

APPENDIX II

Options for Harvesting the Northern Gulf of Maine Annual Projected Landings (Limited Access and LAGC IFQ Allocations)

July 22, 2020

(This document will be reviewed by the Scallop PDT in July/August 2020)

Options for Harvesting the NGOM APL

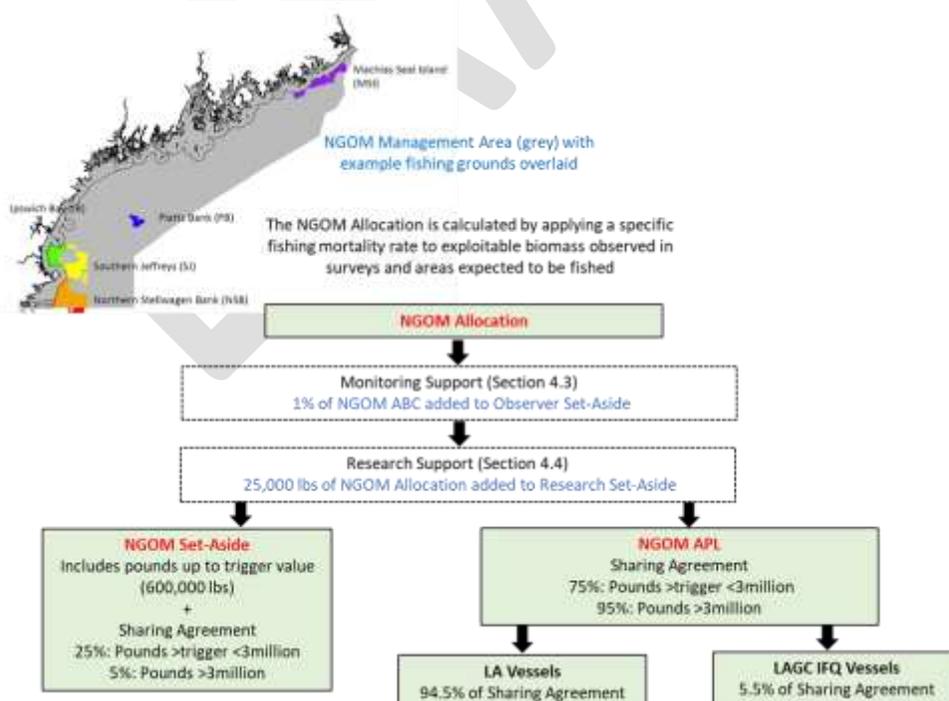
The following document details ways that the Council could consider allowing harvest of the NGOM APL for LA and LAGC IFQ vessels. Amendment 21 includes measures that specify how the NGOM Allocation will be shared, but how the NGOM APL can be harvested will be decided in future specification setting processes.

1. Sharing the NGOM Allocation

The Council has proposed sharing the allocation of scallops within the Northern Gulf of Maine management unit in the following way (see Figure 1):

1. Determine an annual NGOM Allocation by applying a specific fishing mortality rate to exploitable biomass observed in surveys of areas that are expect to be fished.
2. Once the NGOM Allocation is calculated, there are two deductions for monitoring and research.
 - a. Monitoring: 1% of the NGOM ABC for the observer set-aside
 - b. Research: 25,000 pounds added to the RSA (1.275 million pound RSA total)
3. After these deductions, allocations would be made to the NGOM Set-Aside up to a trigger value of 600,000 pounds.
4. If the NGOM Allocation (minus the monitoring and research deductions) is greater than the trigger of 600,000 pounds, the allocation would be split between the NGOM Set-Aside and NGOM APL using a two-tier approach:
 - a. Tier 1: 25% to NGOM Set-aside/75% to NGOM APL up to 3 million pounds.
 - b. Tier 2: 5% to NGOM Set-aside/95% to NGOM APL over 3 million pounds.

Figure 1 - Process for sharing the NGOM Allocation as proposed by the Council (preliminary preferred).



2. Options for Harvesting NGOM APL for LA and LAGC IFQ

During the development of Amendment 21 the Council noted that the share of harvest available as NGOM APL may vary on an annual basis, and that certain NGOM APL allocation levels may lend themselves to particular harvest approaches. For example, if the NGOM APL was set around three or six million pounds, the Council could consider constructing access to the NGOM areas using vessel level allocations for the LA, and a set number of trips to the area for the LAGC IFQ component at the IFQ possession limit. Conversely, if the NGOM APL was around 100,000 pounds in a particular year, the Council may wish to consider this allocation in the context of the overall allocation for the LA and LAGC IFQ.

Considerations of allocating the NGOM APL

- Geographic proximity of the LA and LAGC IFQ components to the NGOM area. These vessels are homeported in throughout New England, the Mid-Atlantic, and as far south as North Carolina. There could be considerable steam-time associated with fishing in the NGOM management area for vessels in southern homeports.
- Allocation structure of the LA component. LA allocations are based on permit category, and each vessel in a permit category receives the same allocation. There are over 350 active LA vessels that hold full-time and part-time permits.

LA Allocation Options:

- Days-at-sea DAS options:
 - Scallop AP Motion from March 26, 2020: Allow for LA DAS conversion of NGOM allocation. Convert the LA share of the NGOM APL into a total number of allowable DAS. If a LA vessel harvests NGOM scallops, the time in the NGOM area will count against the LA individual vessel DAS allocation and the overall NGOM LA DAS allocation. When NMFS determines that the overall DAS LA NGOM allocation is used, it will close the area to LA fishing.
- Allocation options:
 - Allocate trips (set poundage) to each LA vessel to be fished in NGOM.
 - Equal allocation to all vessels by permit category.
 - Lottery system using two areas (NGOM & TBD) with higher trip limits/allocations than could be awarded through an equal allocation approach to all LA vessels.
 - EXAMPLE: 1,000,000/all FT permits vs. 1,000,000/18,000 pound trips that would be lottery eligible.
 - Consider flexibility for part-time permit holders – option to fish NGOM vs. taking trips in other access areas or requiring PT vessels to take access area trips in areas that are further offshore, such as Closed Area II.

LAGC IFQ Allocation Options

- Trips to the NGOM Management Area:
 - Divide the LAGC IFQ share of the NGOM APL by the possession limit for access areas. Make those trips available for LAGC IFQ vessels, with the option that all LAGC IFQ pounds from the NGOM APL can be harvested in open areas of the fishery.