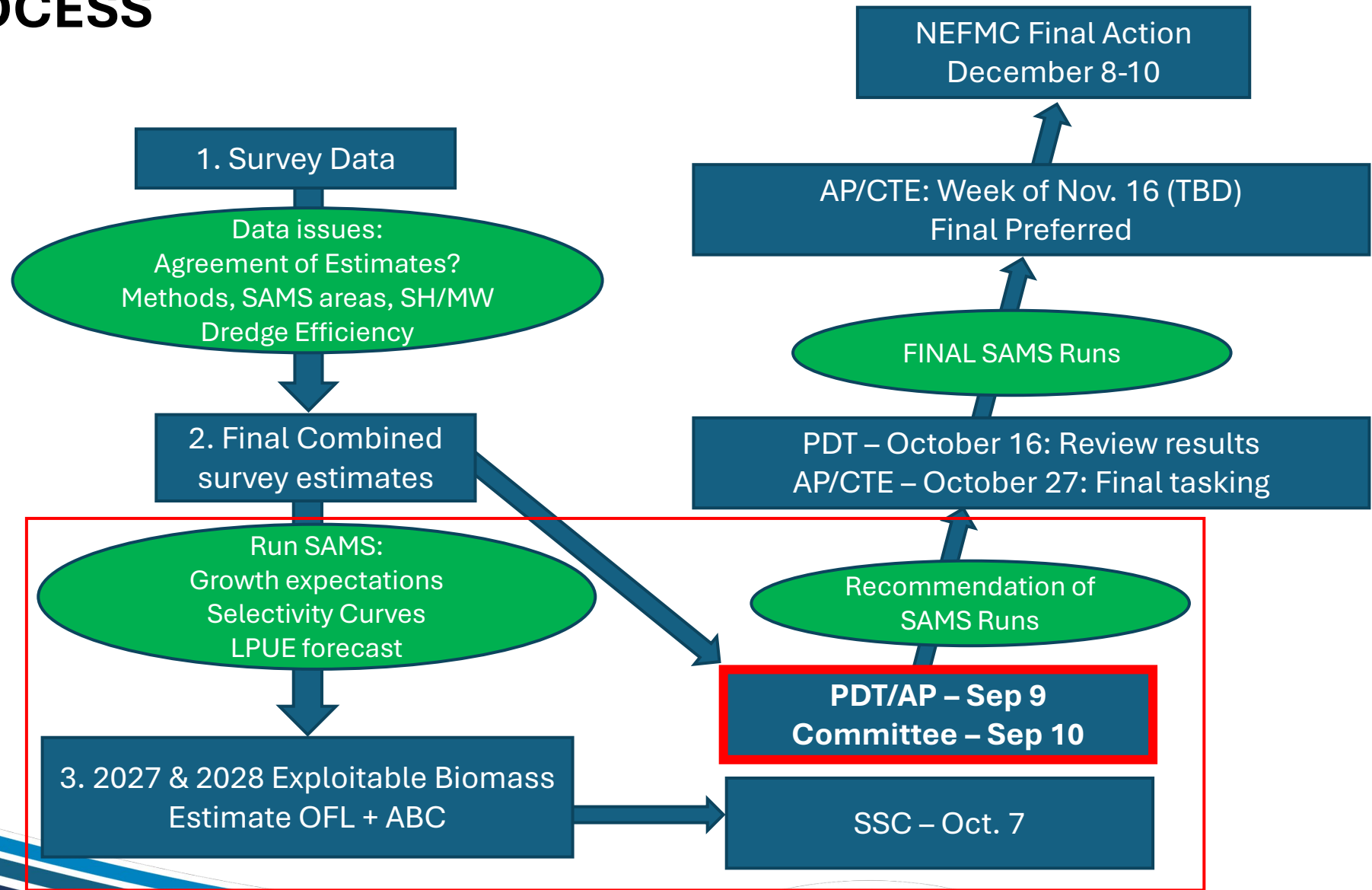
9:00 AM	Introductions, approve agenda, 2026 timeline, and other updates
9:15	AP Chair Report
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3:15	Adjourn



2027 SPECS PROCESS

Initial exploitable biomass estimates for 2027 not available for today

- Aiming for September 18**



TODAY'S MEETING GOALS

- Review and discuss the 2026 scallop survey results and 2027 specifications
- Updates on 2026 Scallop work priorities, including Framework 42 and the 3-Year Work Plan.

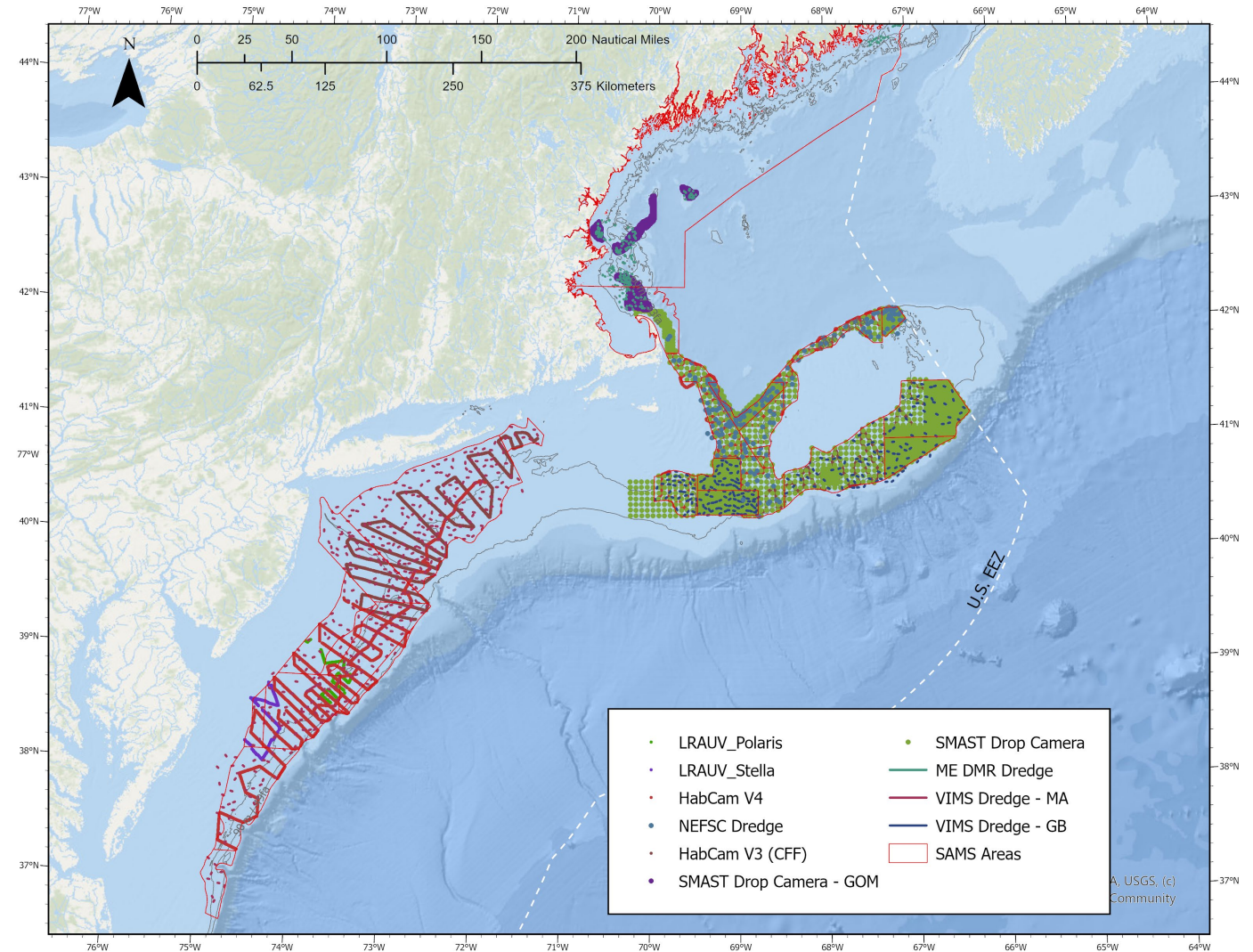
Action anticipated by the Committee:

- FY 2027 Specifications: PDT tasking for spatial management including Days-at-Sea, rotational management, NGOM Total Allowable Landings, and other specifications.
- Framework 42: Provide additional direction on development of measures
- 3-Year Work Plan: Approve Draft Work Plan for 2027-2029



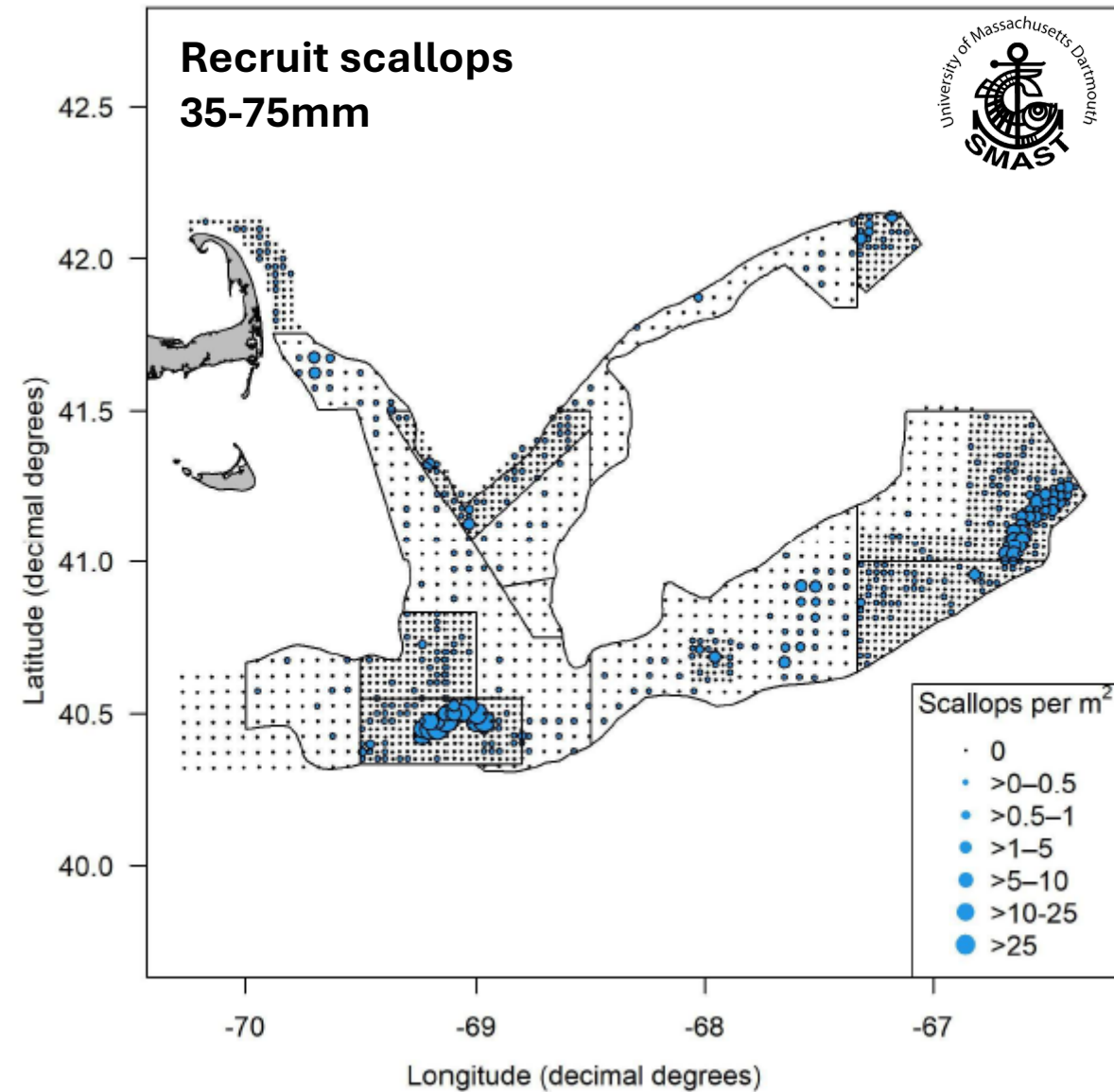
ALL 2026 SURVEYS COMPLETED PLANNED STATIONS/TRACKS

- Sampled May - June
- Optical and dredge survey coverage in every area.
- NEFSC Long-Range AUVs deployed successfully for two Mid-Atlantic legs



KEY SURVEY FINDINGS

- 76% of all scallops are on Georges Bank, with 48% within the Nantucket Lightship South alone.
- Abundance (>40mm) decreased by 10% across the resource, but incoming recruitment event noted in Closed Area II and the Great South Channel
- Biomass (>40mm) increased, driven by growth of large Nantucket Lightship cohort. This year class continues to grow relatively slowly.



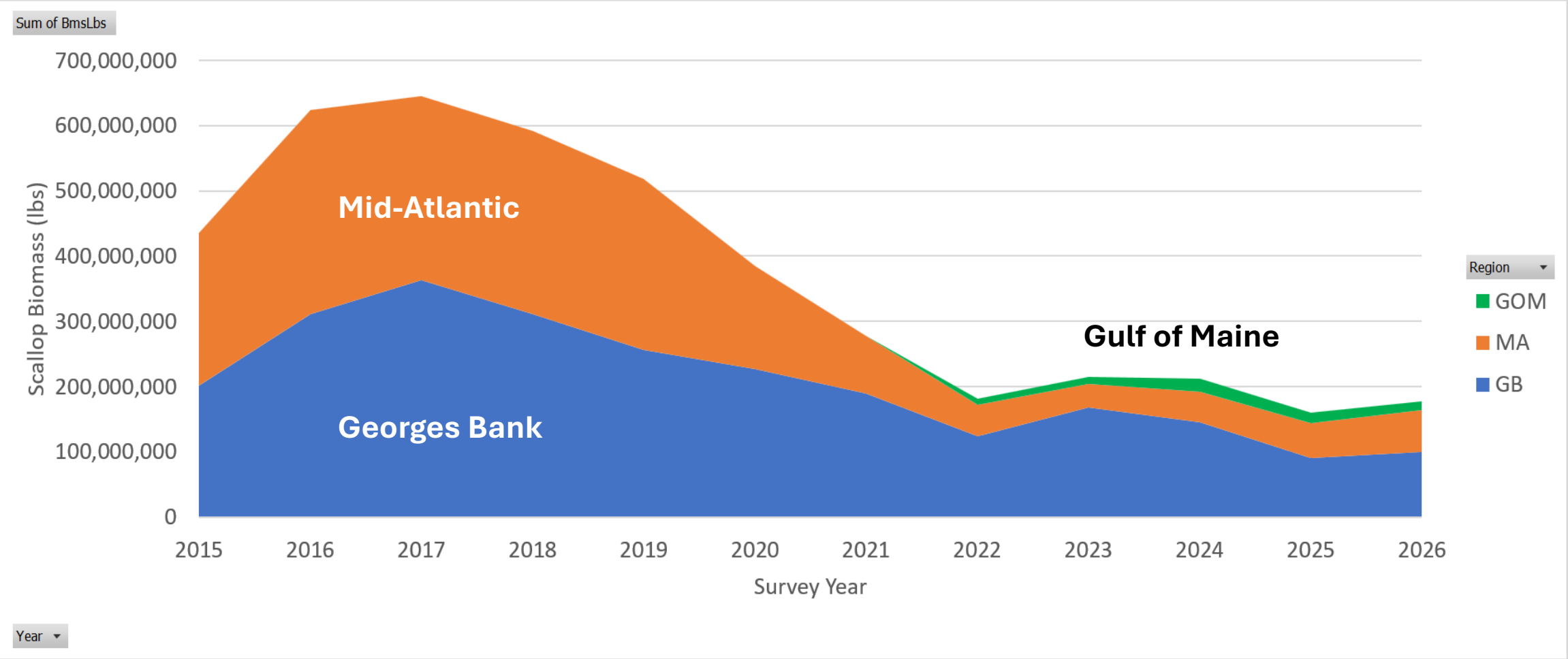
BOTTOM LINE UP FRONT

- Surveys data suggest that the only area with sufficient biomass to consider rotational access in FY 2027 would be Nantucket Lightship South, with or without the Nantucket Lightship North.
 - The large 2022 recruitment event in the NLS-South continues to grow. Growth is quicker than the slow-growing ‘Peter Pan’ cohort, but slower than observed elsewhere on Georges Bank.
 - PDT is developing options to analyze NLS-Extension separately, where scallop yields appear lowest, in case the Committee is interested in maintaining a closure in that area.
- In the Mid-Atlantic, strong growth and survival of the 2022 cohort that continues to drive FY 2026 landings, but no new recruitment observed.
 - Heavy fishing effort during and after the survey season in the Mid-Atlantic may indicate survey estimates are overly optimistic.



Region	Subarea	Dredge				DropCam				Habcam				Mean				
		Num	Bmsmt	SE	MeanWt	Num	Bmsmt	SE	MeanWt	Num	Bmsmt	SE	MeanWt	Num	Bmsmt	SE	MeanWt	CV
GB	CL1-Sliver	64	888	200	13.9	137	1634	213	11.9	185	2375	906	12.8	129	1632	317	12.7	0.19
GB	CL1-Access + South	8	92	38	11.5	59	1131	434	19.3	12	246	184	20.5	26	490	158	18.7	0.32
GB	CL2-North	89	2933	1071	33.0	165	4217	656	25.6	109	3633	74	33.3	121	3594	419	29.7	0.12
GB	CL2-Access	511	3366	464	6.6	360	1525	108	4.2	181	1091	132	6.0	351	1994	165	5.7	0.08
GB	CL2-Ext	73	931	106	12.8	115	1337	114	11.6	107	1549	157	14.5	98	1272	74	13.0	0.06
GB	SF	534	5017	650	9.4	724	7512	669	10.4	690	8450	367	12.2	649	6993	334	10.8	0.05
GB	NLS-North	37	835	51	22.5	58	1210	129	20.7	50	734	423	14.7	48	926	148	19.1	0.16
GB	NLS-South	768	6270	849	8.2	4806	31826	5646	6.6	4250	31041	874	7.3	3275	23046	1925	7.0	0.08
GB	NLS-West	16	199	31	12.2	9	32	9	3.4	15	286	39	19.1	14	172	17	12.7	0.10
GB	NF	113	793	278	7.0	81	958	187	11.9	131	1762	79	13.5	190	875	462	4.6	0.53
GB	GSC	426	5657	320	13.3	340	3070	502	9.0	375	3821	1344	10.2	299	4364	200	14.6	0.05
GB	TOTAL	2639	26981	1656	10.2	6854	54451	5772	7.9	6105	54988	1948	9.0	5071	43727	2080	8.6	0.05
MAB	Block Island	4	50	4	14.0					34	410	24	11.1	19	230	12	12.2	0.05
MAB	Long Island	285	4548	241	16.0					322	7033	84	21.2	303	5791	128	19.1	0.02
MAB	New York Bight	300	4050	405	13.5					305	4823	49	14.3	302	4437	204	14.7	0.05
MAB	MAB_Nearshore	1	7	1	6.0					0	1	1	4.8	1	4	1	6.9	0.20
MAB	Hudson Canyon South	438	7617	588	17.4					604	10808	254	16.9	521	9213	320	17.7	0.03
MAB	Elephant Trunk	466	9846	794	21.1					450	8599	104	17.1	458	9223	400	20.1	0.04
MAB	Delmarva	34	292	89	8.5					14	97	11	5.8	24	195	45	8.0	0.23
MAB	Virginia	1	4	1	2.8					1	4	1	2.8	1	4	1	2.8	0.24
MAB	TOTAL	1529	26414	1098	17.3					1729	31771	292	18.4	1630	29094	568	17.9	0.02
GOM	Stellwagen South - AOI	24	268	78	11.0	72	428	18	6.0					48	348	40	7.2	0.11
GOM	Stellwagen South - Outside AOI	2	53	31	34.4									2	53	31	34.4	0.57
GOM	North Cape Cod					7	137	20	19.1					7	137	20	19.0	0.15
GOM	South Cape Cod					13	88	11	6.8					13	88	11	6.8	0.13
GOM	TOTAL	26	321	84	12.4	92	653	29	7.1					70	626	55	9.0	0.09
NGOM	WGOM Closure					80	3177	264	39.9					80	3177	264	39.9	0.08
NGOM	Stellwagen Bank - AOI	5	159	29	29.6	12	253	20	20.4					9	206	18	23.2	0.09
NGOM	Stellwagen Bank - Outside AOI	11	399	154	37.6									11	399	154	37.6	0.39
NGOM	Jeffreys Ledge - AOI	8	253	103	30.7	6	110	10	19.2					7	181	52	25.9	0.28
NGOM	Jeffreys Ledge - Outside AOI	2	83	43	34.9									2	83	43	34.9	0.53
NGOM	Platts Bank	1	52	33	35.6	5	66	13	13.8					3	59	18	18.9	0.30
NGOM	Ipswich Bay - Outside AOI	0	4	4	26.3									0	4	4	26.3	1.00
NGOM	Ipswich Bay - AOI	5	123	42	22.9	7	121	13	17.9					6	122	22	20.1	0.18
NGOM	Machias Seal Island	17	307	87	18.1									17	307	87	18.1	0.28
NGOM	TOTAL	51	1380	218	27.3	109	3728	266	34.1					118	4232	172	35.9	0.04
NGOM	TOTAL - Open	51	1380	218	27.3	30	551	29	18.5					55	1361	369	24.7	0.27
TOTAL	TOTAL	4218	54775	1999	13.0	6963	58179	5778	8.4	7834	86759	1970	11.1	6888	77679	2164	11.3	0.03

SURVEY BIOMASS HOVERING NEAR 25 YEAR LOW

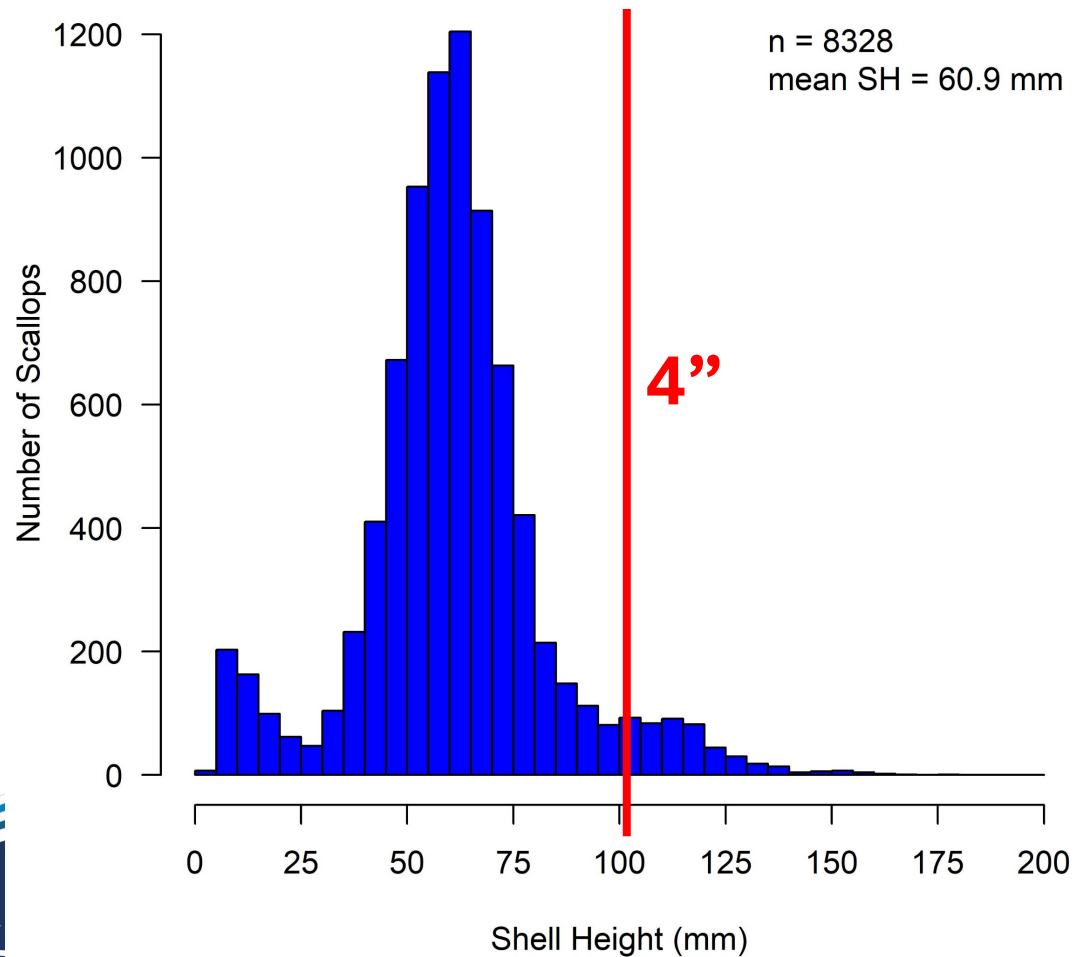


KEY SURVEY FINDINGS



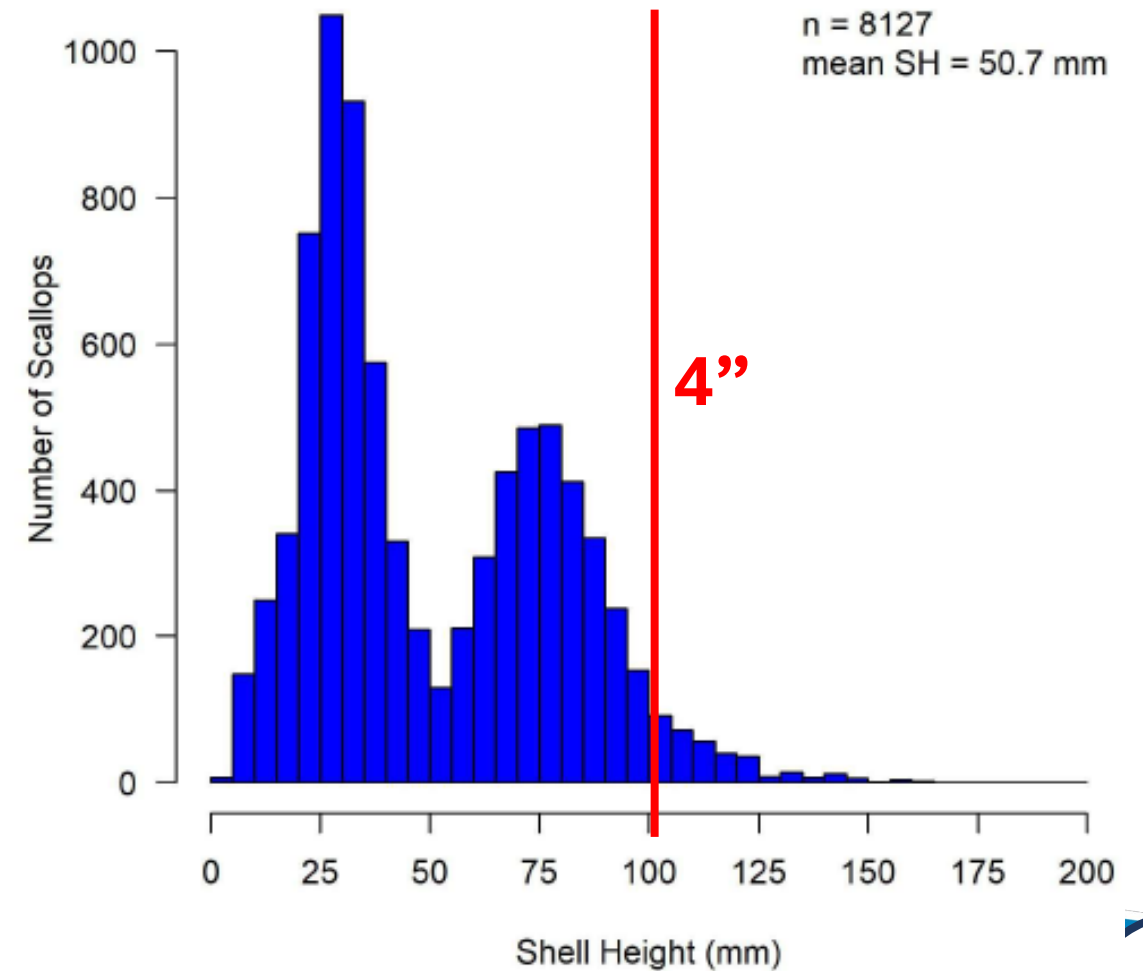
2025

Georges Bank all

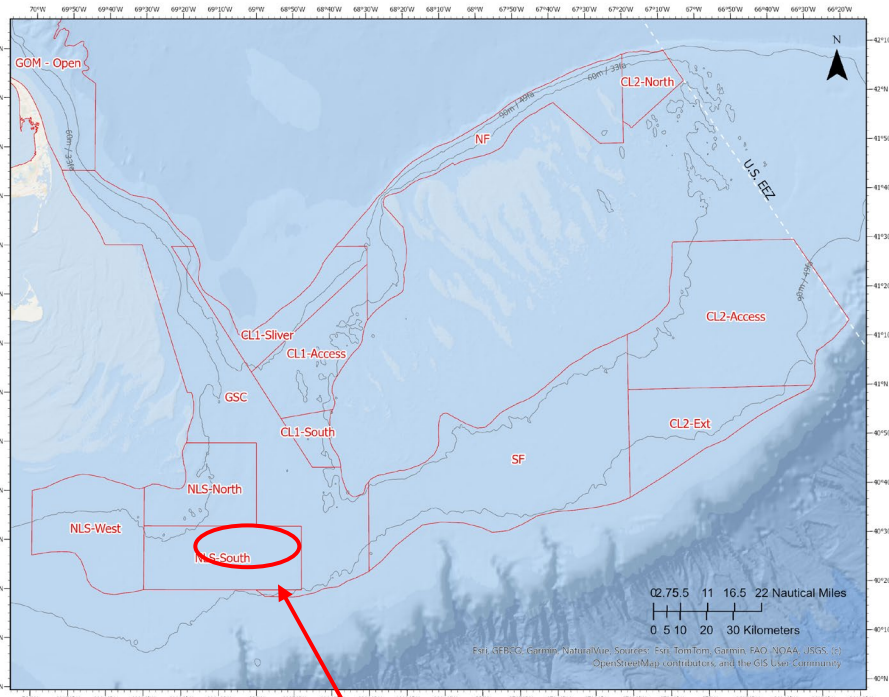


2026

Georges Bank all

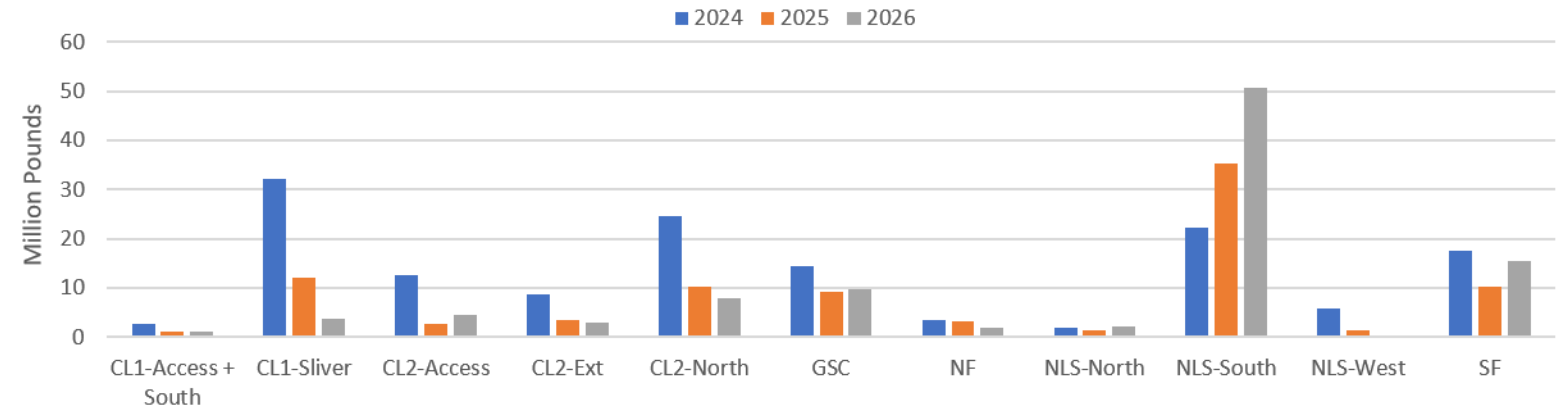


GEORGES BANK

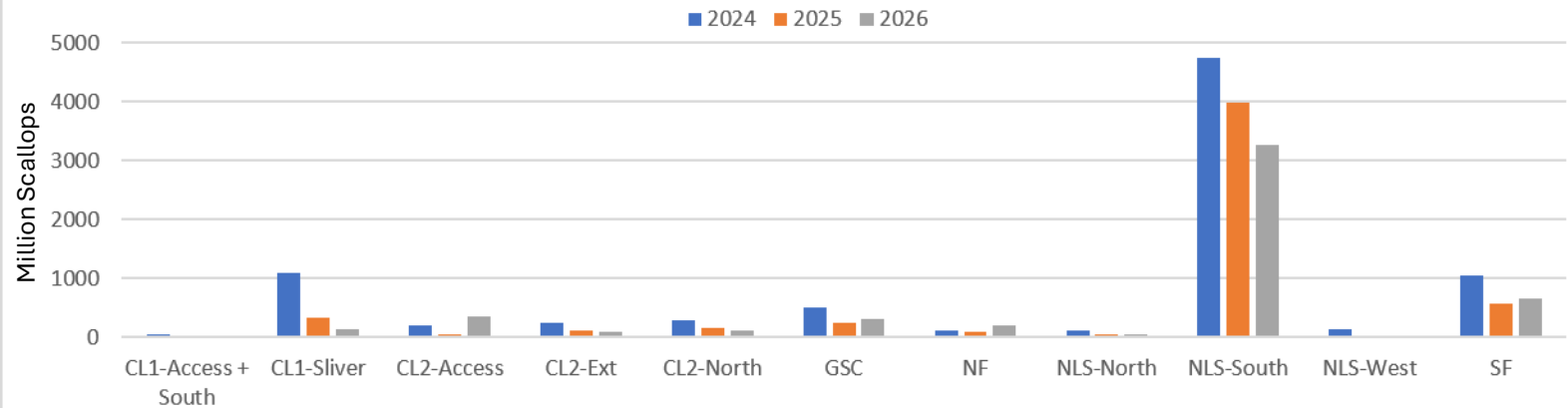


30% of scallop biomass
48% of scallop abundance

Scallop Biomass (lbs)

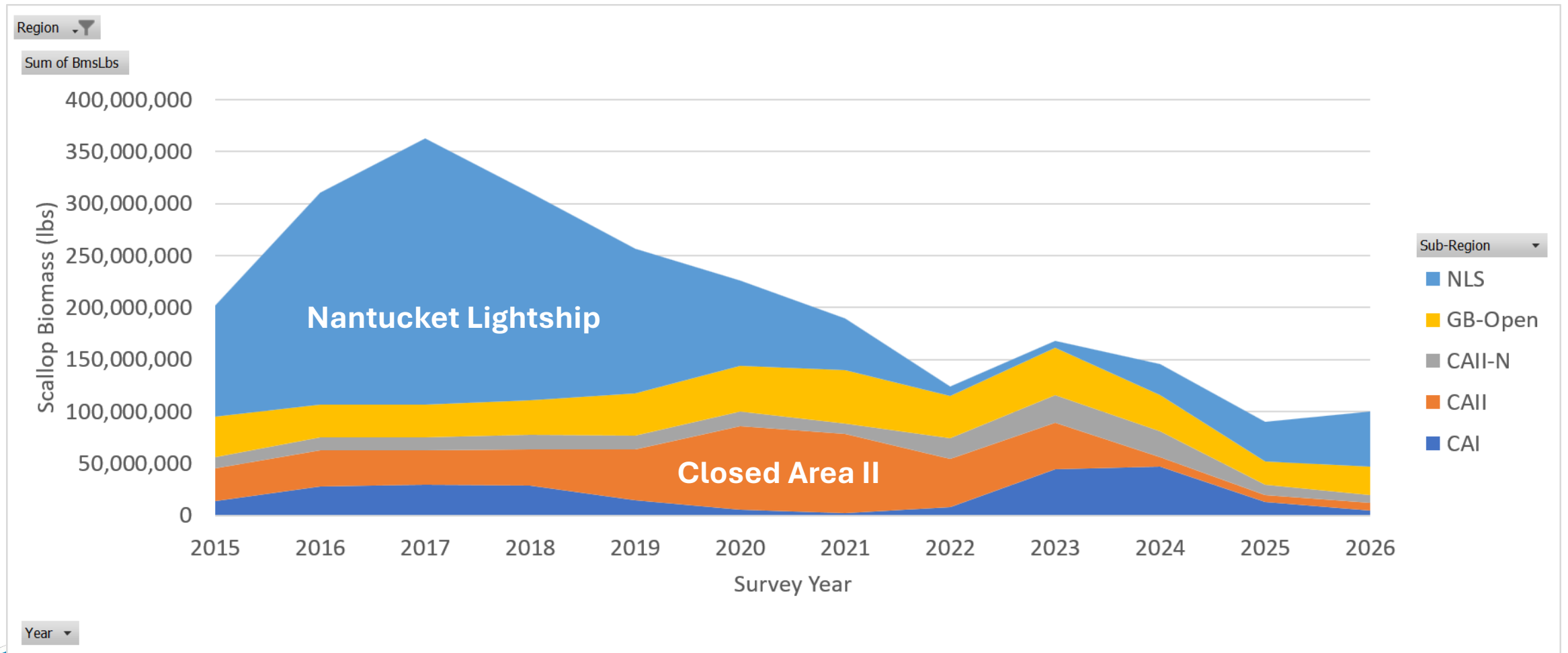


Scallop Abundance

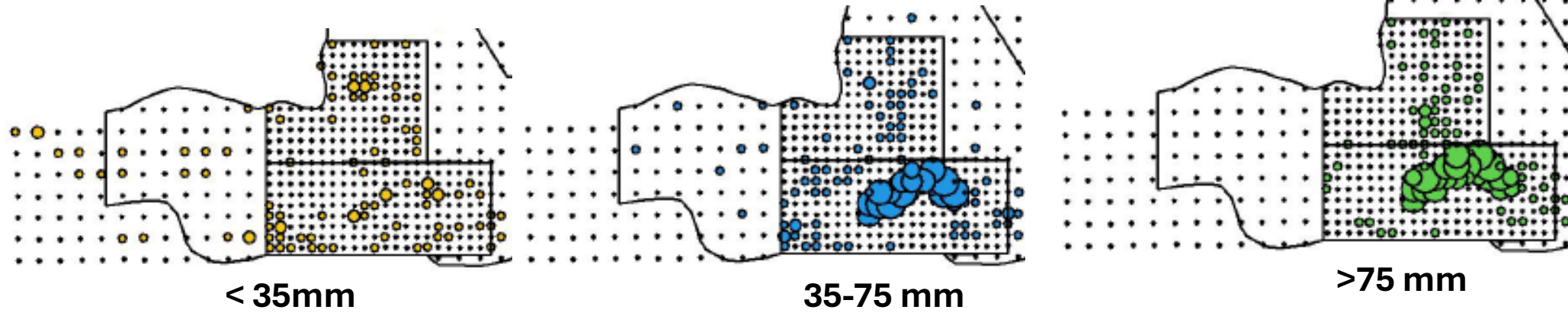


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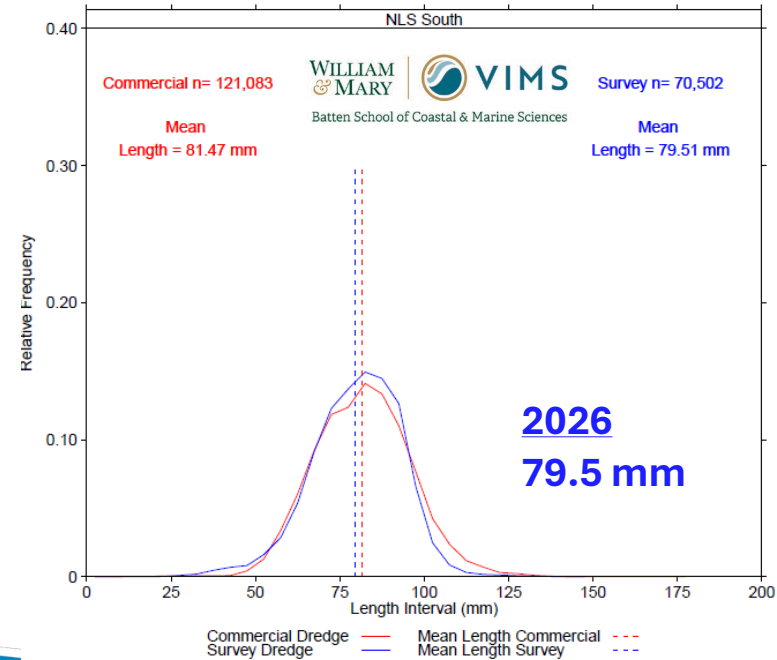
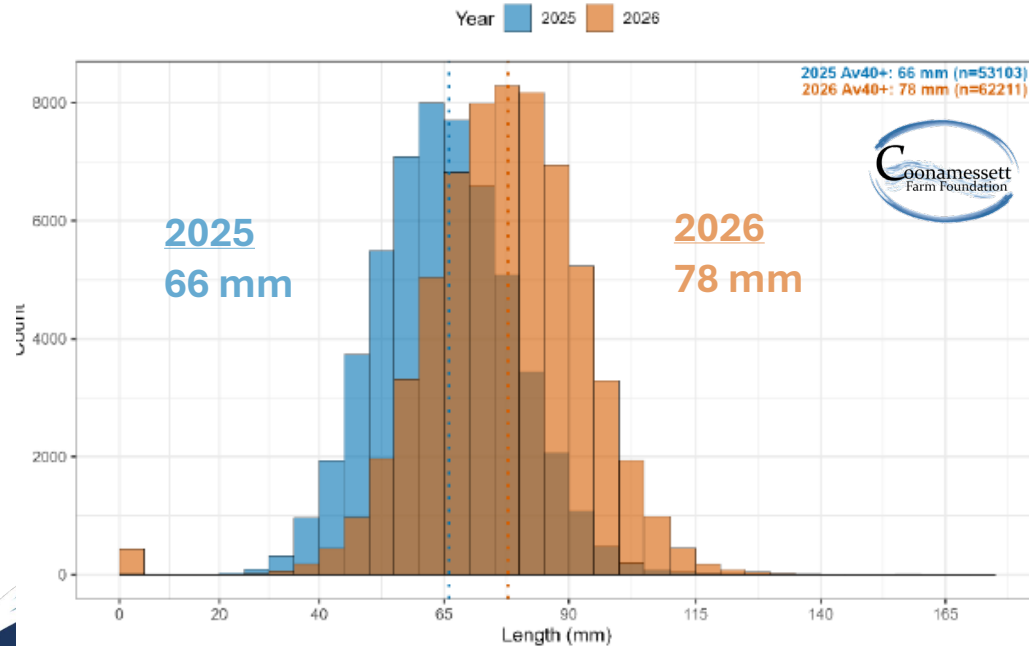
GEORGES BANK SURVEY BIOMASS



NANTUCKET LIGHTSHIP



Length Frequency: NLS-South

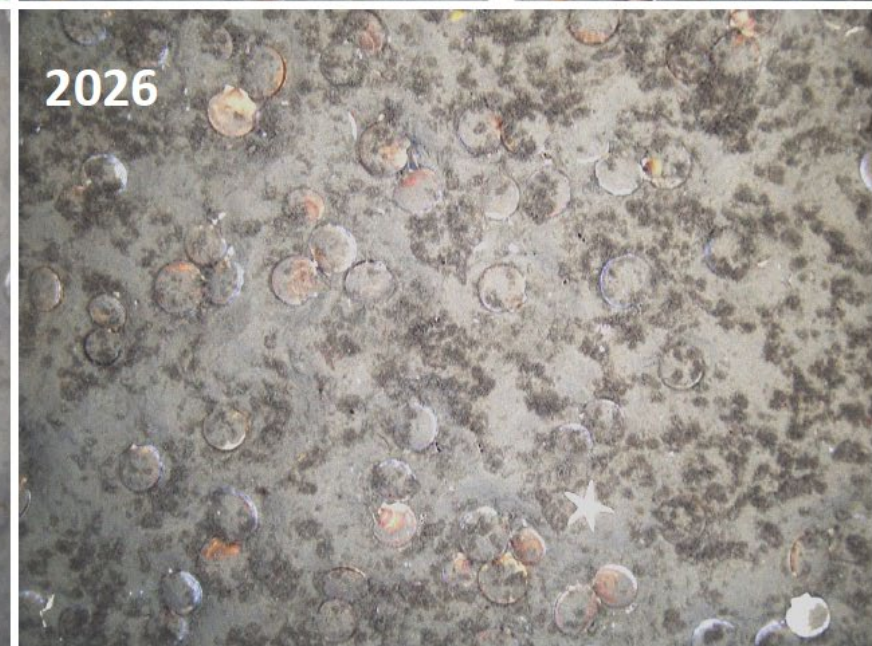
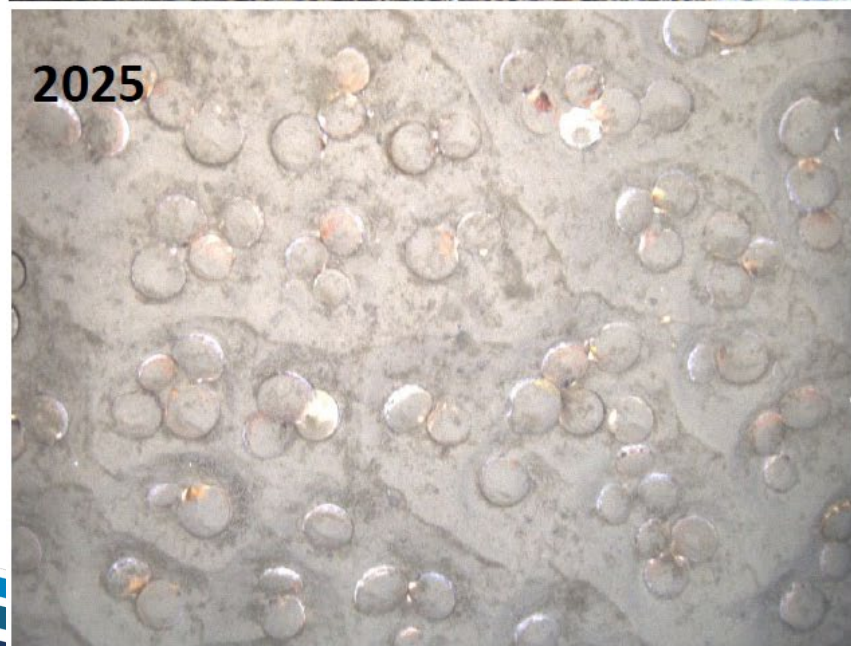
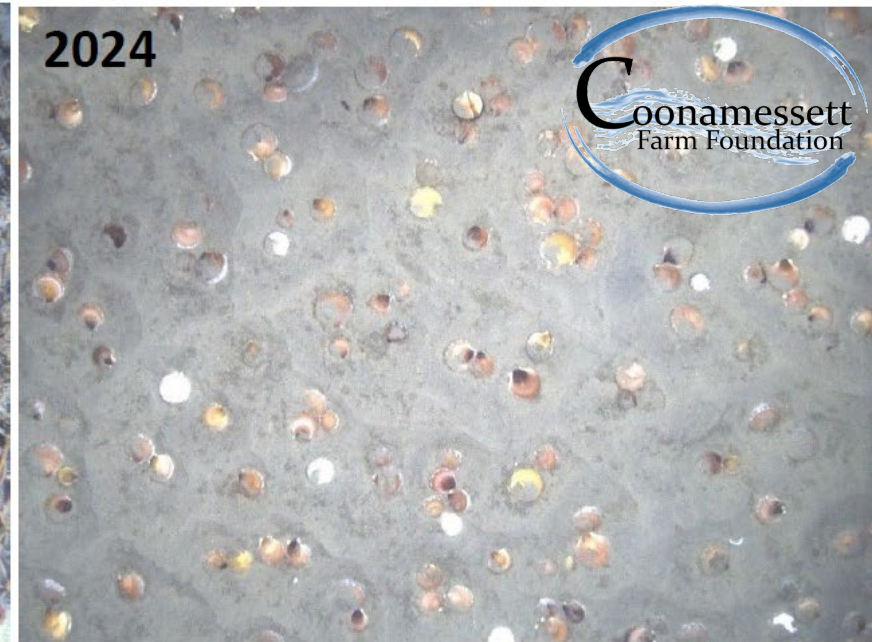


SAMS_Area	Length	Commercial	Survey
NLS_South	22.5	0	12
NLS_South	27.5	0	66
NLS_South	32.5	0	137
NLS_South	37.5	0	327
NLS_South	42.5	100	483
NLS_South	47.5	516	575
NLS_South	52.5	1,569	1,141
NLS_South	57.5	4,095	2,014
NLS_South	62.5	7,296	3,782
NLS_South	67.5	11,207	6,474
NLS_South	72.5	14,333	8,657
NLS_South	77.5	14,972	9,657
NLS_South	82.5	17,081	10,533
NLS_South	87.5	16,150	10,199
NLS_South	92.5	13,332	8,910
NLS_South	97.5	9,296	4,653
NLS_South	102.5	5,136	1,745
NLS_South	107.5	2,877	607
NLS_South	112.5	1,416	220
NLS_South	117.5	856	122
NLS_South	122.5	365	87
NLS_South	127.5	282	54
NLS_South	132.5	125	31
NLS_South	137.5	49	12
NLS_South	142.5	16	1
NLS_South	147.5	9	2
NLS_South	152.5	2	0
NLS_South	157.5	1	0
NLS_South	167.5	1	0
NLS_South	177.5	1	0

NLS –SOUTH

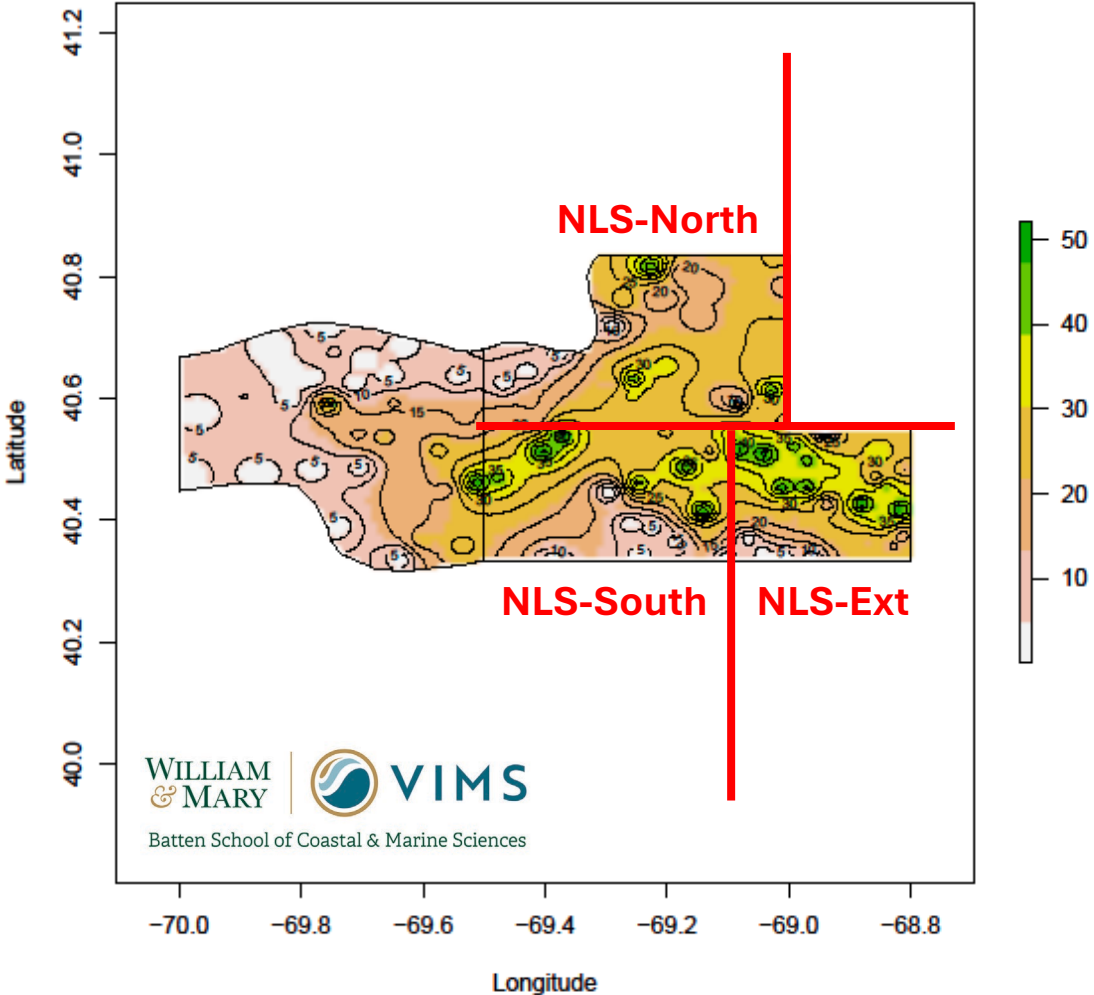
2023-2026

- CFF noted changing benthos over time in the NLS-South
- *Asterias* spp. sea stars were observed by optical surveys, but not in especially high densities.



NANTUCKET LIGHTSHIP

Interpolated Map of Scallop Meat Counts Per Pound
in the VIMS Nantucket Lightship Survey Domain for the Survey Dredge

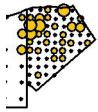


Sub-Area	2026 Biomass	Average Shell Size	Year Classes in the Area	Recruitment ?
NLS North	2.0 mil lbs.	2.5 in.	Multiple	Minor
NLS South	26.2 mil lbs.	3 in.	One	Minor
NLS Extension	24.6 mil lbs.	3 in.	One	Minor

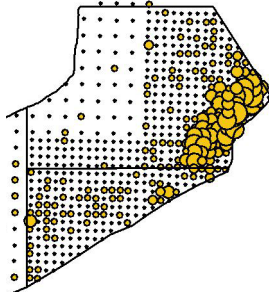
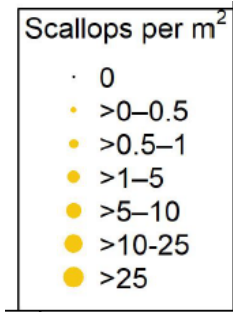
Scallop PDT input for FY 2027

- Could consider for access area trip
- Recommended separate projection of NLS-Extension
- Concerns about slow growth, incidental mortality, high-grading
 - Delayed opening, seasonal closure?

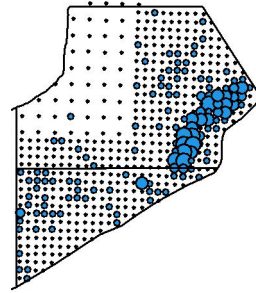
AREA II



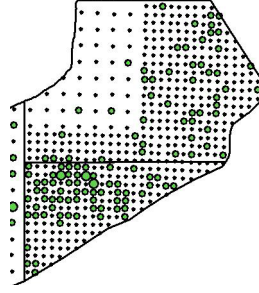
- Scallop PDT input for FY 2027
- Large recruitment event in Closed Area II Access
- Recommend continued closure



< 35mm



35-75 mm

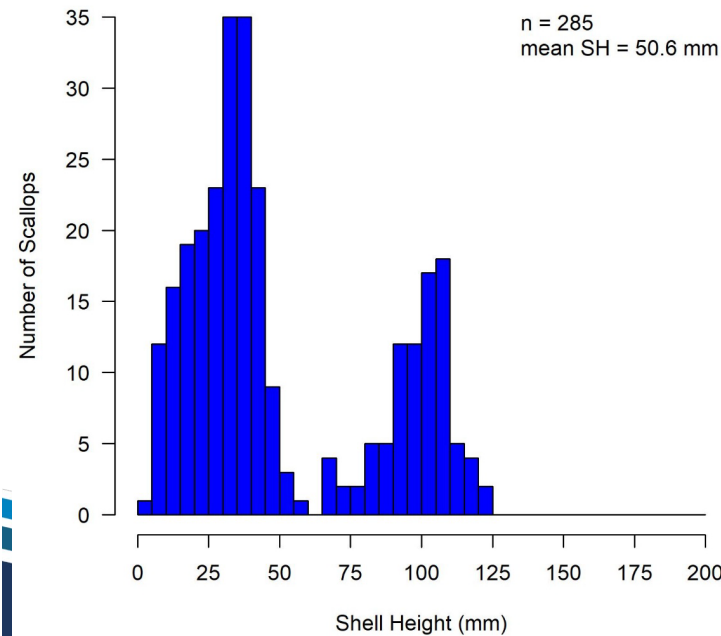
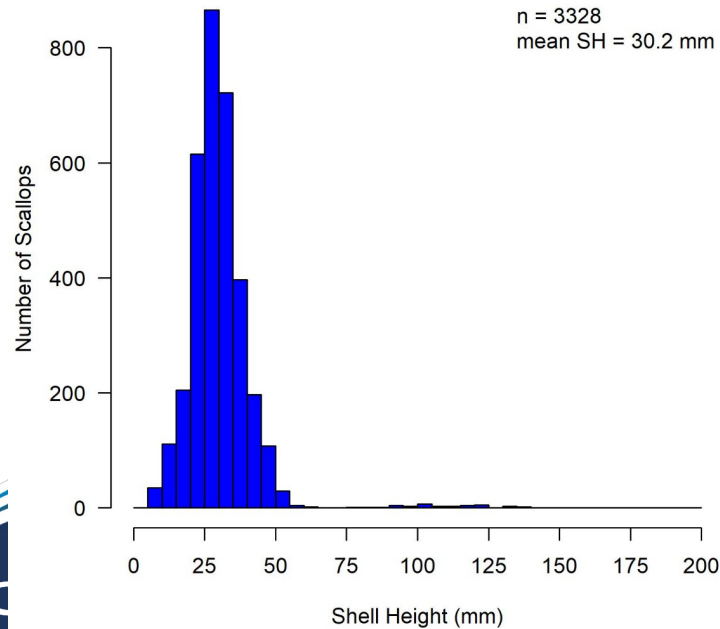


>75 mm

SMASST 2026

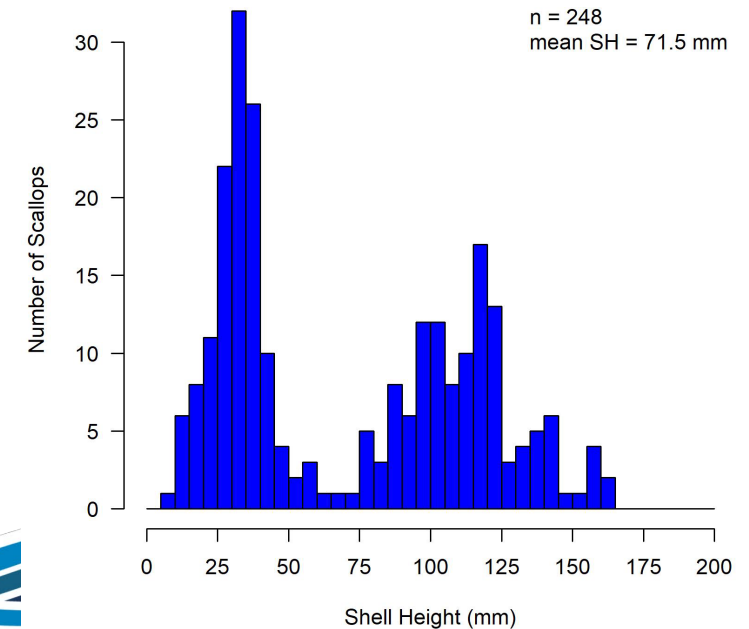
CL2-Access

CL2-Ext



Northern Edge / HAPC

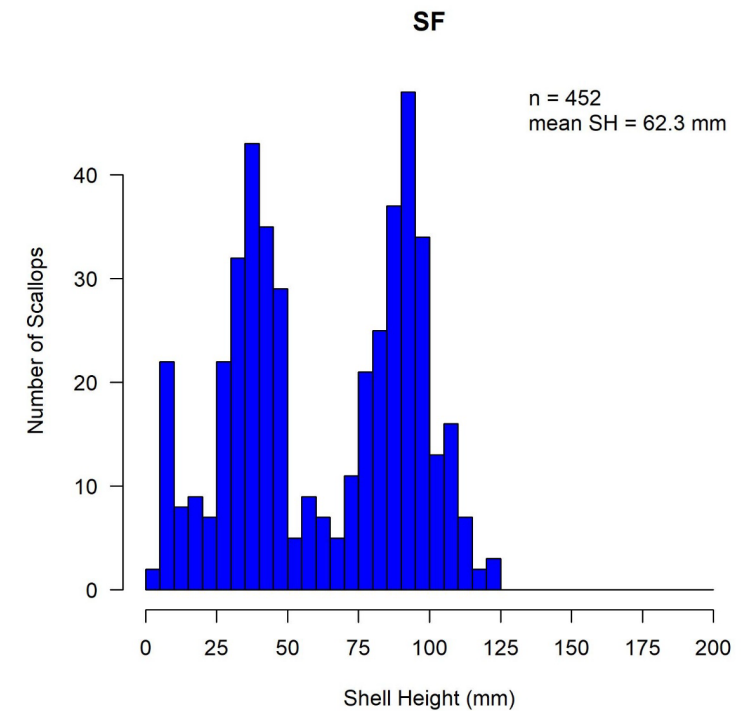
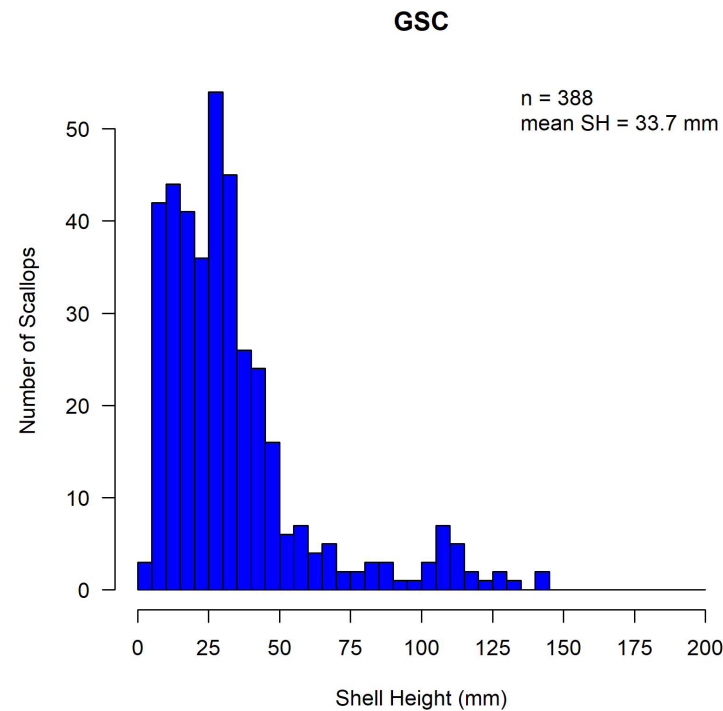
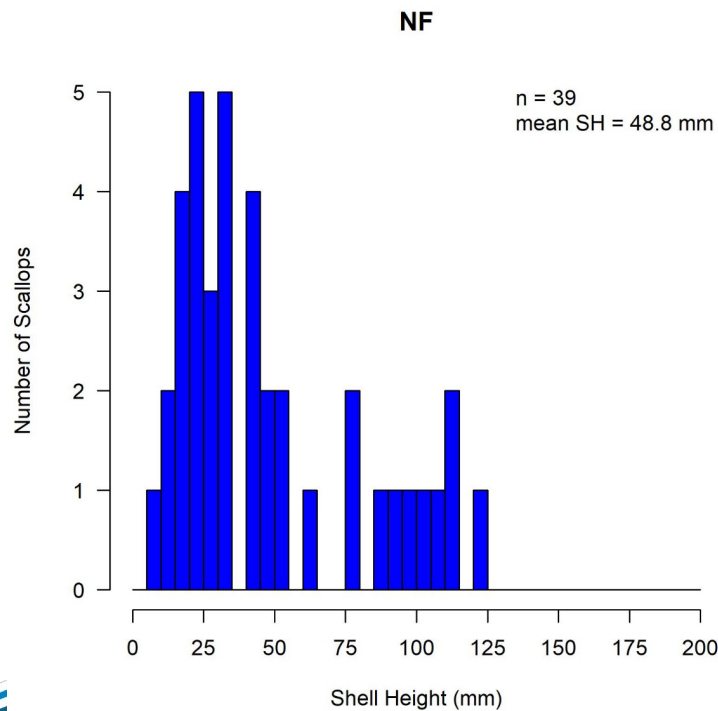
CL2-North



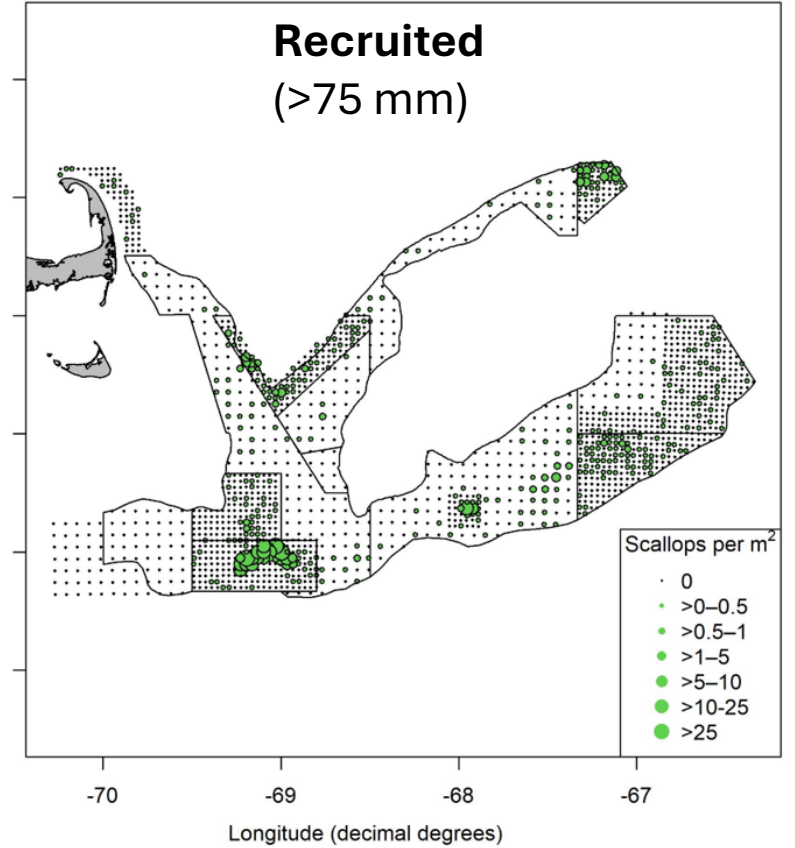
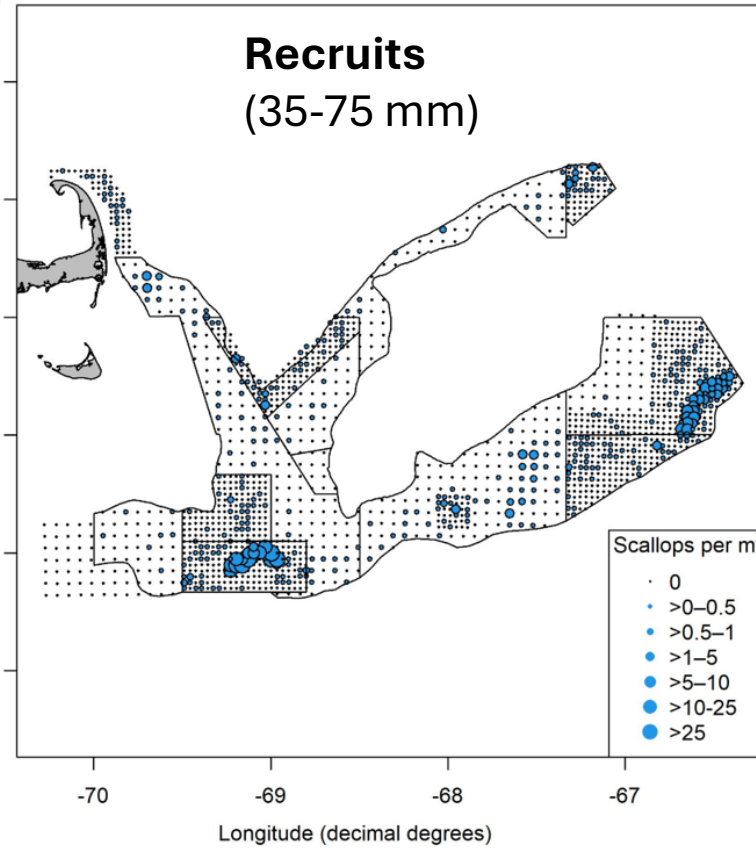
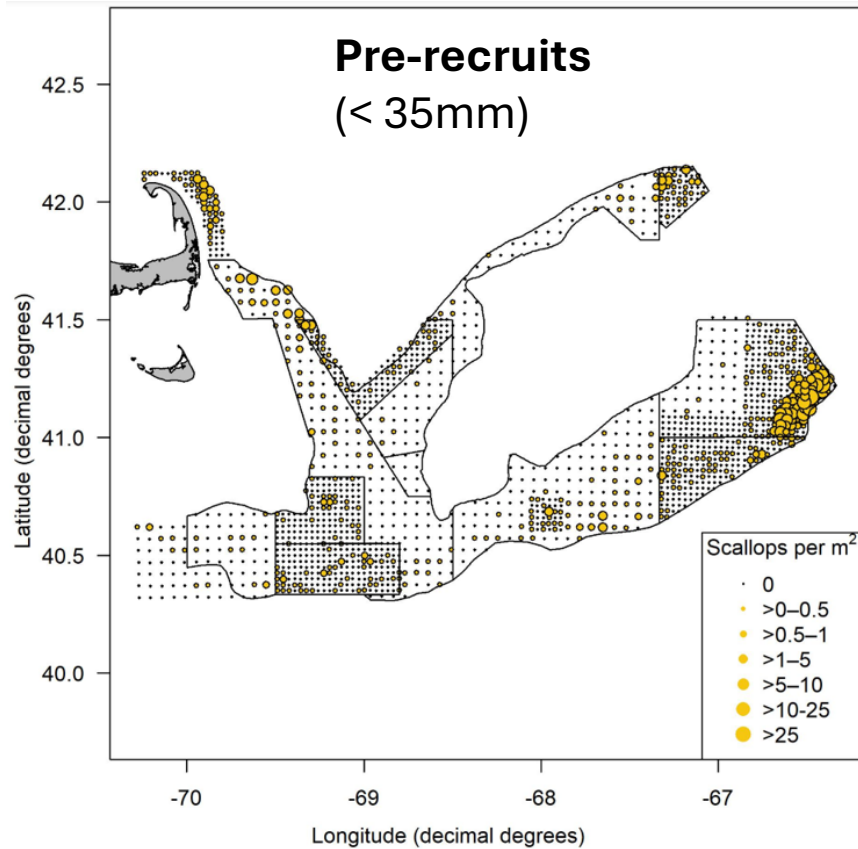
GEORGES BANK OPEN



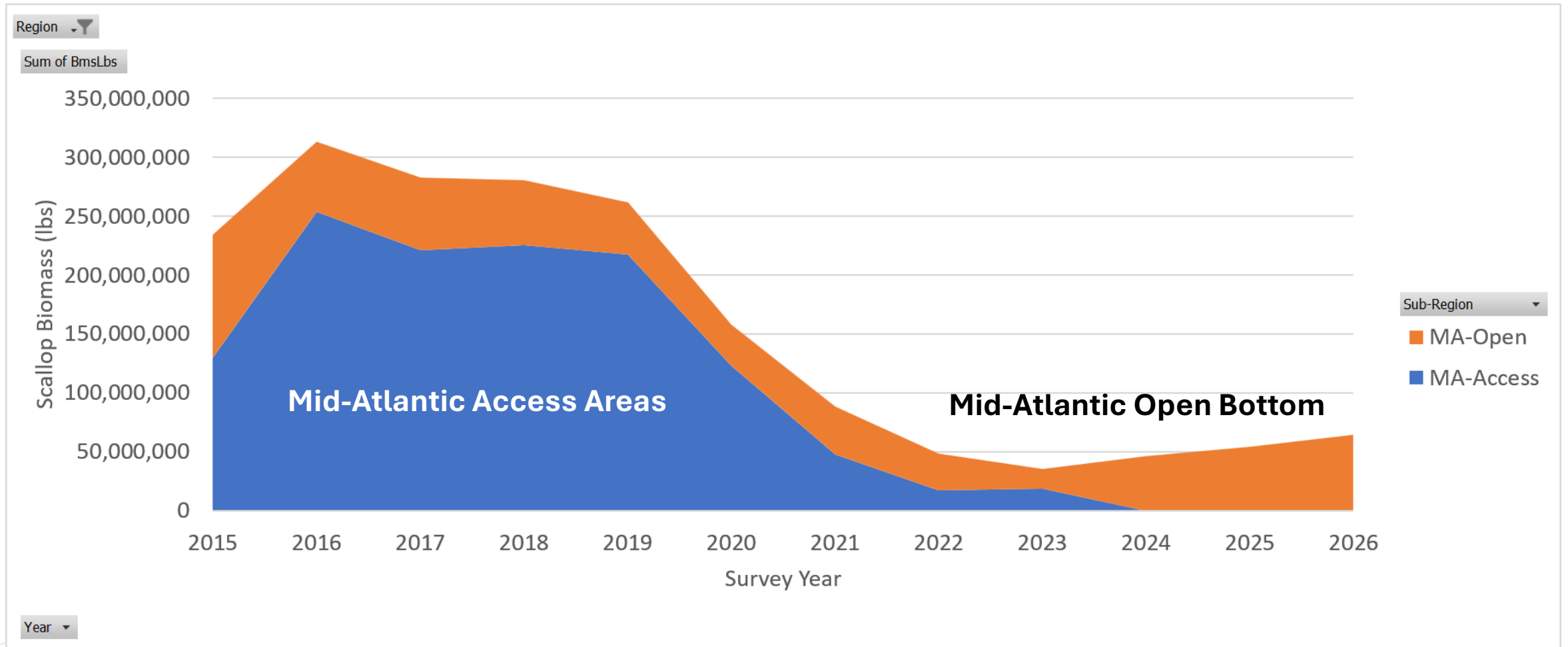
- Recruitment in northern GSC
- Continued growth of Southern Flank hotspot
- 32 million pounds of total biomass, little of it exploitable outside of SF hotspot



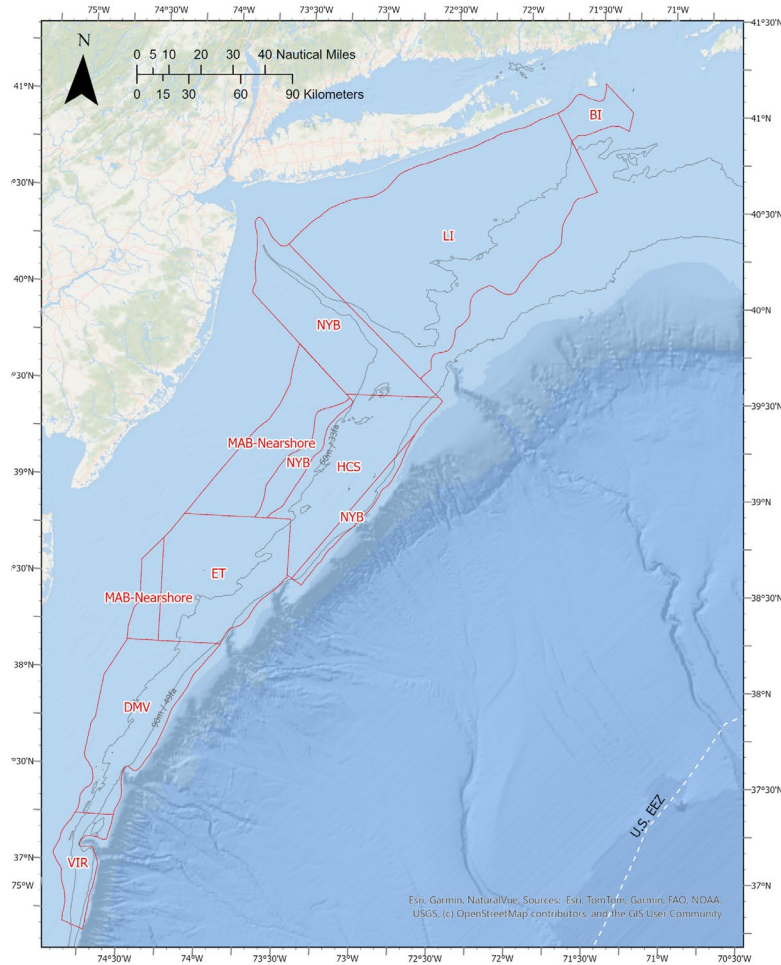
GEORGES BANK OPEN



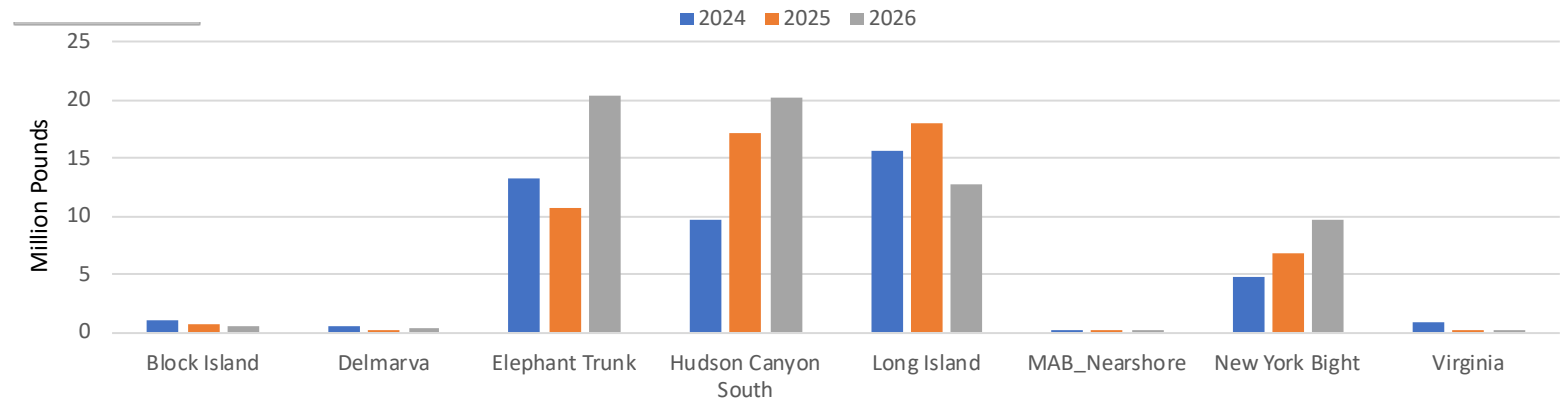
MID-ATLANTIC SURVEY BIOMASS



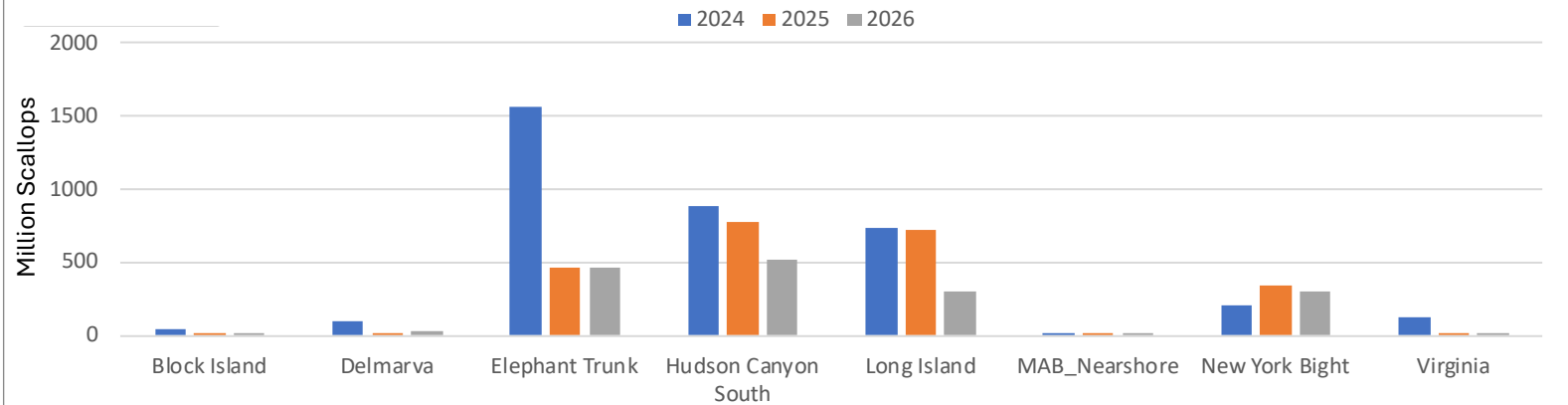
MID-ATLANTIC



Scallop Biomass (lbs)



Scallop Abundance

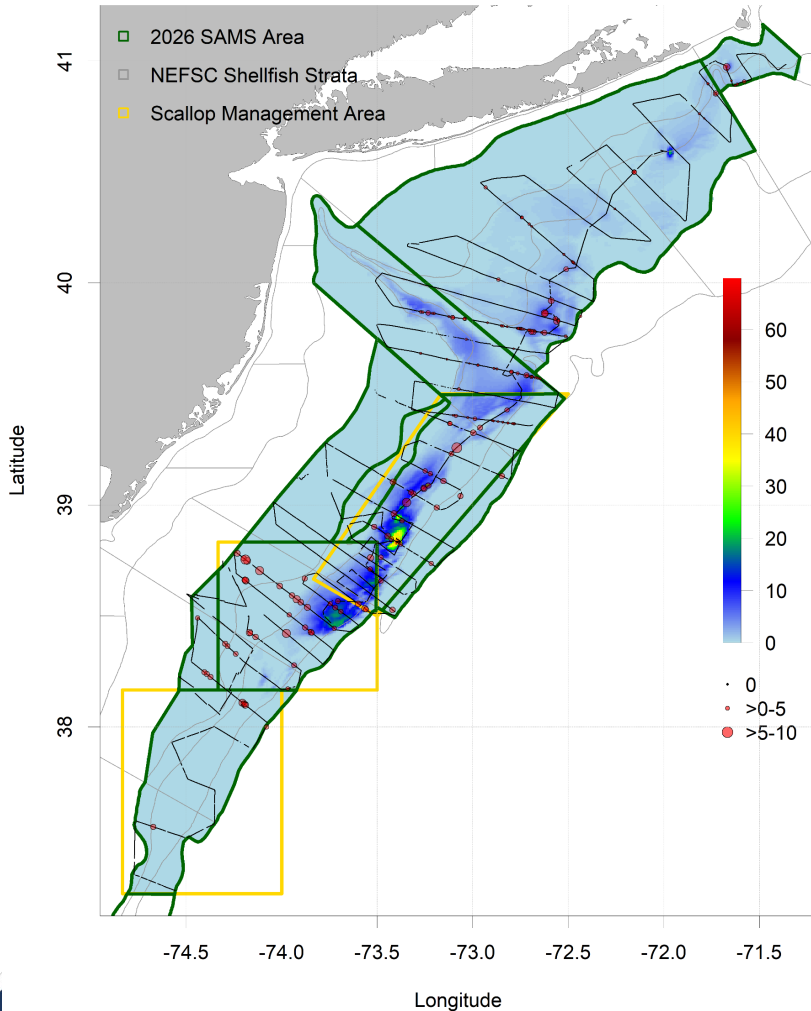


LITTLE NEW RECRUITMENT IN THE MID-ATLANTIC

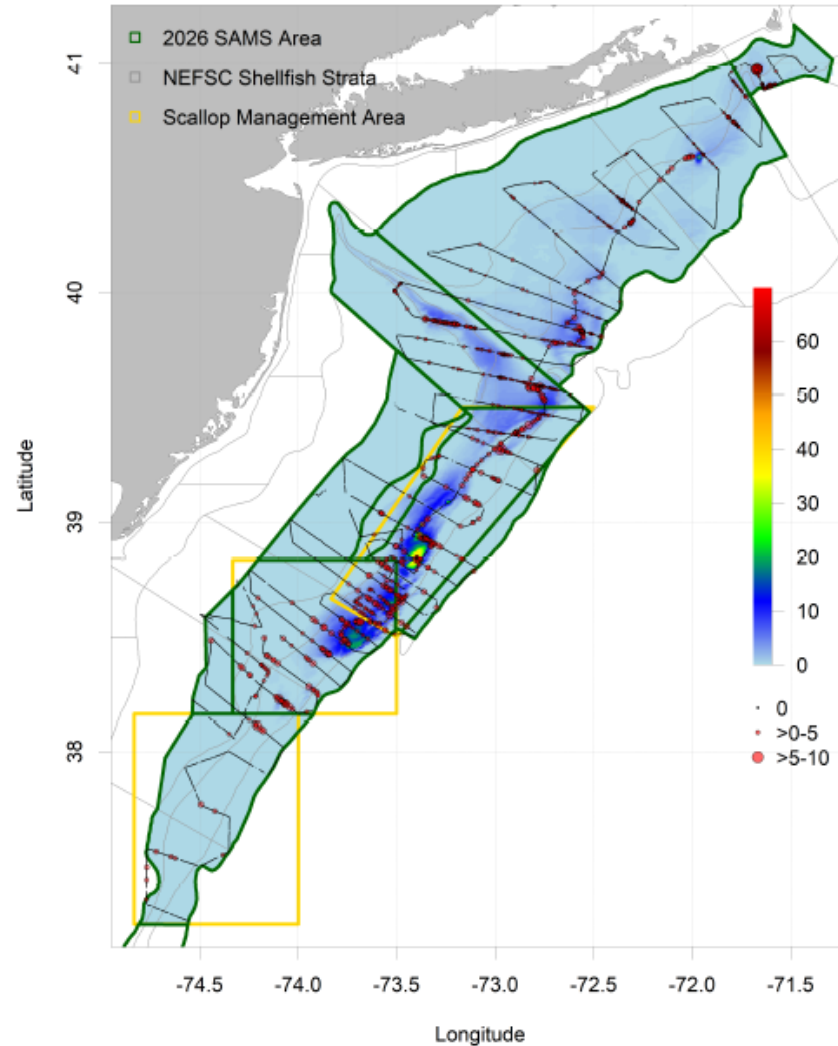


NOAA
FISHERIES

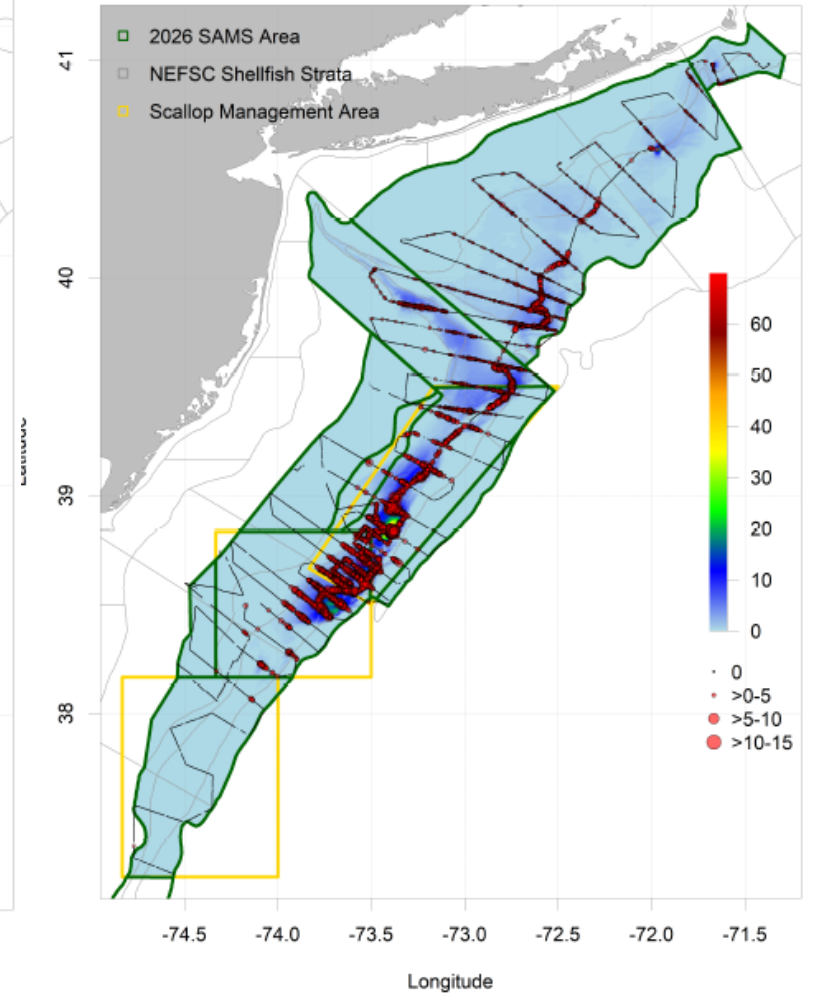
Prediction: g per m2 for 40+ mm scallops
Observation: # per m2 for <35 mm scallops



Prediction: g per m2 for 40+ mm scallops
Observation: # per m2 for 35-75 mm scallops



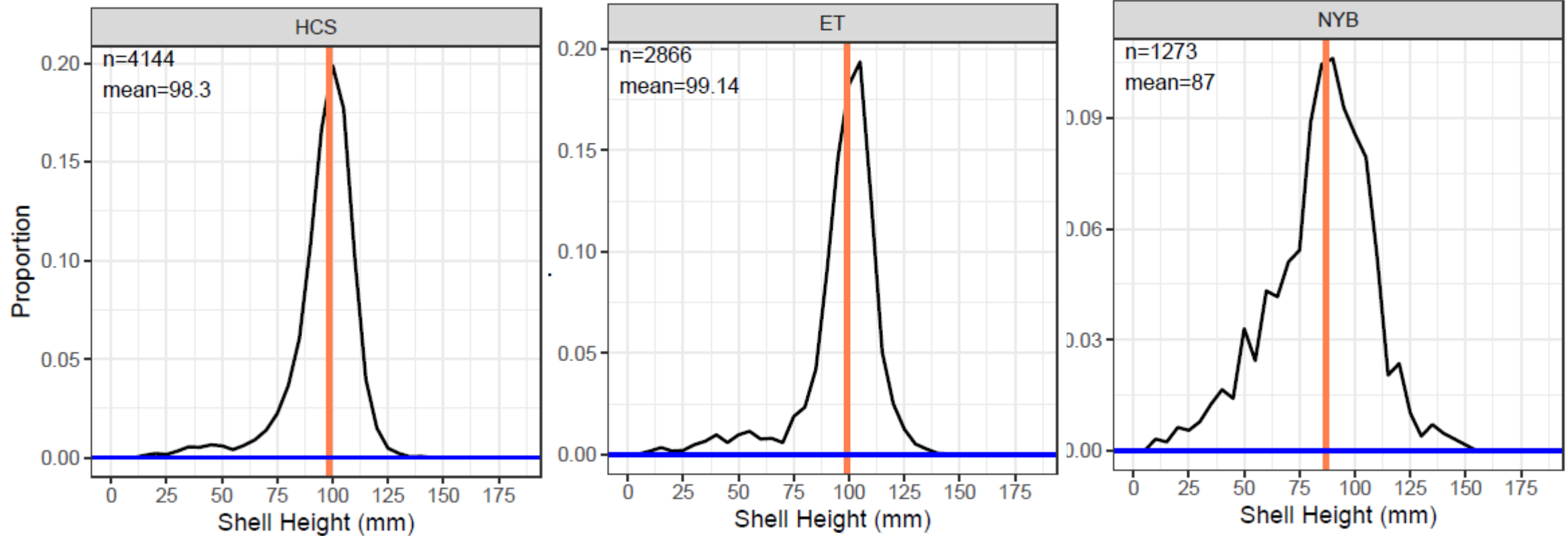
Prediction: g per m2 for 40+ mm scallops
Observation: # per m2 for >75 mm scallops



LITTLE NEW RECRUITMENT IN THE MID-ATLANTIC



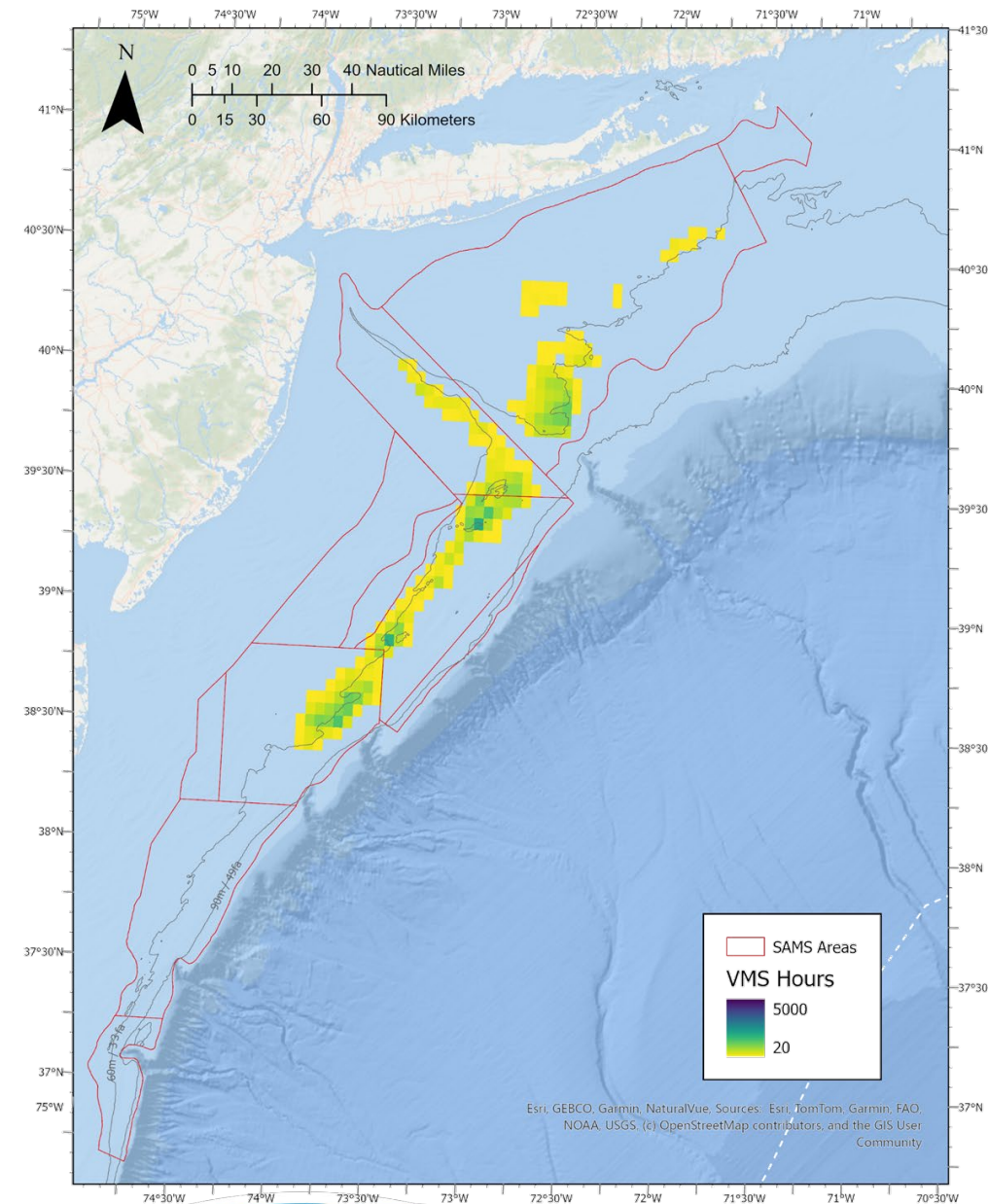
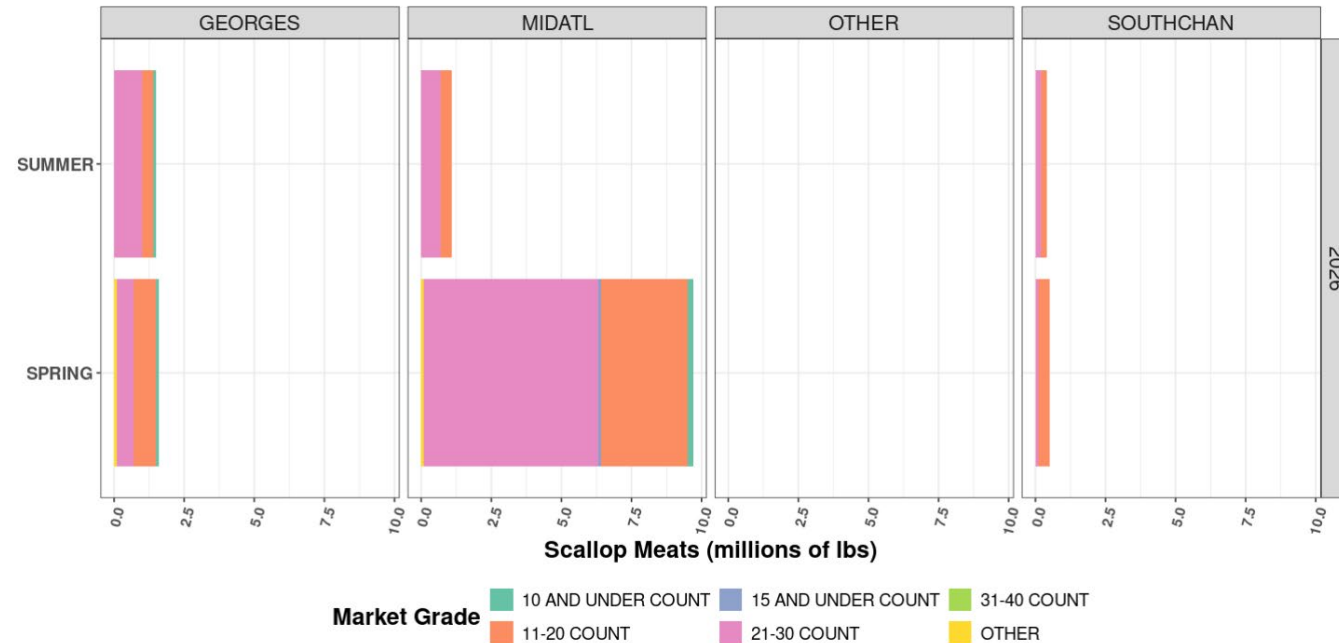
NOAA
FISHERIES



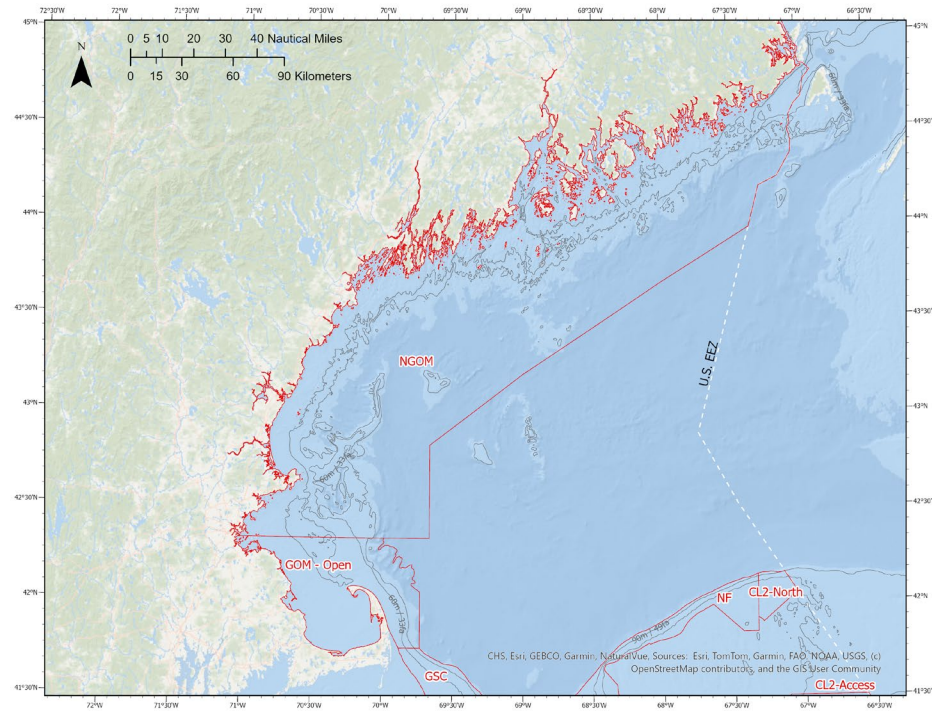
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LARGE MID-ATLANTIC OPEN BOTTOM HARVEST DURING SURVEY SEASON

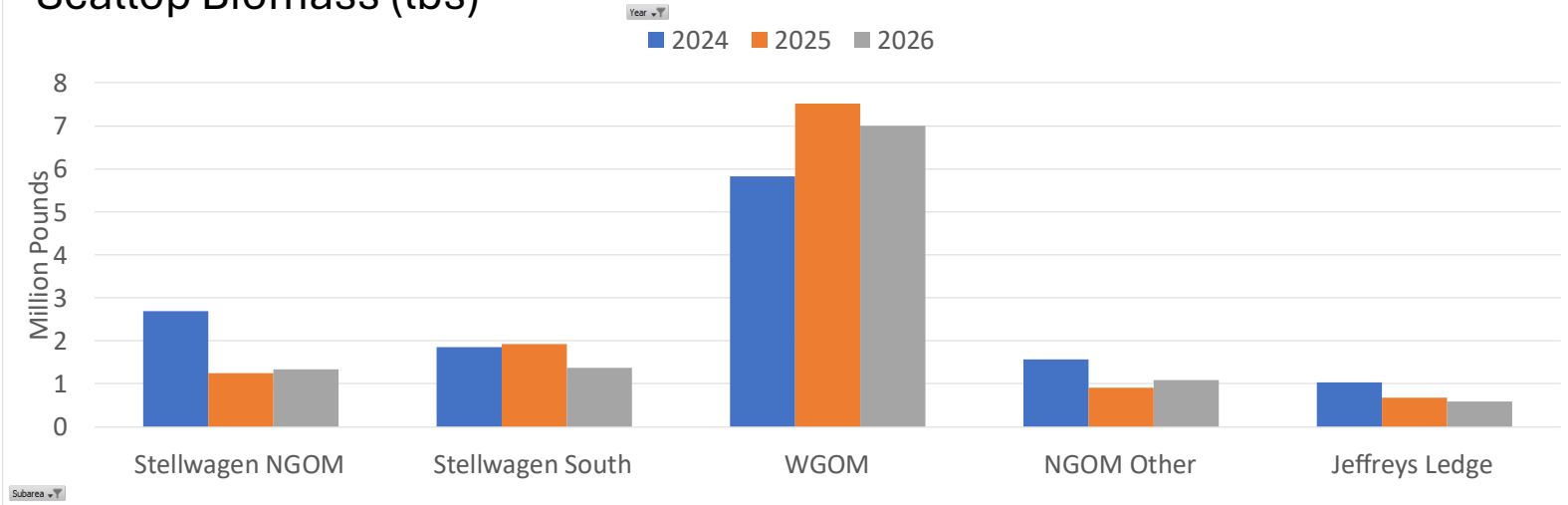
- Fishery harvested ~10 million lbs. from the Mid-Atlantic from April – June.
- Surveys occurred before/during this period



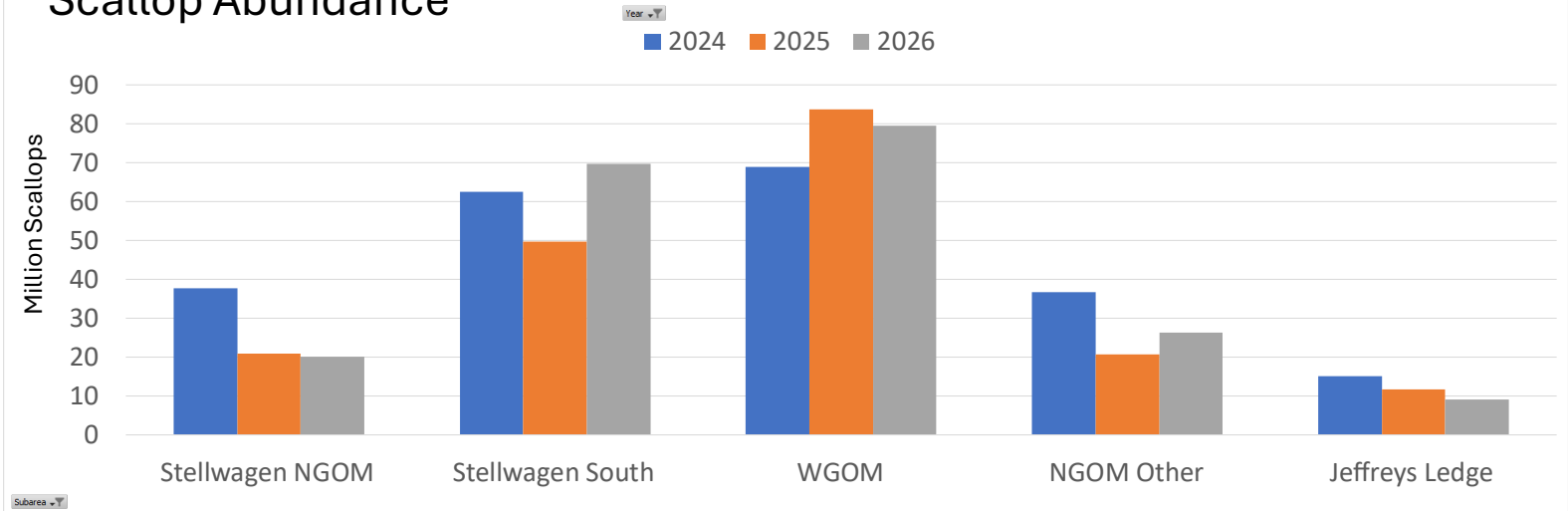
GULF OF MAINE



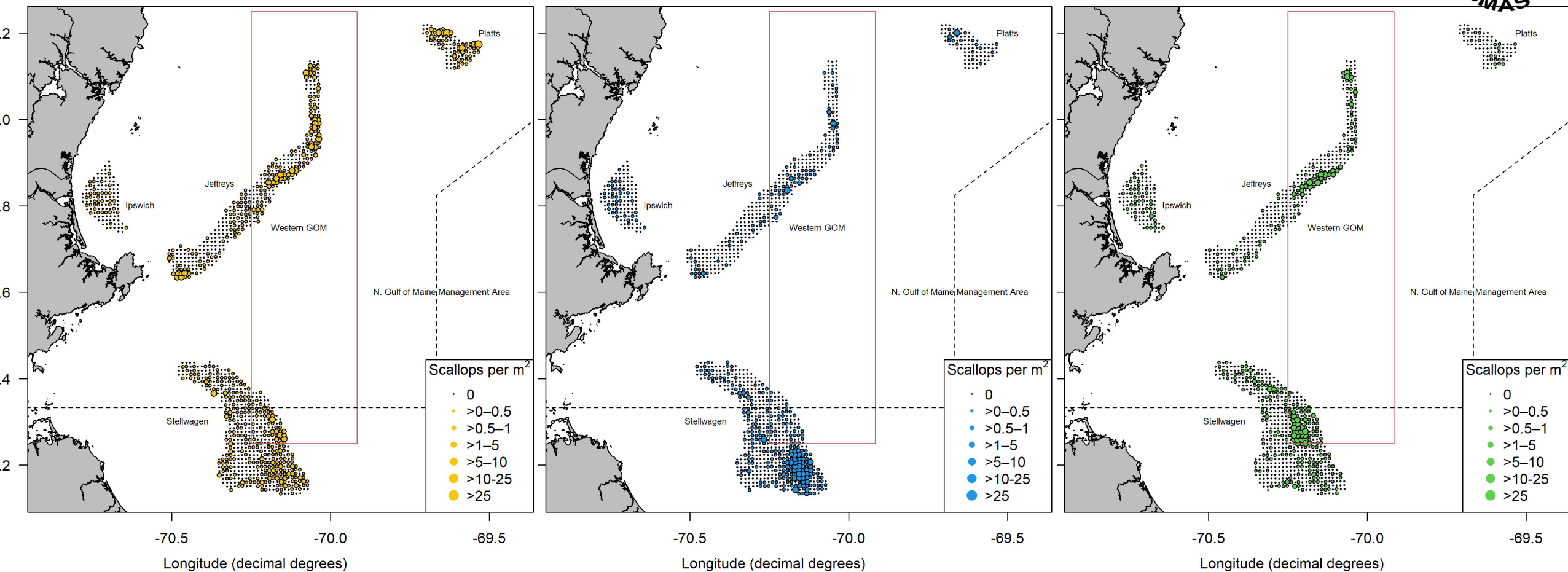
Scallop Biomass (lbs)



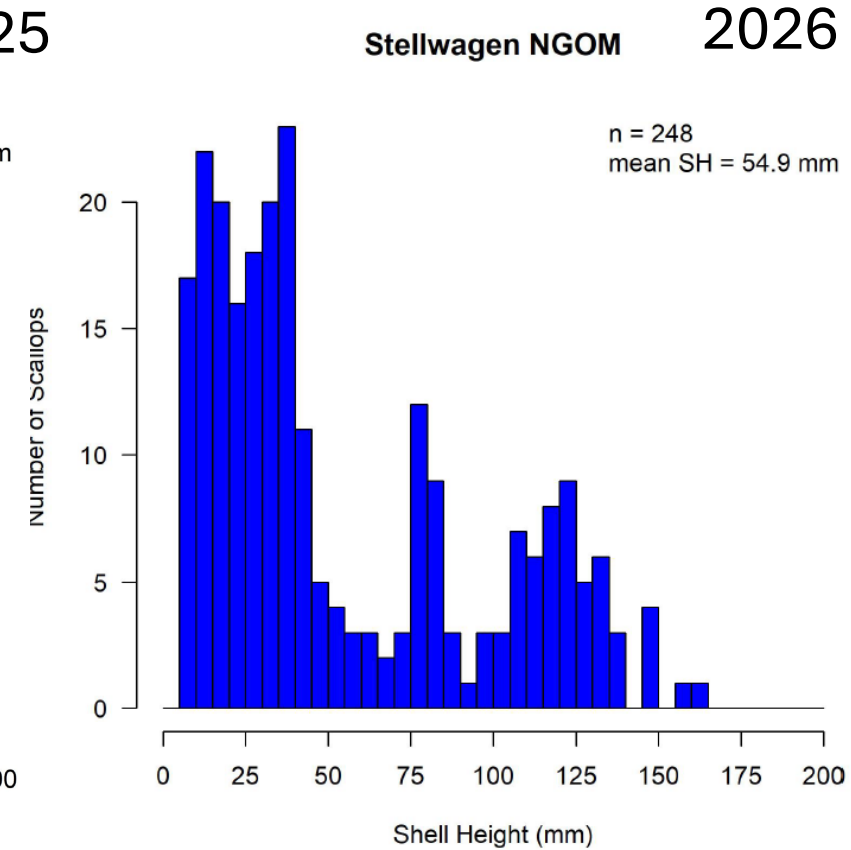
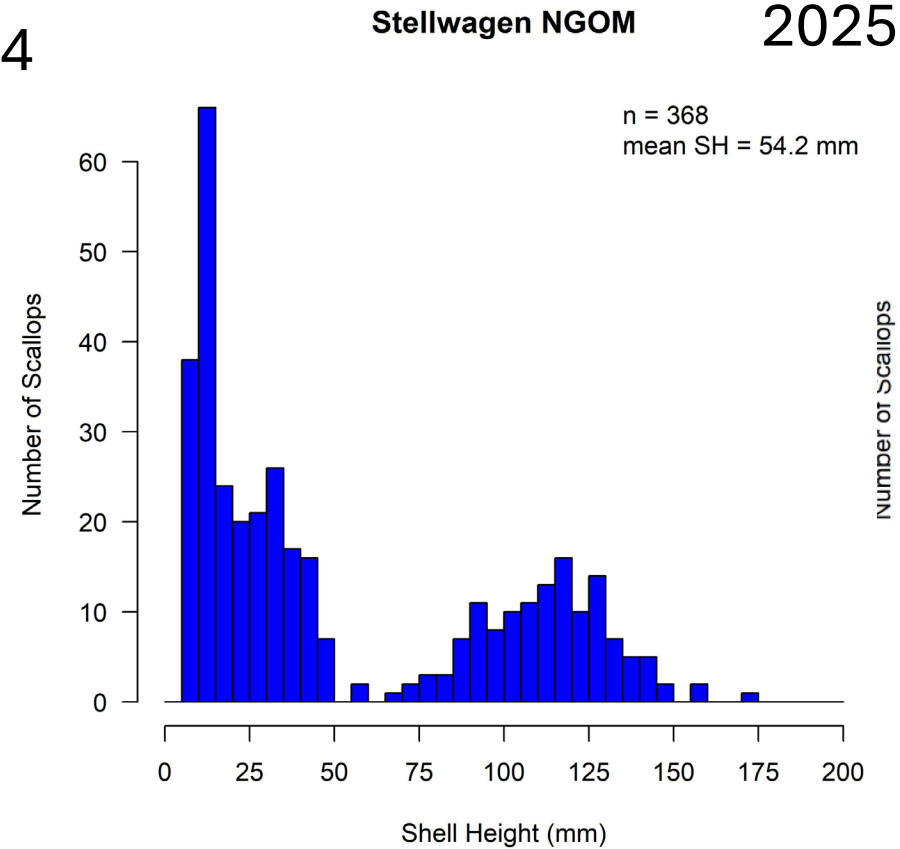
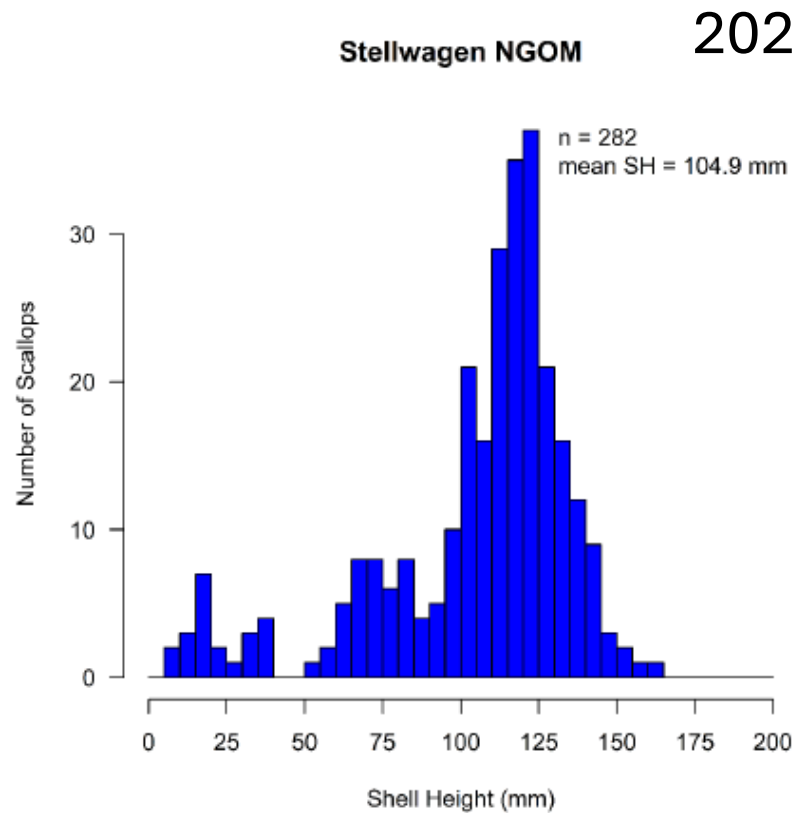
Scallop Abundance



GULF OF MAINE

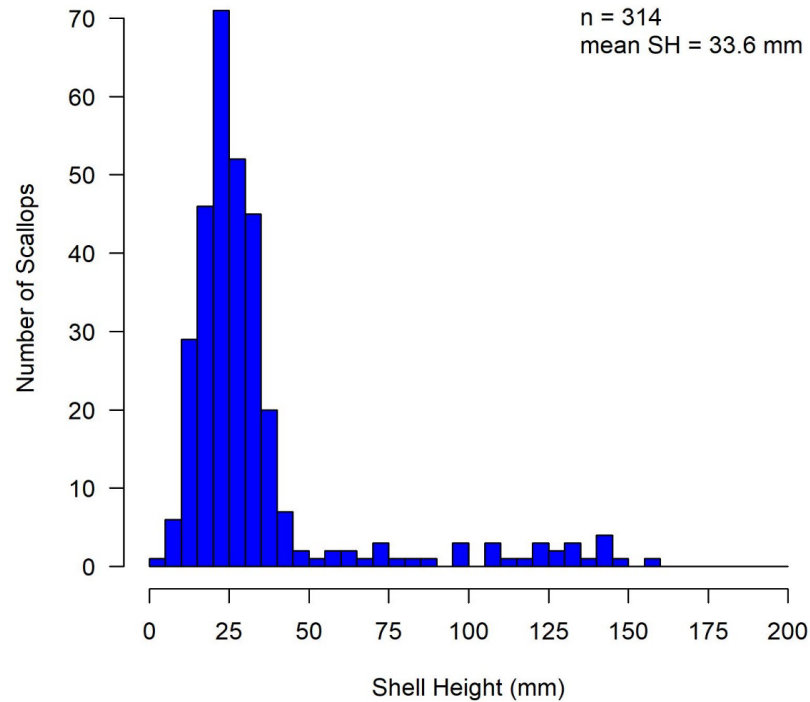


GULF OF MAINE – DECLINING EXPLOITABLE BIOMASS

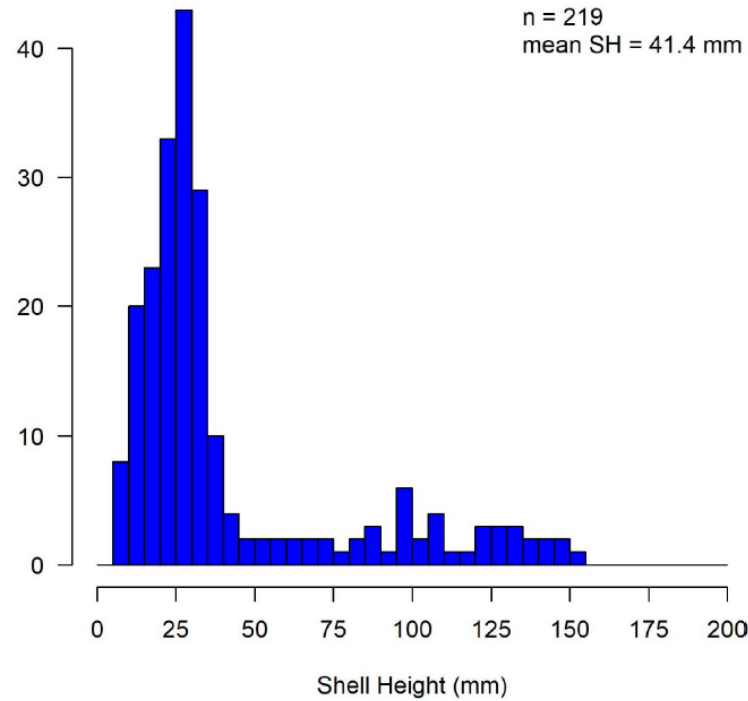


GULF OF MAINE – CLEAR RECRUITMENT SIGNAL ACROSS THE REGION

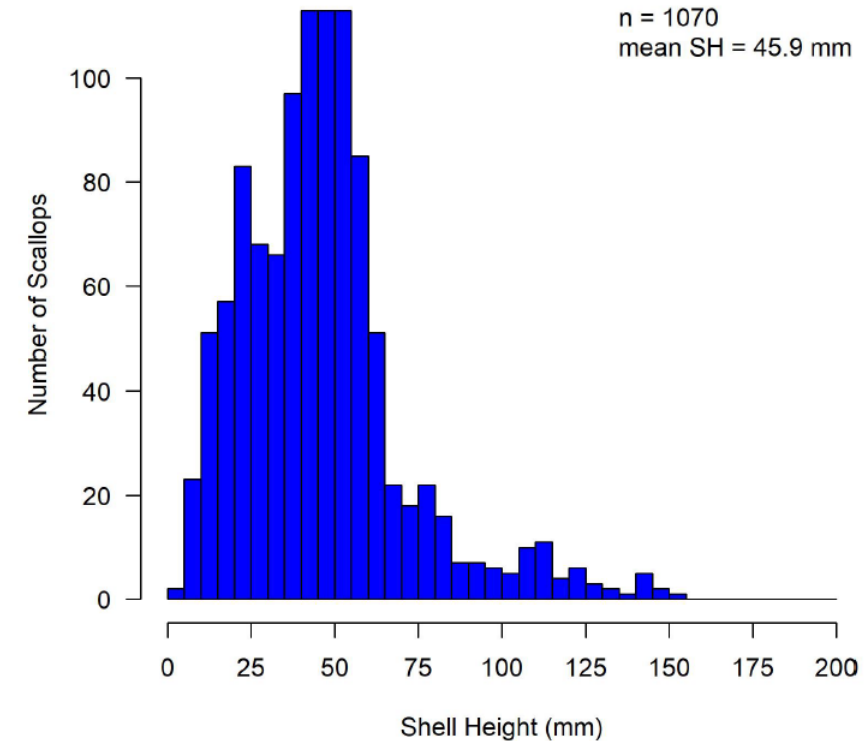
Platts



Jeffreys



Stellwagen South



SCALLOP PDT DISCUSSION AND INPUT

- Recommend continued closure of Area II to protect new recruitment event
- Nantucket Lightship South has sufficient exploitable biomass to support access area fishing, but PDT recommends considering slow growth of this cohort
 - Leaving the Nantucket Lightship Extension closed could limit high grading of scallops with poorer yield.
 - Additional measures that could limit fishing mortality, such as a delayed opening, would be beneficial.
- Recruitment throughout the Gulf of Maine, Great South Channel, Area I, and Area II is a positive signal, but no additional areas with sufficient density to recommend a closure.
- Scallop PDT recommended initial projection of 24 DAS and 1x 15k pound trip to the Nantucket Lightship (South + North, exclude Extension)



DISCUSSION

1. 2026 survey results and fishery performance.
2. Spatial management
 - Nantucket Lightship
 - Area I
 - Area II
 - Mid-Atlantic
3. LPUE and outlook for open bottom, projection performance.
4. Opportunities for LAGC IFQ access area fishing in 2027.
5. Outlook for NGOM fishery in 2027.



RISK POLICY

- Review Scallop PDT scoring results
- Provide input on the scoring of the Commercial Fishery Characterization factor (AP only)



RISK POLICY OUTLOOK FOR 2026

In 2026, expanded use of the Risk Policy will include scoring by the Plan Development Team.

Production of Risk Policy Matrix and calculation of Z-score, Risk Tolerance (tier), and recommended probability.

What does this mean for the Scallop PDT?

- Complete scoring for Risk Policy factors (with AP input), and Risk Policy matrix.
- Utilize Risk Policy Toolkit to calculate Z-scores, Risk Tiers (automated!)
- Include this information with materials for SSC, AP, Committee, Council.



WEIGHTING, SCORING, LEVEL OF RISK

FACTORS

(Key elements to characterize risk)

WEIGHTING

(level of importance of a factor to the Council)

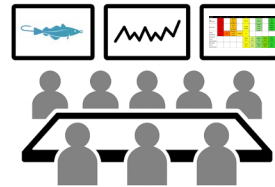
Policy Choice - Council



SCORING

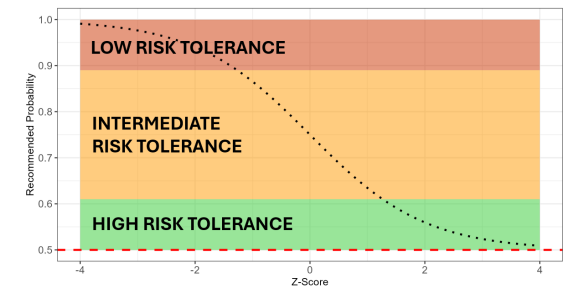
(based on recent information)

Objective – PDT + AP input



LEVEL OF RISK

(added up across factors)

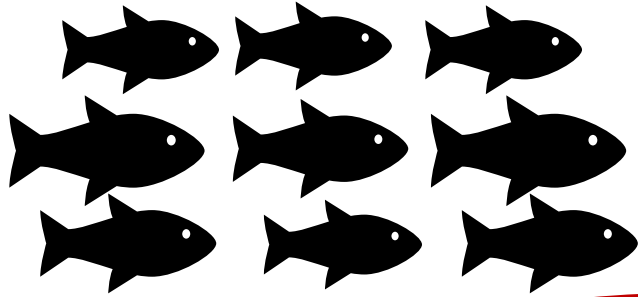


- The results for each factor are aggregated into a “Z-score” for level of risk that is plotted along the Risk Policy curve.

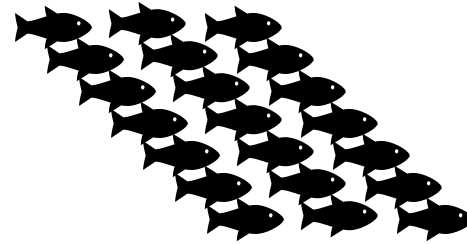


RISK POLICY FACTORS (5)

SSB / Stock Status



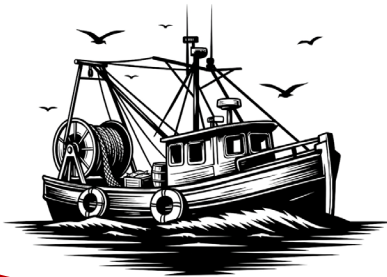
Recruitment



Climate Vulnerability



Commercial Fishery Characterization



Recreational Fishery Characterization

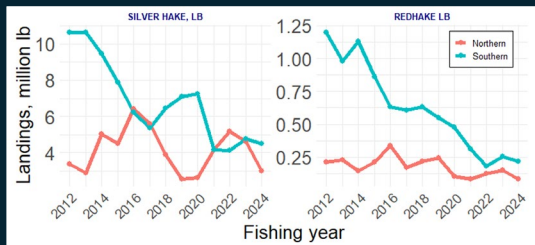
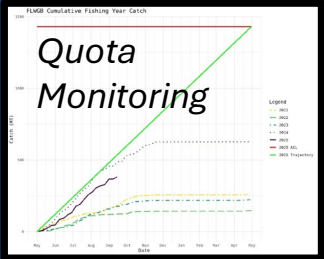
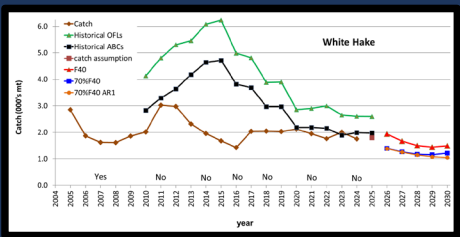


AP Input

Factor 4: COMMERCIAL FISHERY CHARACTERIZATION

1. Resource Utilization Landings – 80% of Limit?

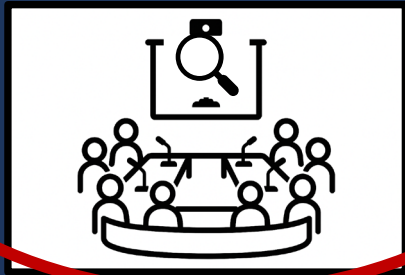
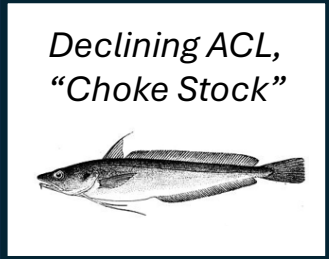
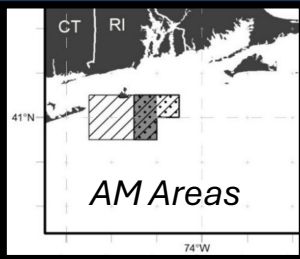
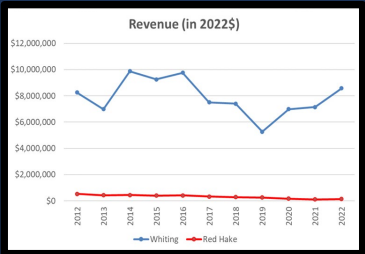
2. Fishing Communities Dealers, Landings, Revenue, Active Permits



3. Revenue Normalized \$, Recent Years

4. Fishery Interactions Stock limiting harvest of other stocks/fisheries?

5. Advisory Panel Input Review of Scores



Five Questions, Answers translate to points (-1, 0, +1), sum for final score (Max: 4, Min: 0)

FACTOR	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Commercial Fishery Characterization					Minimal stress	Low stress	Moderate stress	Elevated stress	High stress

AP TASK

1. Review how PDT scored the Commercial Fishery Characterization factor (utilization, fishing communities, revenue, fisheries interactions)
2. Determine whether the scoring continues to be correct for current fishing year & outlook for fishery

If conditions “still hold” true and are correct, AP input scored as 0

If socioeconomic status of fishery changed, AP input scored as -1 (if socioeconomic health of fishery has improved) or +1 (if socioeconomic health of fishery has declined)



FACTOR 4.1 UTILIZATION – HAS GREATER THAN 80% OF THE ALLOWABLE LIMIT BEEN HARVESTED IN AT LEAST TWO OF THE LAST THREE YEARS?

- If the answer is yes, score as 1. If the answer is no, score as 0. For this question, assess the 80% against the Scallop Annual Projected Landings (APL).

Fishing year	APL Landings (lb)	APL (lb)	% of APL
2021	42,713,444	40,044,765	106.7%
2022	30,461,860	34,039,373	89.5%
2023	25,436,987	25,007,005	101.7%
2024	20,411,321	27,392,436	74.5%
*2025	19,196,073	19,752,293	97.2%

Data source: Framework 40, *GARFO Quota Monitoring



FACTOR 4.2 COMMUNITY: OF NEW ENGLAND PORTS IDENTIFIED IN THE PCFA ANALYSIS, ARE THE PORT-LEVEL SCORES FOR A MAJORITY (MODE) OF PORTS ABOVE, NEUTRAL, OR BELOW THE TIME-SERIES AVERAGE? (BELOW=1, NEUTRAL=0, ABOVE=-1)

- PCFA = Port Commercial Fishing Activity indicator from the State of the Ecosystem Report & modified for the NEFMC's Risk Policy
- **For 2026, this question is being scored by looking at all regional ports that were identified and receives a +1 score.**



FACTOR 4.3 REVENUE:
HAS REVENUE IN THE
FISHERY (FMP LEVEL)
BEEN IN A **LOWER**,
HIGHER, OR AVERAGE
STATE OVER THE LAST
FIVE YEARS?

Fishing Year	Scallop FMP Revenue (in 2025 \$)
2010	\$681,927,370
2011	\$844,744,250
2012	\$789,683,959
2013	\$645,983,436
2014	\$567,318,375
2015	\$611,296,996
2016	\$670,135,872
2017	\$693,693,288
2018	\$722,813,181
2019	\$718,090,847
2020	\$595,261,915
2021	\$785,777,977
2022	\$476,083,942
2023	\$352,628,578
2024	\$342,351,310
2025	\$410,283,731



FACTOR 4.4 FISHERIES INTERACTIONS – IS QUOTA FOR THIS SPECIES LIMITING THE EXECUTION OF OTHER FISHERIES (+1)?

Is there a sub-ACL, accountability measure, or inter-FMP interaction associated with this stock that limits the execution of another fishery? **(Is this stock directly limiting to other fisheries?)**

This question looks at constraining species / choke stocks as well as allocations / AMs that could impact other FMPs. Score as a +1 if the stock could impact other fisheries.

Scallops not a choke stock & scallop fishery sub-ACLs are not limiting execution of those fisheries (score 0)



AP TASK: **COMPLETE NOW**

1. Review how PDT scored the Commercial Fishery Characterization factor (utilization, fishing communities, revenue, fisheries interactions)
2. Determine whether the scoring continues to be correct for current fishing year & outlook for fishery

If conditions “still hold” true and are correct, AP input scored as 0

If socioeconomic status of fishery changed, AP input scored as -1 (if socioeconomic health of fishery has improved) or +1 (if socioeconomic health of fishery has declined)



FINALIZING SCORE OF THE COMMERCIAL FISHERY CHARACTERIZATION QUESTIONS

Commercial Fishery Characterization Scoring Rubric -
Sum the scores of questions 1-5:

- High Stress (4). Responses to questions result in a score of 4 or more.
- Elevated Stress (3). Responses to questions result in a score of 3.
- Moderate Stress (2). Responses to questions result in a score of 2.
- Low Stress (1). Responses to questions result in a score of 1.
- Minimal Stress (0). Responses to questions result in a score of 0 or less.

Questions	Scores
Utilization	+1
Community	+1
Revenue	+1
Fishery Interactions	0
AP Input	TBD (0, -1, +1)
TOTAL	X

TBD



NEXT STEPS AFTER PDT SCORING

2026 PROCESS WITH OCTOBER SSC MEETING

June

July - September

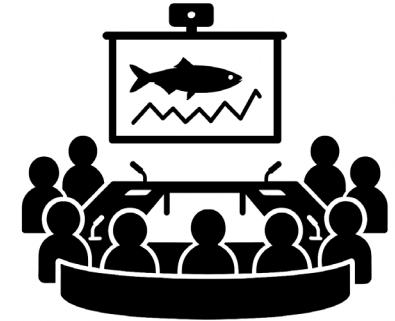
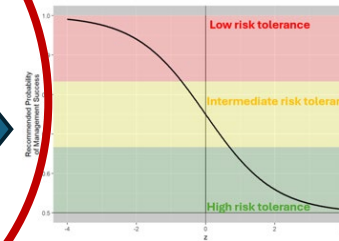
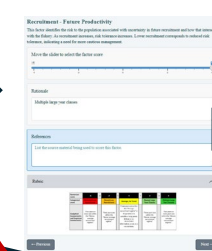
October



Council Weighting in June



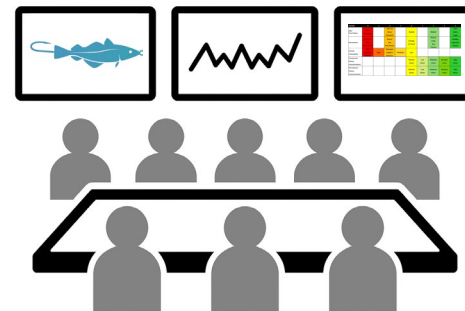
Online Toolkit



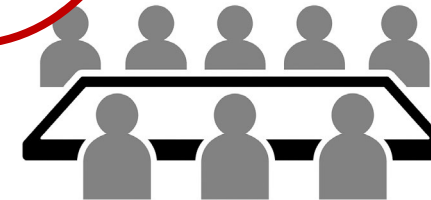
SSC Applies Current ABC CRs

Considers Risk Policy along with other information

SSC recommends OFL/ABC



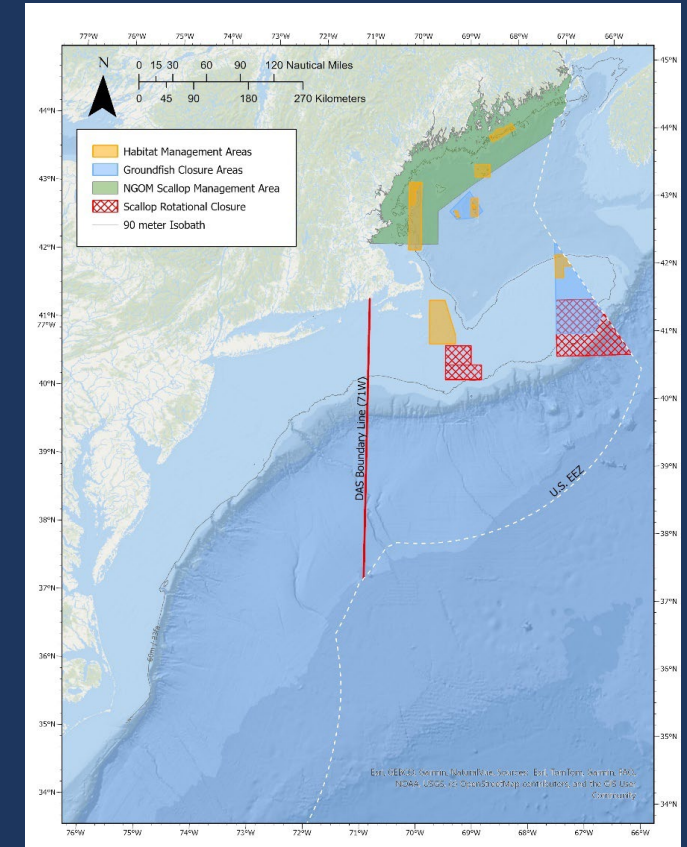
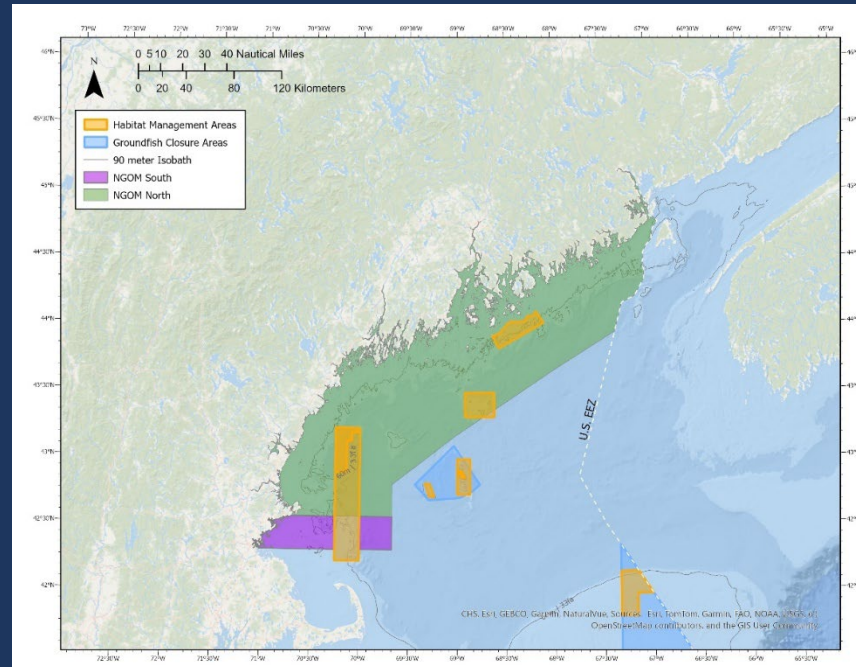
PDT Scoring in July
w/ AP input in Sept.



PDT Calculates Risk
Tolerance using Risk
Policy Toolkit, generates
a Matrix document

FRAMEWORK 42 – MANAGEMENT MEASURES ACTION

1. Region-specific DAS
2. NGOM sub-management areas



SCALLOP FRAMEWORK 42

Scope of action

- Region-specific Days-at-Sea, NGOM sub-management areas
 - Developing the mechanism, separate from any allocations.

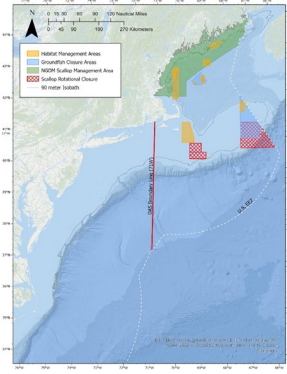
Key milestones & meetings

- Framework 42 initiated in June 2026
- Updates on September 16th (Plymouth, MA), December (Newport, RI)
- Council takes final action in April 2027 (or earlier, if possible)

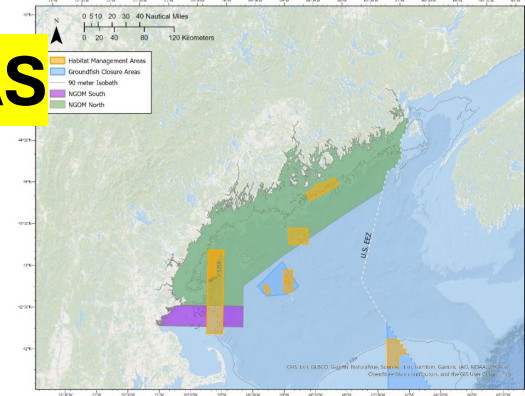


SUMMARY OF PDT RECOMMENDATIONS: **REGIONAL DAS**

- **DAS trading:** exchange in equal increments (fractional values permitted)
 - Versus allowing trading in unequal amounts with or without restrictions
 - PDT rationale: improves flexibility, avoids stacking
- **DAS trade cap:** none; vessel could exchange all Mid-Atl DAS for Georges Bank DAS
 - Versus cap on exchanging DAS allocation
 - PDT rationale: simpler option
- **Timing of DAS trading:** in-season trading permitted
 - Versus pre-season trading allowed
 - PDT rationale: GARFO has programmatic support; similar to access area trips via FishOnline
- **DAS carryover:** apportioned using ratio of Mid-Atl to Georges Bank DAS used to set next year's regional DAS allocation; no change in 10 DAS carryover
 - Versus carryover can be fished in either region (up to 10 DAS) without restriction
 - PDT rationale: mechanism to transition from non-regional to regional DAS between years



SUMMARY OF PDT RECOMMENDATIONS: NGOM SUB-AREAS



- **No transit corridor between sub-areas**
 - **Versus establish transit corridor**
 - PDT rationale: Input from OLE; simpler monitoring/enforcement, continuous transit with gear stowage requirements (like other access areas)
- **Simultaneous opening of sub-areas**
 - **Versus sequential access**
 - PDT rationale: separate VMS codes so possible to monitor/enforce; could spread out fishing effort, control F mort; would NOT explicitly address vessel overcrowding
- **Status quo accountability measure**
 - **Versus lb for lb payback by sub-areas**
 - PDT rationale: consistent with other scallop management measures



NGOM IN-SHELL POSSESSION LIMIT

	Survey Meat Count			Estimated Weight (lbs) of Whole Scallops for Limit		
	< 25th Perc.	Average	> 75th Perc.	< 25th Perc.	Average	> 75th Perc.
Northern Stellwagen	30.0	16.8	8.9	4,626	2,600	1,373
NGOM Other	36.7	22.3	13.8	6,262	3,824	2,399

ME DMR Dredge Survey data 2024-2026, $\geq 75\text{mm}$.

Current regulations:

- Inside demarcation line: 200 lb shucked meat limit or 1,666 lb in-shell limit
 - *PDT input: clarify regs wrt transiting, not allowed to have a scallop pile on deck*
 - Outside demarcation line seaward: 3,332 lb limit = 200 lb shucked meats plus > 3,000 lb in-shell limit (loading up deck, process of shucking scallops)
 - *PDT input: modify regs – only 200 lb shucked scallops (or in-shell equivalent) are allowed when leaving NGOM area;*
- Looking for AP input before suggesting specific regulatory changes



HOW TO MOVE FORWARD WITH FW42?

❖ REGIONAL DAS

June AP Motions:

1. Mixed option; two failed motions (one supportive, one against) further developing this measure
2. Opposed differential DAS counting, supported current 10 DAS carryover

June Committee Motions:

1. Continue development and analysis of measure as a potential future tool
2. Did not support reducing current 10-DASY carryover

TODAY:

1. Continue developing Regional DAS measures?
2. If so, any additional PDT analysis?



HOW TO MOVE FORWARD WITH FW42?

❖ NGOM SUB-MANAGEMENT AREAS

June AP Motions:

1. NGOM remain a single management area; annual $F = 0.25$
2. Additional analysis of NGOM in-shell possession limit

June Committee Motions:

PDT develop alternatives for:

1. NGOM sub-areas including north/south options for concurrent or sequential access
2. Possession limits that include in-shell and shucked scallop combinations

TODAY:

1. Continue developing NGOM sub-management area measures?
2. If so, any additional PDT analysis?



NEXT STEPS ON FW42

1. Council update on Sept. 16th
2. Enforcement Committee meeting (tent. Fall)
 - Bring forward any questions/concerns on program details of regional DAS and NGOM sub-areas
3. Nov. AP/Cte meetings
 - Update, define range of alternatives
4. January/February 2027
 - Select preferred alternatives, final action (April or earlier, TBD)



SCALLOP WORK PRIORITIES

Goal: Review and finalize draft Scallop work plan for 2027-2029



New England Fishery
Management Council

LONG-TERM SCALLOP STRATEGIC PLAN

- **Council's Holistic Strategic Plan (2026-2036)**
 - Overarching, not fishery specific. Four goals outlined to improve Council processes and decision-making.
 - Implementation plan is still ongoing (*update during Sept. Council meeting*).
- **Scallop Strategic Plan** was developed to define a shared vision for the direction of the scallop fishery over the next 3-5 years and provide actionable steps to get there.
 - Informed by four visioning sessions and input from Council members, NOAA Fisheries staff, and scallop fishermen and processors from across the region.
 - Highlighted 9 overall objectives and 29 strategies to work towards those objectives
 - Align implementation of the Scallop Strategic Plan with the Holistic Strategic Plan as it is fleshed out – already a lot of overlap between the two.



LONG-TERM SCALLOP STRATEGIC PLAN

Reactive → Resilient → Proactive

How do we get there?

Proposal – Develop 3-Year Work Plan

1. Identify highest-priority items from the Scallop Strategic Plan. Sequence work items alongside required annual work priorities for 2027 – 2029
2. Kick it back to the Scallop PDT for additional analysis, develop draft work plan
3. AP & Committee review and finalize work plan in September.
4. Scallop Work Plan for 2027-2029 would be presented to the Council to inform work priority decisions in December
5. Summer 2027, AP & Committee reviews planned work for 2028 and discusses new work for 2030.



LONG-TERM SCALLOP STRATEGIC PLAN

Reactive → Resilient → Proactive

How do we get there?

How does the Work Plan interact with priority-setting process?

- The Strategic Plan identified the ***what & why***. This work plan identifies the ***when & how***.
- AP & Committee retain the ability to make changes or new recommendations for work priorities not on the work plan – ***this is a tool for you to use***.
- New recommendations that aren't on the work plan should identify a relevant link to the Strategic Plan and how it weighs against items already included in the work plan
- Aims to ensure work priorities recommendations are aligned with the Strategic Plan



LONG-TERM SCALLOP STRATEGIC PLAN

For today:

- Review Draft Work Plan for 2027-2029
- The AP and Committee may wish to make a motion or consensus statement approving the draft work plan

Next steps:

- While not going through work priority recommendation process this year, work plan will be presented to the Council and may inform 2027 priority decisions.
- Summer 2027, the AP and Committee will review performance toward Strategic Plan objectives, planned work for 2028, and discuss new work for 2030.



New England Fishery
Management Council

Strategic Plan Objectives

1. Improve management capacity, flexibility, and responsiveness in a changing environment.
2. Improve the reliability of annual projections
3. Expand opportunities in the NGOM while maintaining conservative management
4. Improve rotational management performance
5. Improve fishing practices
6. Maintain economic viability of the scallop fleet
7. Maintain a dynamic Scallop Research Set-Aside program
8. Develop infrastructure to support scallop enhancement
9. Improve scallop industry engagement

2027 WORK PLAN - Draft

Purpose	Priority Type	Description	Timeline
Strategy 1.3, 3.2	Required	Complete and submit FW42	Complete Spring 2027
Strategy 1.4, Required	Required	Complete and submit 2027 Specifications Package	Complete Winter 2027
Required	Required	Set ABC/ACL for scallop stock with specifications for FY 2028 (FY 2029 default)	2027
Strategy 4.2	Discretionary	Framework to set management measures for FY 2028 Northern Edge access (TBD, dependent on Habitat)	TBD, dependent on Habitat
Strategy 7.2	Ongoing	Scallop RSA Management (Share-Day, if needed 2028 RSA priorities)	Ongoing
Strategy 2.1, 2.2	Ongoing	Scallop Stock Projection Methods	Summer 2027
Strategy 5.1	Discretionary	Joint PDT/AP working group to develop white paper on improving scallop fishing practices, including a working definition of ‘high-grading’	2027
Strategy 5.1, 8.1	Ongoing	Scallop Strategic Plan Ongoing Work	Ongoing
Strategy 1.1, 2.4	Discretionary	Coordinate review of Automated Detection technology for use in scallop surveys with sub-group of SSC & NOAA Science Center involvement	2027



2028 WORK PLAN - Draft

Objective	Type	Description	Timeline
Strategy 1.4, Required	Required	Complete and submit 2028 Specifications Package	Complete Winter 2028
Strategy 4.2	Required	Complete and submit (Northern Edge?) Framework Action • Timing TBD, dependent on Habitat	Complete early 2028
Required	Required	Set ABC/ACL for scallop stock with specifications for FY 2029 (FY 2030 default)	2028
Strategy 1.5	Discretionary	Framework to set management measures for FY 2029 • In-season, reactive management triggers.	2028
Strategy 7.2	Ongoing	Scallop RSA Management (Set 2-year priorities, Share-Day, Program Support)	Ongoing
Strategy 2.1, 2.2	Ongoing	Implementation of Scallop Stock Project Methods	Ongoing
Strategy 5.1, 9.1	Discretionary	Conduct Council-led outreach on improving scallop fishing practices informed by outcomes from the 2027 white paper	2028
Strategy 5.1	Ongoing	Scallop Strategic Plan Ongoing Work	Ongoing
Required	Required	Scallop Stock Assessment or Data Update	TBD



2029 WORK PLAN - Draft

Purpose	Priority Type	Description	Timeline
Strategy 1.4, Required	Required	Complete and submit 2029 Specifications Package	Complete Winter 2029
Strategy 1.5	Required	Complete and submit (In-season adjustment) Framework Action	Complete early 2029
Required	Required	Set ABC/ACL for scallop stock with specifications for FY 2030 (FY 2031 default)	2029
Strategy 8.2	Discretionary	Framework to set management measures for FY 2030 Scallop Enhancement Set-Aside, informed by VIMS report on surfclam and scallop enhancement project (target completion in 2029)	2029
Strategy 5.1, 9.1	Ongoing	Scallop RSA Management (Share-Day, Program Support)	Ongoing
Scallop 5.1	Ongoing	Scallop Strategic Plan Ongoing Work	Ongoing
Strategy 1.7, 4.1	Discretionary	Evaluation of scallop specification setting process and outcomes to improve management of high-density areas	2029



UPCOMING MEETINGS

September 15-17 – NEFMC Meeting (Plymouth, MA)

September 22 – Scallop PDT to review OFL/ABC projections and finalize SSC memo (Webinar)

October 7 – SSC Meeting to recommend OFL/ABC

October 16 – Scallop PDT meeting to review SAMS runs, AP & CTE invited to review and ask questions (Webinar).

October 27 – Scallop Joint AP & Committee (New Bedford, MA)

November Meetings – Scheduling poll within the next couple of weeks.



New England Fishery
Management Council

Nantucket Lightship South CFF HabCam 2026



OBJECTIVE 1: IMPROVE MANAGEMENT CAPACITY, FLEXIBILITY, AND RESPONSIVENESS IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

	Strategy	Activity	Timeline
2027	1.1, 2.4	Coordinate review of Automated Detection technology for use in scallop surveys with a sub-group of the SSC and NOAA Science Center representatives	2027
	1.3, 3.2	Complete and submit Framework Adjustment 42 (FW42)	Spring 2027
	1.4	Complete and submit 2027 Specifications Package	Winter 2027
2028	1.4	Set ABC/ACL for scallop stock and establish specifications for FY 2028 (with FY 2029 default measures)	2027
	1.4	Complete and submit 2028 Specifications Package	Winter 2028
	1.4	Set ABC/ACL for scallop stock and establish specifications for FY 2029 (with FY 2030 default measures)	2028
	1.5	Develop Framework Action to establish management measures for FY 2029, including in-season responsive management tools and triggers	2028
2029	1.4	Complete and submit 2029 Specifications Package	Winter 2029
	1.4	Set ABC/ACL for scallop stock and establish specifications for FY 2030 (with FY 2031 default measures)	2029
	1.5	Complete and submit In-Season Adjustment Framework Action	Early 2029
	1.7, 4.1	Evaluate the scallop specifications-setting process and management outcomes for high-density areas	2029



OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVE THE RELIABILITY OF ANNUAL PROJECTIONS OF SCALLOP BIOMASS AND ABUNDANCE

	Strategy	Activity	Timeline
2027	2.1, 2.2	Continue development and evaluation of scallop stock projection methods	Summer 2027
	1.1, 2.4	Coordinate review of Automated Detection technology for scallop survey applications	2027
2028	2.1, 2.2	Implement updated scallop stock projection methods	Ongoing
		Conduct Scallop Stock Assessment or Data Update	TBD
2029		No specific activities currently scheduled	



OBJECTIVE 3: EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE NORTHERN GULF OF MAINE FISHERY WHILE MAINTAINING CONSERVATIVE MANAGEMENT APPROACHES

	Strategy	Activity	Timeline
2027	1.3, 3.2	Complete and submit Framework Adjustment 42, including Northern Gulf of Maine management measures	Spring 2027
2028		No specific activities currently scheduled	
2029		No specific activities currently scheduled	



OBJECTIVE 4: IMPROVE ROTATIONAL MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE AND ACCESS AREA FISHING OPPORTUNITIES

2027

Strategy	Activity	Timeline
4.2	Develop Framework Action to establish FY 2028 management measures, including consideration of Northern Edge access opportunities	Timing dependent on Habitat action

2028

Strategy	Activity	Timeline
4.2	Complete and submit Northern Edge Framework Action (TBD)	Early 2028, though timing dependent on Habitat action

2029

Strategy	Activity	Timeline
1.7, 4.1	Evaluate rotational management outcomes and approaches for managing high-density scallop areas	2029



OBJECTIVE 5: IMPROVE FISHING PRACTICES TO MINIMIZE INCIDENTAL SCALLOP MORTALITY, BYCATCH, AND IMPACTS ON HABITAT AND PROTECTED RESOURCES

2027

Strategy	Activity	Timeline
5.1	Establish a PDT/AP Working Group to develop a white paper on improving scallop fishing practices, including a working definition of “high-grading”	2027
5.1, 8.1	Continue implementation of Strategic Plan initiatives and supporting activities	Ongoing

2028

Strategy	Activity	Timeline
5.1, 9.1	Conduct Council-led outreach on improving scallop fishing practices informed by the 2027 white paper	2028
5.1	Continue implementation of Strategic Plan initiatives and supporting activities	Ongoing

2029

Strategy	Activity	Timeline
5.1	Continue implementation of Strategic Plan initiatives and supporting activities	Ongoing



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OBJECTIVE 6: MAINTAIN THE ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF THE SCALLOP FLEET

2027

Strategy	Activity	Timeline
	No specific activities are currently included in the three-year work plan.	

2028

Strategy	Activity	Timeline
	No specific activities are currently included in the three-year work plan.	

2029

Strategy	Activity	Timeline
	No specific activities are currently included in the three-year work plan.	

Potential future work may include activities related to electronic monitoring, fleet efficiency, and permit stacking or buybacks as identified within Strategic Plan Strategies 6.1 and 6.2.



OBJECTIVE 7: MAINTAIN A DYNAMIC SCALLOP RESEARCH SET-ASIDE PROGRAM TO FUND SCALLOP RESEARCH AND RESOURCE SURVEYS

2027

Strategy	Activity	Timeline
7.2	Manage Scallop RSA Program, including Share-Day administration and development of 2028 research priorities, if necessary	Ongoing

2028

Strategy	Activity	Timeline
7.2	Manage Scallop RSA Program, including establishment of two-year priorities, Share-Day administration, and program support	Ongoing

2029

Strategy	Activity	Timeline
7.2	Manage Scallop RSA Program, including Share-Day administration and program support	Ongoing



OBJECTIVE 8: DEVELOP THE REGULATORY, MANAGEMENT, AND FUNDING INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT A SCALLOP ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

2027

Strategy	Activity	Timeline
5.1, 8.1	Continue Strategic Plan work related to scallop enhancement planning and development	2027

2028

Strategy	Activity	Timeline
	No specific activities currently scheduled.	

2029

Strategy	Activity	Timeline
8.2	Develop Framework Action establishing management measures for FY 2030, including consideration of a Scallop Enhancement Set-Aside informed by VIMS enhancement project findings	2029



OBJECTIVE 9: IMPROVE SCALLOP INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT AT MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL'S SCALLOP PLAN DEVELOPMENT TEAM, ADVISORY PANEL, AND COMMITTEE

2027

Strategy	Activity	Timeline
	No specific activities currently scheduled.	

2028

Strategy	Activity	Timeline
5.1, 9.1	Conduct Council-led outreach and engagement activities informed by the scallop fishing practices white paper	2028

2029

Strategy	Activity	Timeline
5.1, 9.1	Continue RSA program support and stakeholder engagement activities	Ongoing

