Scallop Committee & Advisory Panel Meeting

NOVEMBER 17

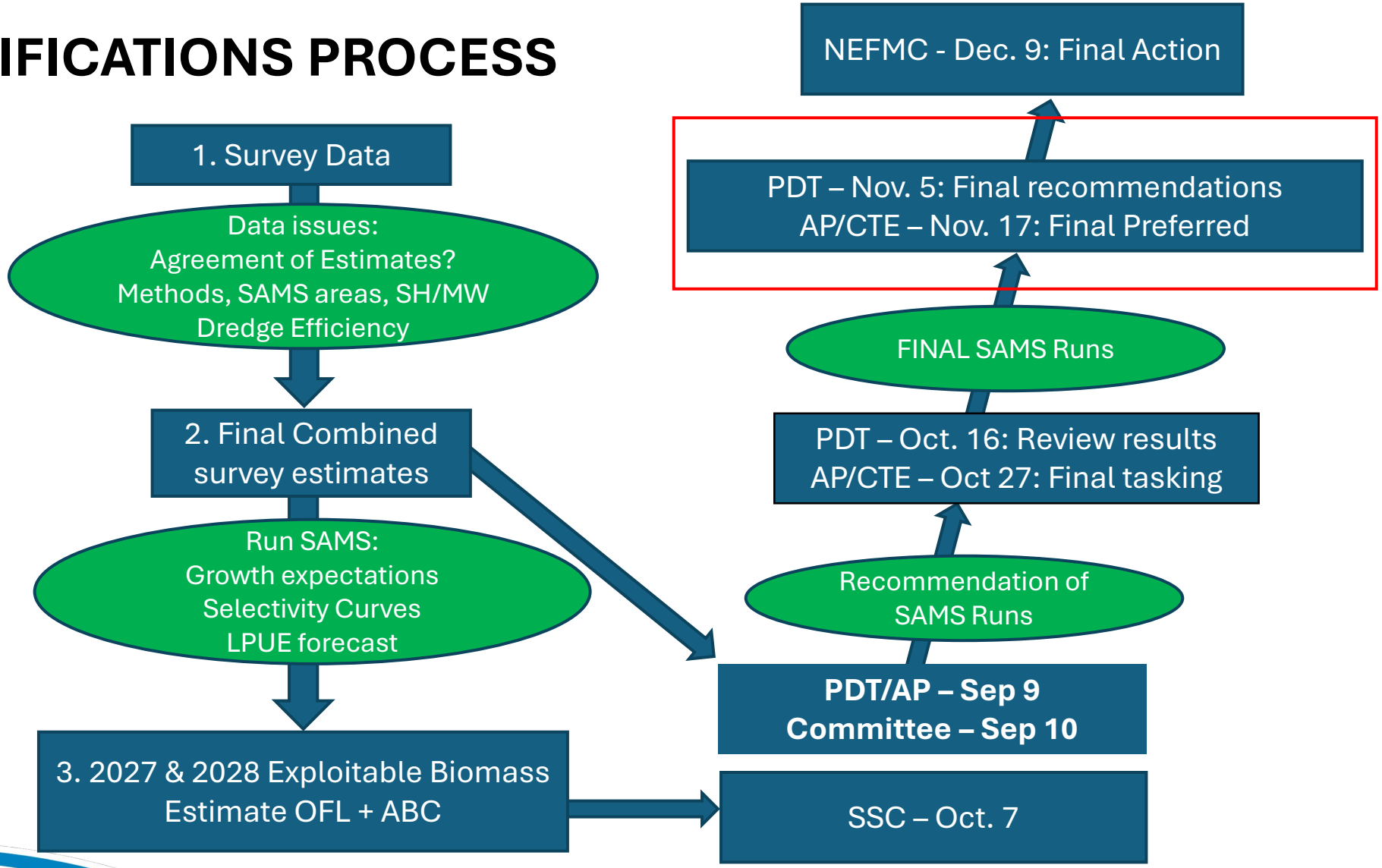
BOSTON, MA

New England Fishery Management Council

AGENDA

9:00 AM	Welcome, introductions, opening remarks, and agenda review (M. Griffin, Committee Chair)
9:10	Fishing Year (FY) 2027 – 2028 (default) Specifications • Presentation on Scallop Committee tasking and other issues related to the development of FY 2027 and 2028 (default) specifications, including projected economic impacts of range of days-at-sea (DAS) and access area allocations (C. Buckley, NEFMC) • AP and Committee questions and discussion
10:30	*Break*
10:45	FY 2027 and 2028 (default) Specifications • AP: make recommendations for FY 2027 & FY 2028 (default) specifications • Committee: consider AP recommendations and make Committee recommendations for Council consideration
12:15 PM	*Lunch*
1:30	FY 2027 and 2028 (default) Specifications • Continue discussion and recommendations as needed.
2:50	Other business
3:00	*Adjourn*

2027 SPECIFICATIONS PROCESS



TODAY'S MEETING GOALS

- Review PDT analyses to support tasking for specifications
- Make final recommendations for FY 2027-FY2028 (default) specifications.

- Outlook:
  - December 9 - Council to take final action on specifications
  - Mid/late-December - Decision Draft submission to GARFO

FY 2027 AND 2028 (DEFAULT) SPECIFICATIONS

Action anticipated: Select the *preferred alternative* for measures to include in specifications action, including:

- Overfishing limit and acceptable biological catch
- Fishery specifications for FY 2027 and FY 2028 (default), including access area and DAS allocations.
- Seasonal closures of a potential Nantucket Lightship Access Area.
- Northern Gulf of Maine total allowable landings in FY 2027 and FY 2028 (default).

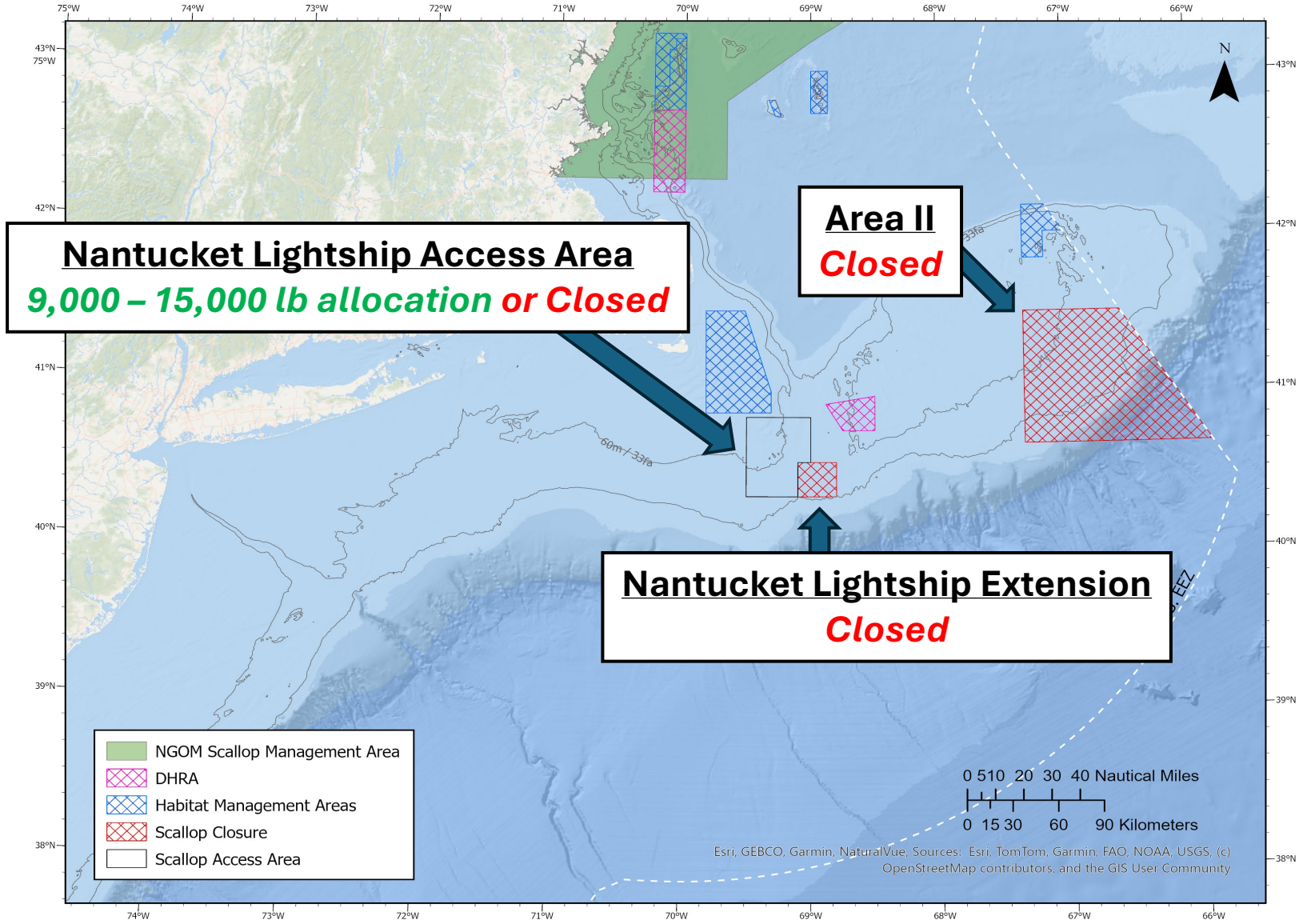
Consider bycatch estimates developed by the Scallop PDT. If warranted, discuss possible measures and future work plan items that could be used to mitigate impacts on flatfish stocks.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THIS ACTION

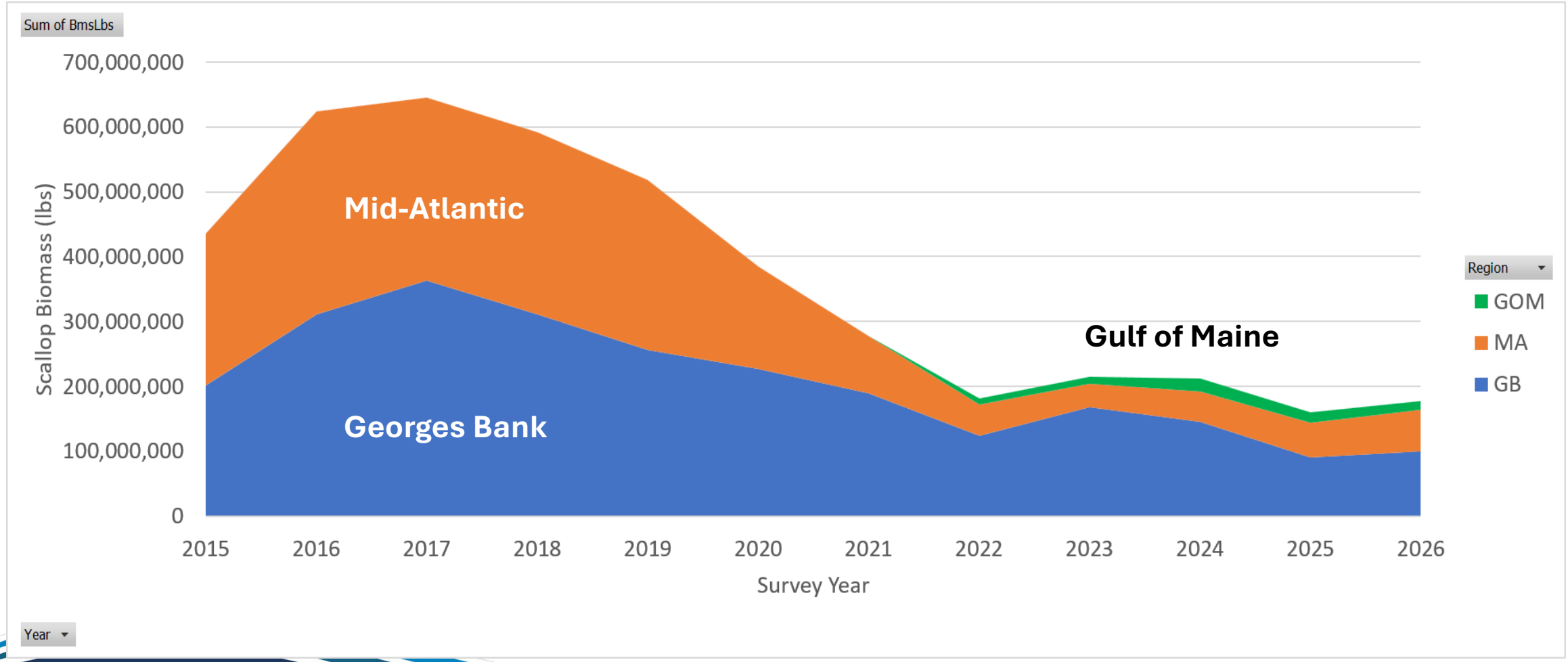
- **Purpose:**
  - To set specifications, including OFLs, ABCs, and Annual Projected Landings for the 2027 fishing year and default measures for FY 2028 that are expected to be replaced by a subsequent action.
  - Set landing limits in the NGOM based on exploitable biomass
- **Need:**
  - Prevent overfishing
  - Improve yield-per-recruit
  - Manage total removals from the NGOM management area

FY 2027 AND FY 2028 (DEFAULT) SPECIFICATIONS

- Two rotational management scenarios being considered, hinging around whether to allocate harvest in the Nantucket Lightship region (N&S)
- All options being considered leave Area II and the NLS-Extension closed

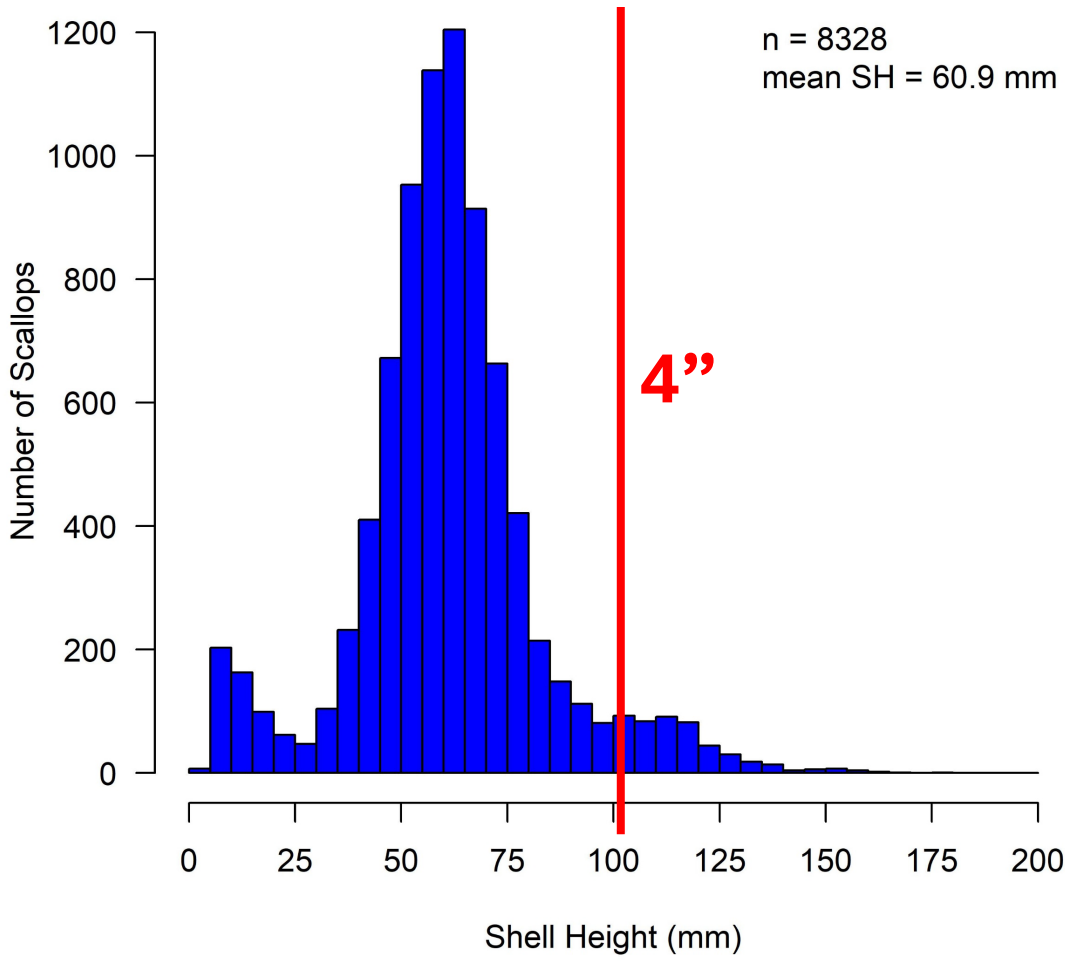


SURVEY BIOMASS HOVERING NEAR 25 YEAR LOW

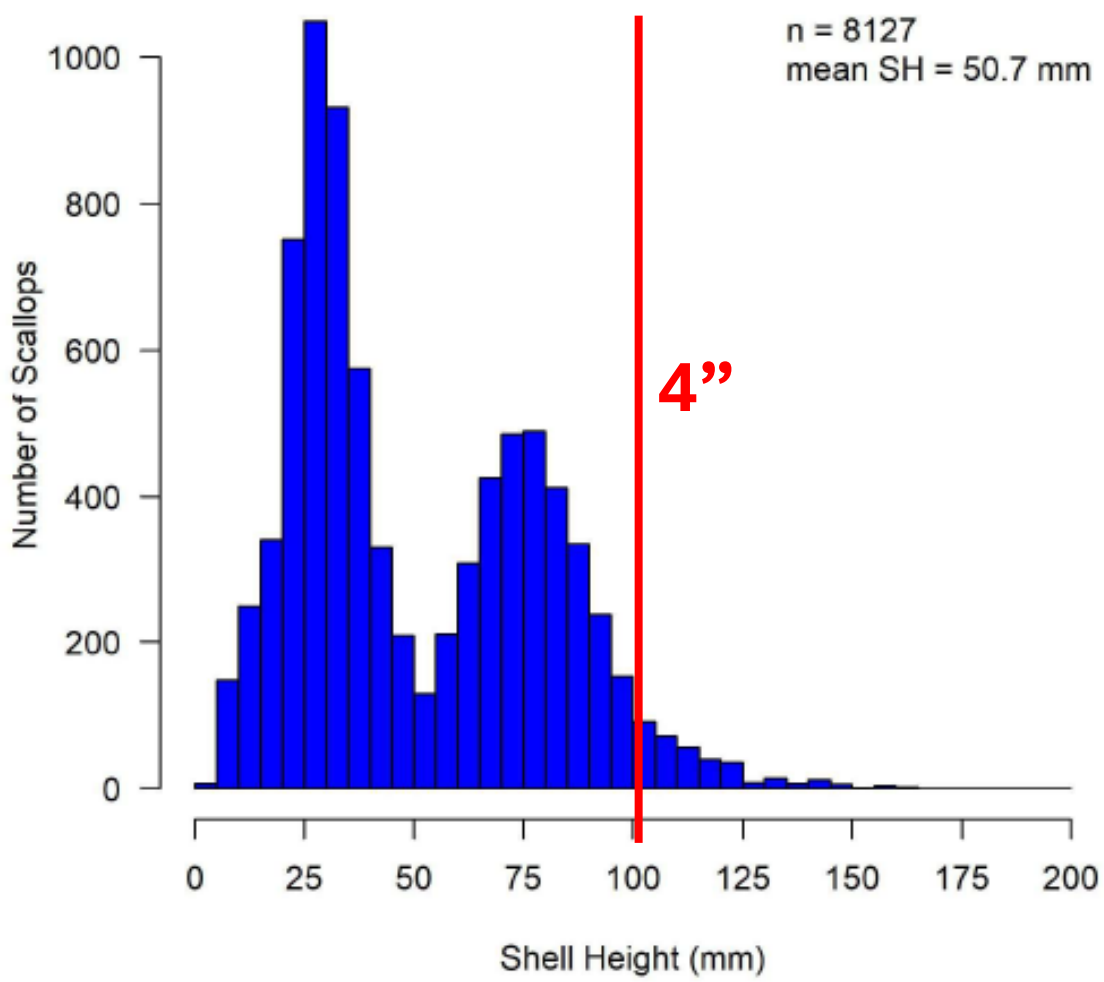


KEY SURVEY FINDINGS

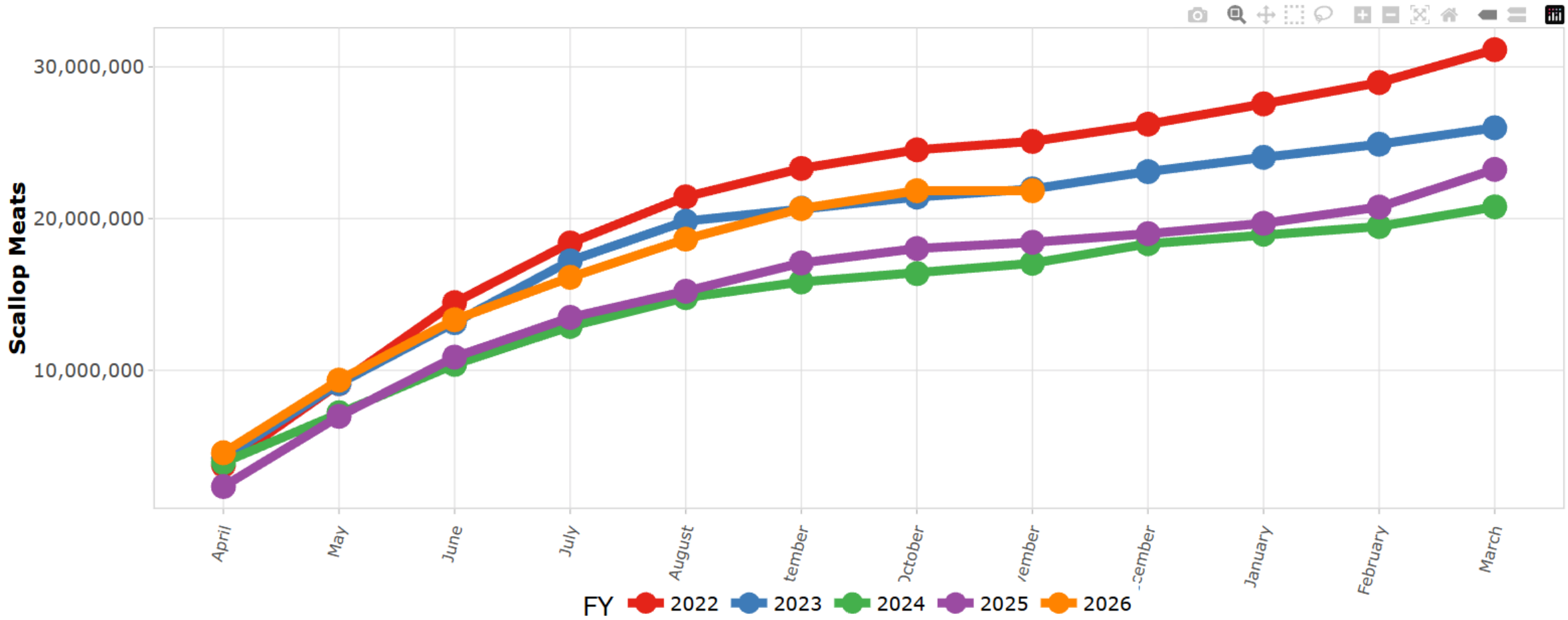
2025



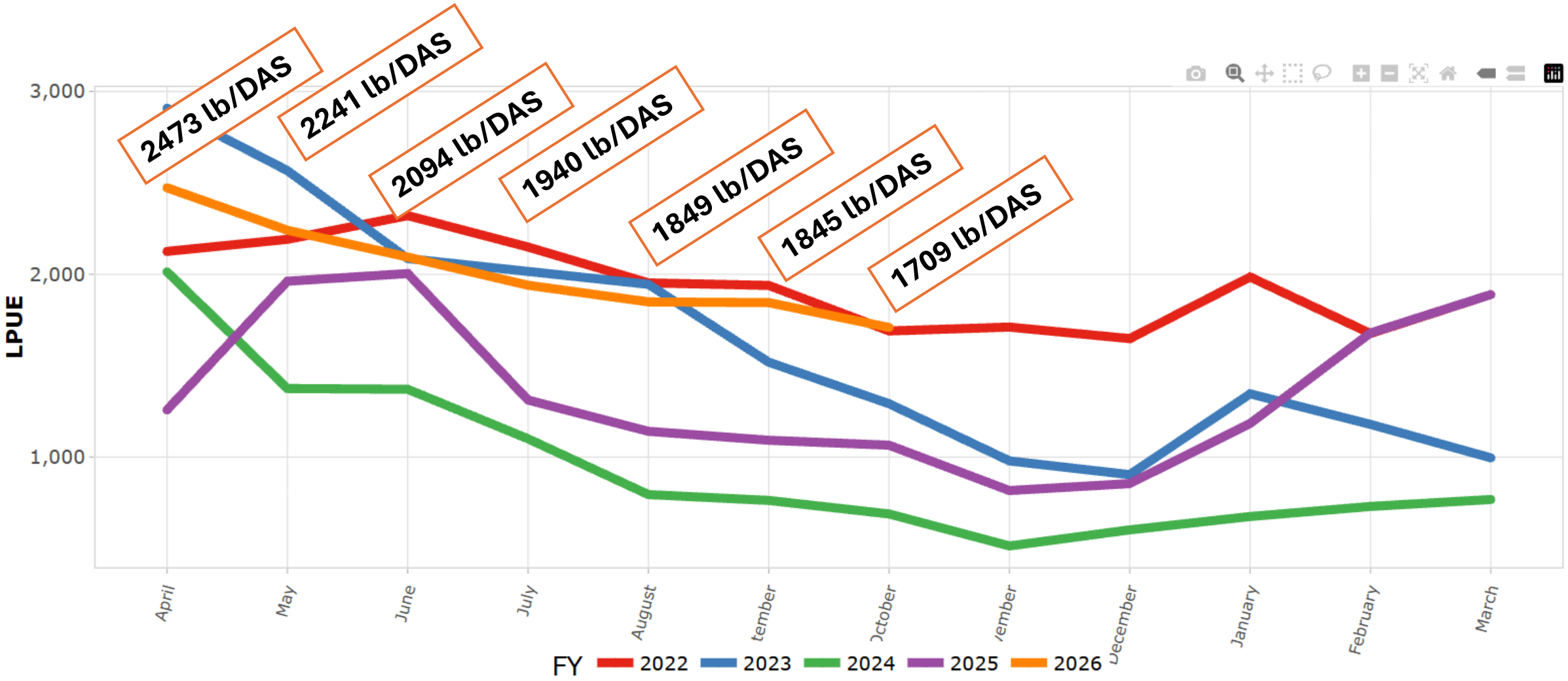
2026



SCALLOP LANDINGS

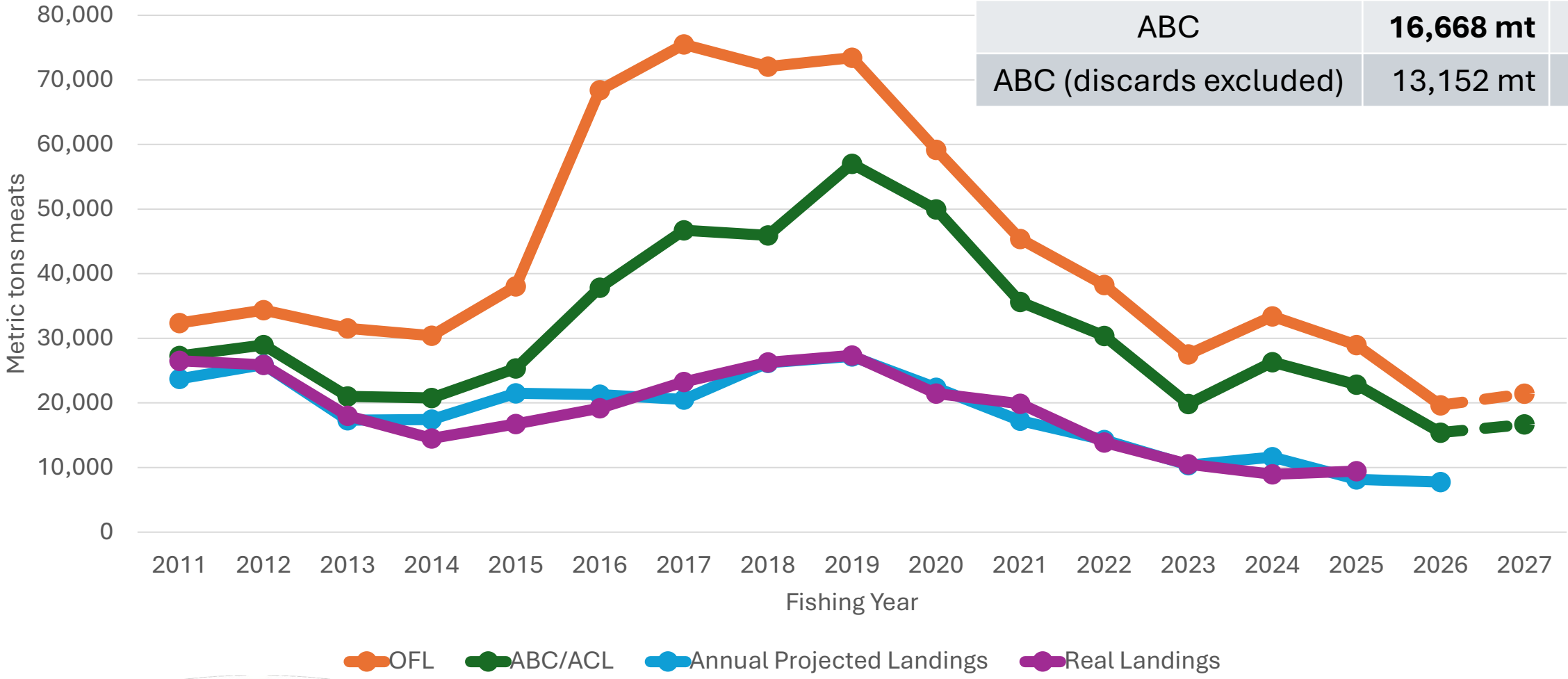


OPEN AREA LPUE



OFL ABC PLOT

SSC Recommended	FY 2027	FY 2028
Overfishing Limit	**21,418 mt**	**22,137 mt**
ABC	**16,668 mt**	**17,178 mt**
ABC (discards excluded)	13,152 mt	13,520 mt



OVERFISHING LIMIT AND ACCEPTABLE BIOLOGICAL CATCH

Action 1 – Overfishing Limit and Acceptable Biological Catch Choose one alternative.		Preferred by		
		PDT	AP	CTE
Alternative 1	No Action (default OFL and ABC for FY 2027 from Framework 40)			
Alternative 2	Updated OFL and ABC for FY 2027 and FY 2028.	✓		

Information to consider:

- Updating OFL and ABC estimates using the most recent survey information and updated reference points from the 2025 scallop research track assessment, and recommended by the SSC on Oct. 7th
- Scallop stock is below target biomass, but is not overfished, and overfishing is not occurring. 2026 survey data showed slight increase (Growth in NLS, Mid-Atl), but environmental change driving increased natural mortality, particularly in the southern Mid-Atlantic.

SUMMARY OF PROJECTION RESULTS FOR FY 2027

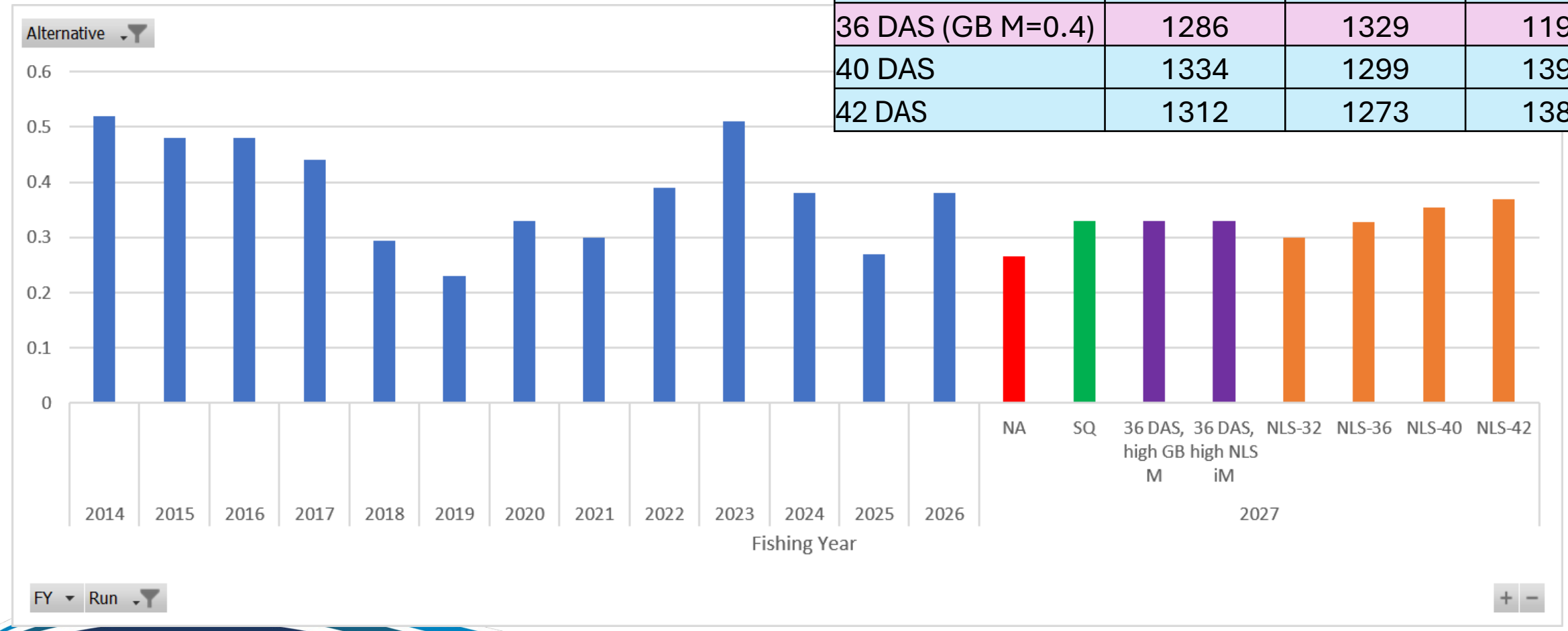
Scenario Description	Total F	Open Area F	Open Area LPUE	Open Area Landings (mil lb)	Access Area Landings (mil lb)	Total Landings (mil lb)
No Action: 27 DAS, Area II and NLS (South + North) closed	0.13	0.27	1,495	15.54	0	15.54
32 DAS, **1x 15k trip** in NLS (South + North), Area II and NLS-Ext closed	0.21	0.30	1,432	17.26	4.86	22.12
36 DAS, No AA fishing; Area II and NLS (South + North) closed	0.17	0.33	1,386	18.73	0	18.73
36 DAS, **1x 12k trip** in NLS (South + North), Area II and NLS-Ext closed	0.21	0.33	1,382	18.62	3.93	22.55
36 DAS, **1x 12k trip** in NLS, GB M =0.4	0.23	0.33	1,286	17.41	3.93	21.32
36 DAS, **1x 12k trip** in NLS, NLS inc. M = 0.3	0.21	0.33	1,382	18.62	3.93	22.55
40 DAS, **1x 9k trip** in NLS (South + North), Area II and NLS-Ext closed	0.21	0.35	1,334	19.89	2.95	22.84
42 DAS, **1x 15k trip** in NLS (South + North), Area II and NLS-Ext closed	0.24	0.37	1,312	20.47	4.86	24.82

RESULTING SPECIFICATIONS FOR PROJECTION SCENARIOS

Scenario Description	Annual Projected Landings (mil lb)	APL with Set-asides removed (mil lb)	Limited Access (94.5%, mil lb)	LAGC IFQ (5.5%, mil lb)
No Action: 27 DAS, Area II and NLS (South + North) closed	15.54	13.95	13.18	0.77
32 DAS, **1x 15k trip** in NLS (South + North), Area II and NLS-Ext closed	22.12	20.53	19.40	1.13
36 DAS, No AA fishing; Area II and NLS (South + North) closed	18.73	17.14	16.19	0.94
36 DAS, **1x 12k trip** in NLS (South + North), Area II and NLS-Ext closed	22.55	20.96	19.81	1.15
40 DAS, **1x 9k trip** in NLS (South + North), Area II and NLS-Ext closed	22.84	21.25	20.08	1.17
42 DAS, **1x 15k trip** in NLS (South + North), Area II and NLS-Ext closed	24.82	23.23	21.95	1.28

OPEN AREA FISHING MORTALITY

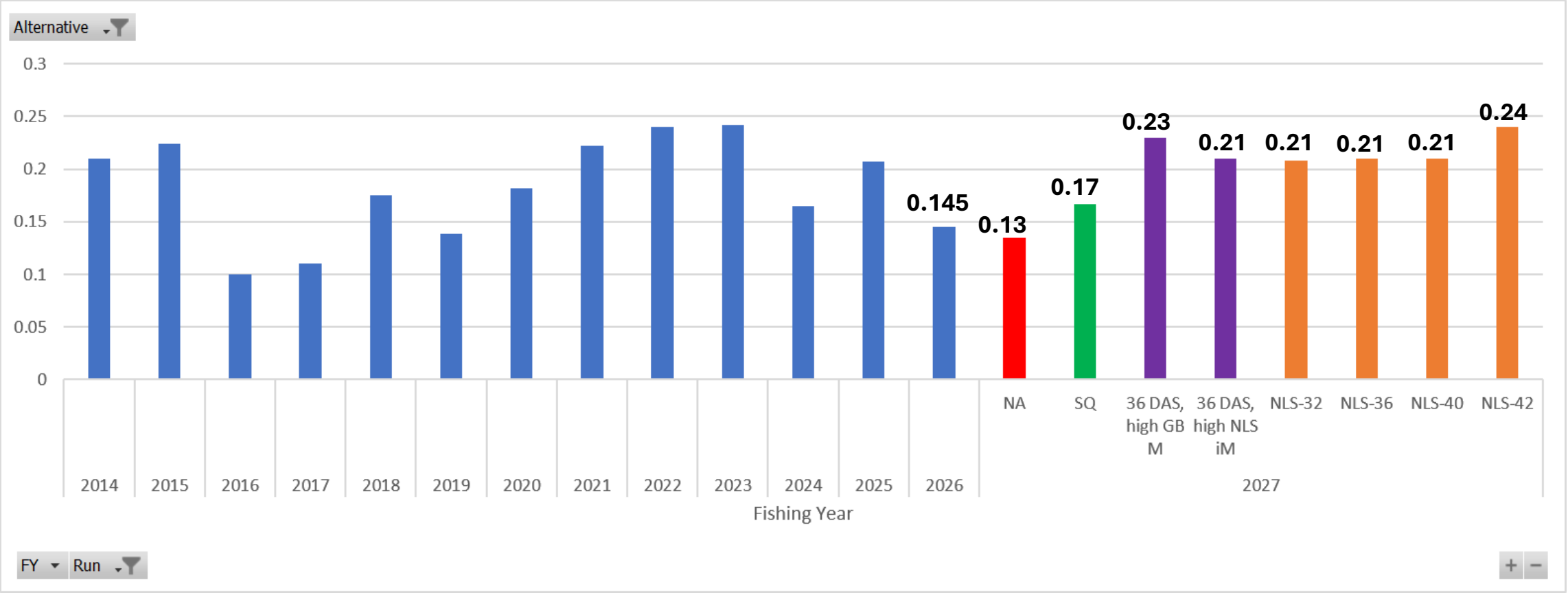
Run	OpLPUE	MAOpLPUE	GBOpLPUE
27 DAS	1495	1486	1504
32 DAS	1432	1412	1463
36 DAS	1378	1349	1427
36 DAS (GB M=0.4)	1286	1329	1197
40 DAS	1334	1299	1398
42 DAS	1312	1273	1383



OPEN AREA FISHING MORTALITY BY SAMS AREA

SAMS Area	32 DAS	36 DAS	40 DAS	42 DAS	No Action (27 DAS)
HCS	F=0.72	F=0.80	F=0.88	F=0.91	F=0.63
Elephant Trunk	0.48	0.53	0.58	0.6	0.42
NYB	0.47	0.52	0.56	0.59	0.41
Long Island	0.26	0.28	0.31	0.32	0.22
Delmarva	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Virginia	0	0	0	0	0
MAB Inshore	0	0	0	0	0
Southern Flank	0.43	0.47	0.52	0.54	0.37
Stellwagen South	0.32	0.36	0.39	0.41	0.28
CA1 – Sliver	0.28	0.32	0.35	0.36	0.25
GSC	0.23	0.26	0.28	0.29	0.2
Northern Flank	0.15	0.17	0.18	0.19	0.13
CA1 – Access	0.12	0.14	0.15	0.15	0.11
NLS – West	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02

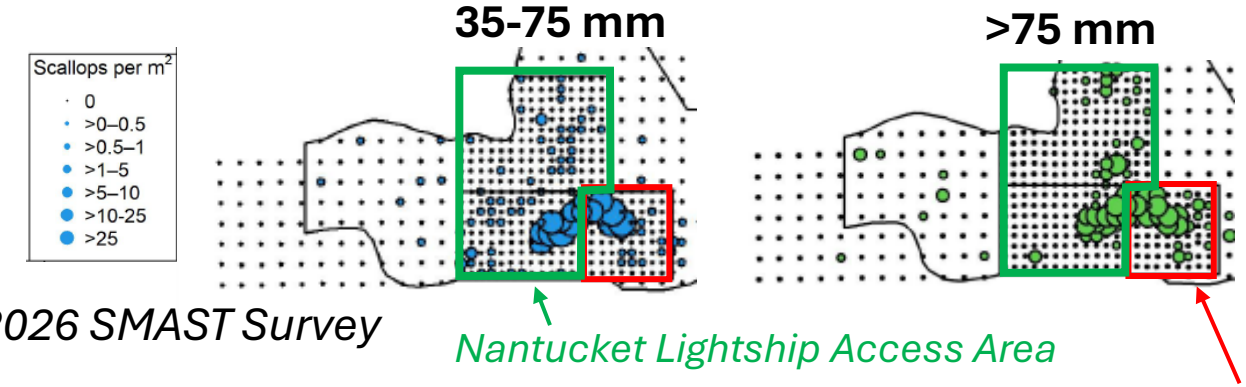
TOTAL FISHING MORTALITY



NANTUCKET LIGHTSHIP ACCESS AREA

Trip Limit	Fishing Mortality		NLS Exp. Biomass		AA Landings
	NLS-North	NLS-South	NLS-North	NLS-South	
1x 9k lb	0.67	0.17	1.34 mil. lb	12.87 mil. lb	2,948,643
1x 12k lb	0.67	0.24	1.34 mil. lb	12.87 mil. lb	3,928,331
1x 15k lb	0.67	0.32	1.34 mil. lb	12.87 mil. lb	4,858,133

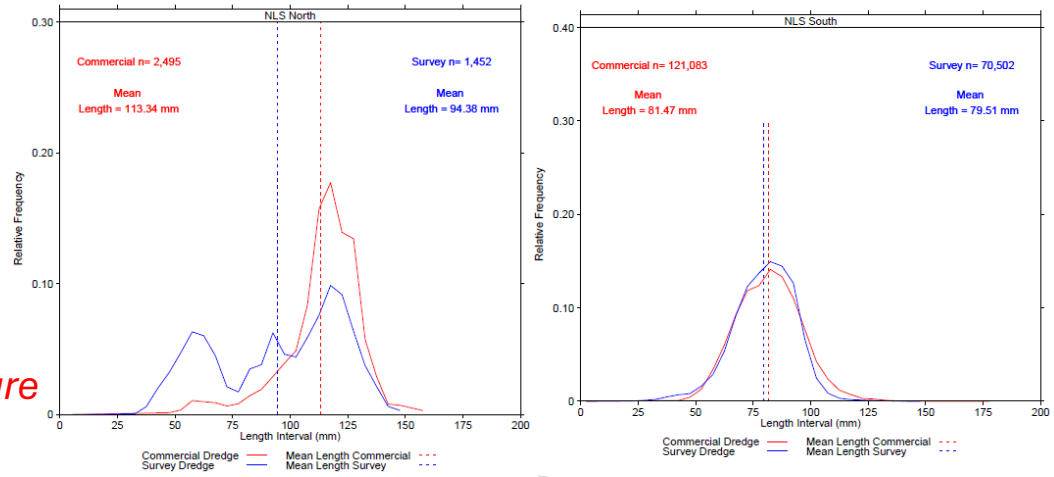
*Projected average meat count of **landings**: **11.6** in NLS-North and **25.5** in NLS-S



2026 SMAST Survey

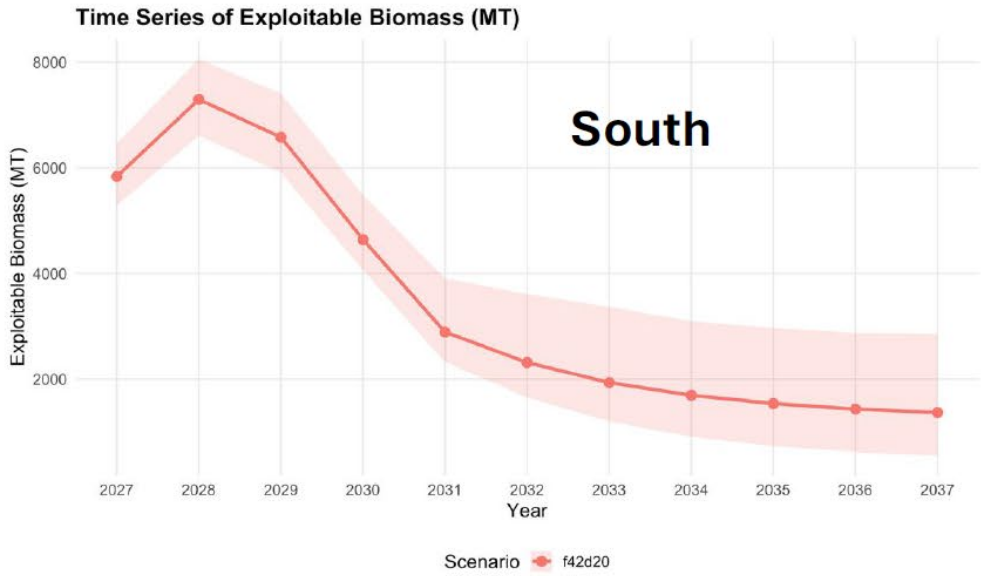
Nantucket Lightship Access Area

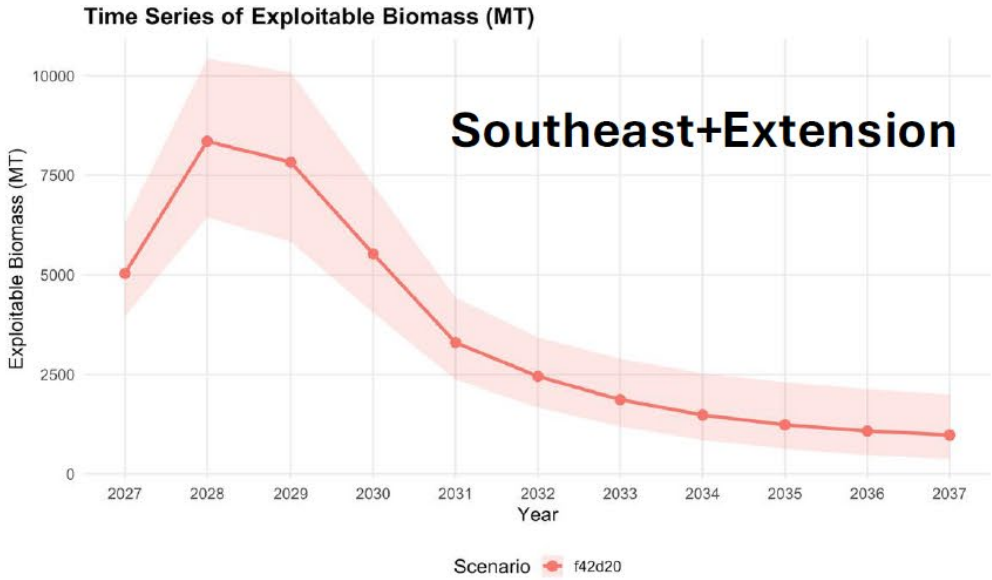
Nantucket Lightship Extension Closure

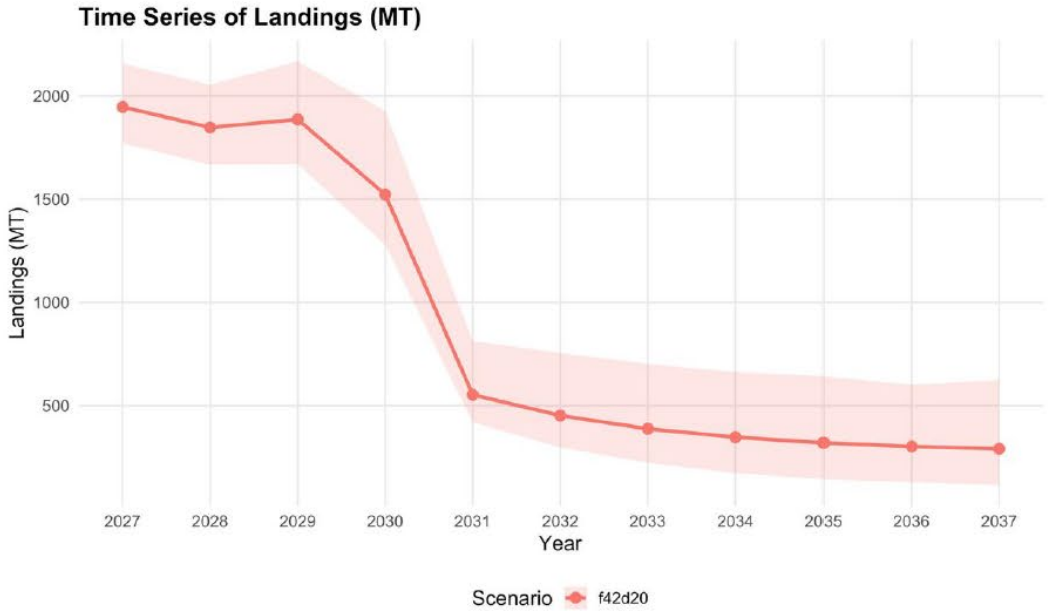


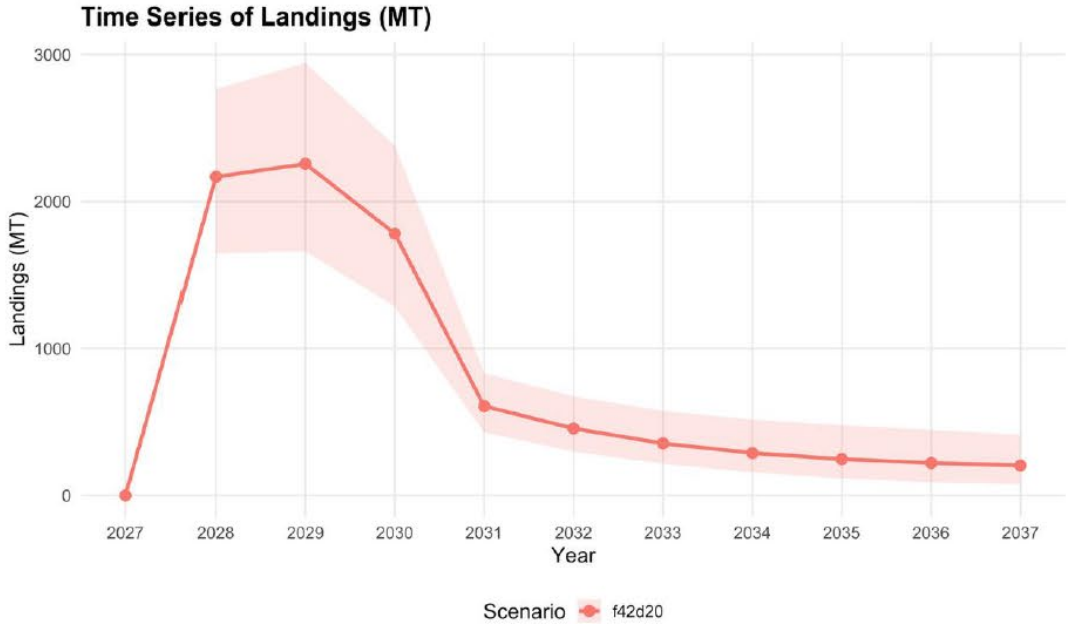
NANTUCKET LIGHTSHIP SOUTH & EXTENSION

15,000 LB TRIP

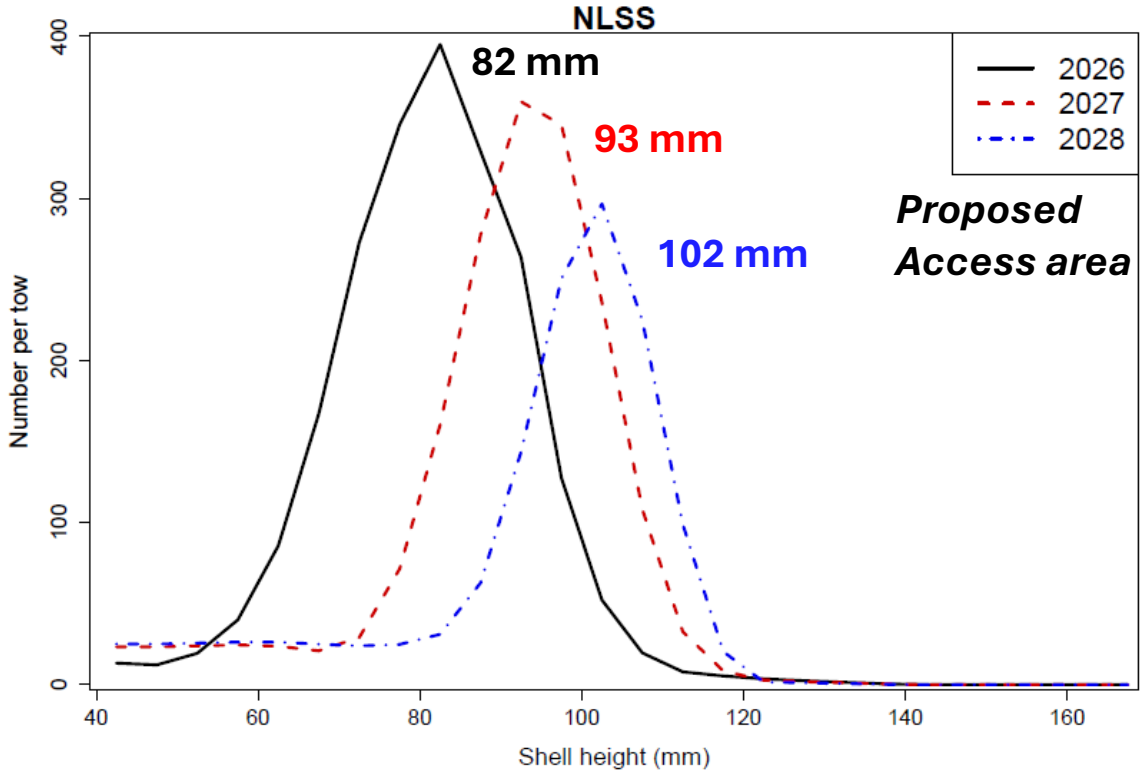


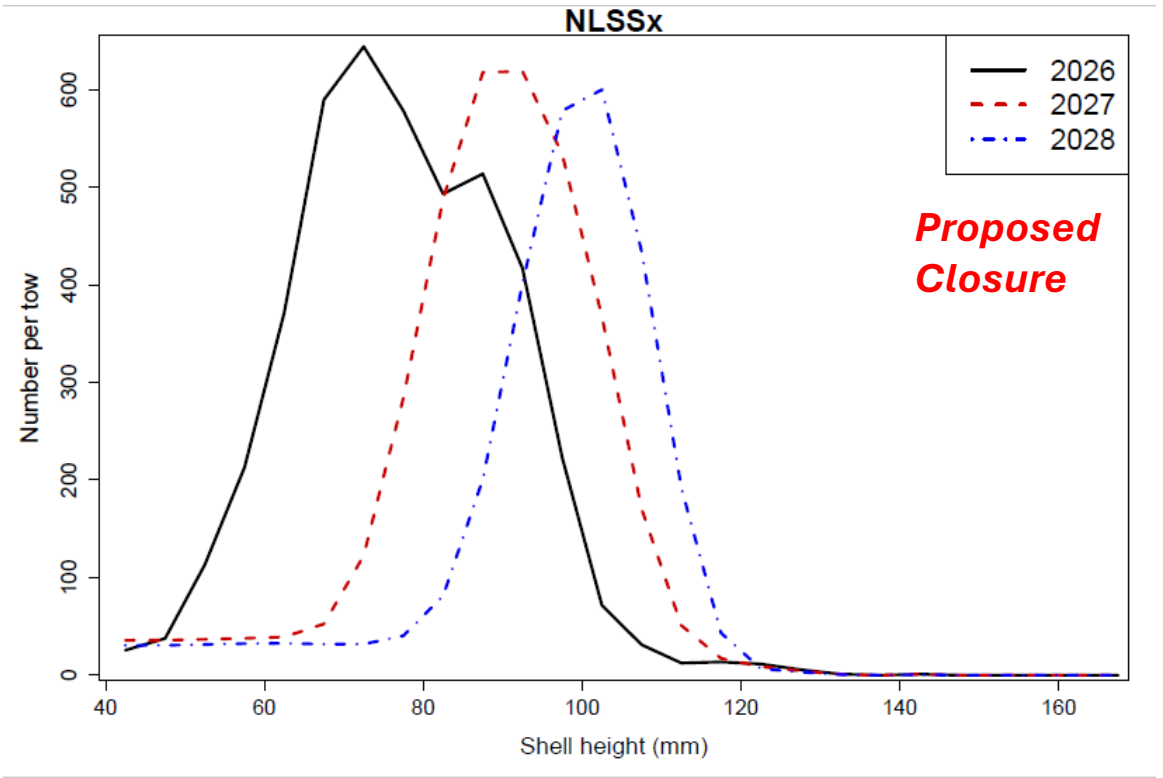






PROJECTED SIZE FREQUENCIES



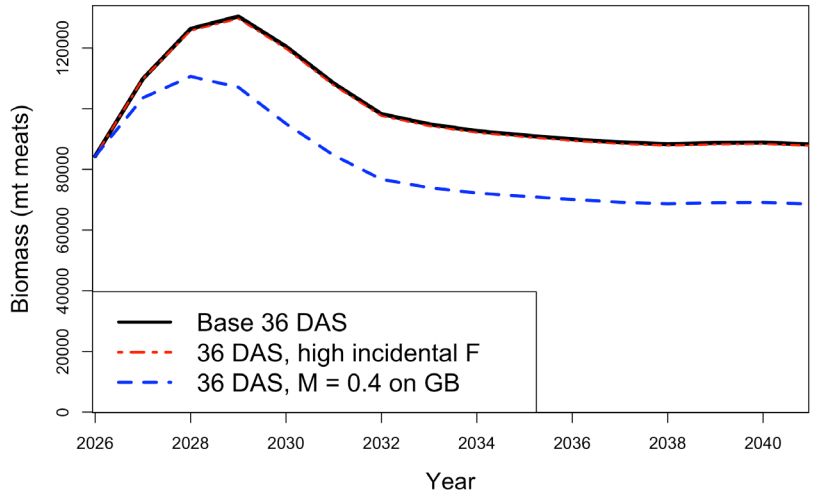


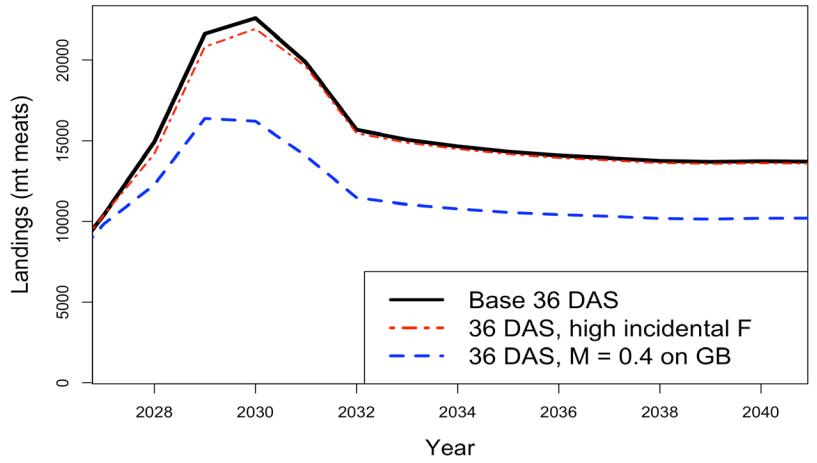
PROJECTION CROSSWALK

Full-Time Trip Limit	Landings (million lb)				
	32 DAS	*36 DAS*	*Sensitivity: 36 DAS, high GB M*	*40 DAS*	*42 DAS*
0 lb	17.26	18.62	17.41	19.89	20.47
9,000 lb	20.21	21.57	20.35	22.84	23.41
12,000 lb	21.19	22.55	21.33	23.82	24.39
15,000 lb	22.12	23.48	22.31	24.75	25.37

SENSITIVITY ANALYSES

- Sensitivities developed for 36 DAS, 12k pound trip scenario.
  - Natural mortality on GB increased from 0.27 → 0.4
  - Incidental mortality in the NLS access area increased from 0.1 → 0.3
- Higher natural mortality reduces available exploitable biomass by 7.2% and increases total fishing mortality from F=0.21 → F=0.24
  - ~1.2 million pounds fewer open bottom landings from reduced GB open area LPUE from 1430 lb/day → 1197 lb/day
- Higher incidental mortality in the NLS access area suggests increased fishing morality at 1x 12k trip from F=0.21 → F=0.23





FY 2027 ROTATIONAL MANAGEMENT – PDT INPUT

Leave NLS North & South closed until FY 2028	Allocate conservatively in FY 2027
Cohort is slow-growing and is projected to still be smaller than the 4” ring in FY 2027. Scope for growth remains high.	Fishing mortality rates are conservative and well within those specified by the Council in recent years.
Scallops in this area have thin-shells and are more susceptible to damage. With small sizes, discards would be expected to be high and could lead to high incidental mortality. PDT members also noted the low energy, fine-sediment bottom may lead to scallops being covered and suffocated with fishing activity.	The seasonal closure and delayed opening will sufficiently focus harvest during peak yield and allow for additional spring growth before harvest.
Delaying access could help maintain Nantucket Lightship as a viable access area until recent recruitment in Area II is exploitable and that area can be allocated.	Continued closure may risk additional natural mortality due to sea star predation. 2026 surveys noted increasing sea star abundance (although less than Eastern Georges Bank).
Sufficient exploitable biomass of larger scallops in open areas to maintain stable landings.	Proposed closure would keep ~50% of Nantucket Lightship cohort closed until FY 2028.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS ANALYSIS

	Expected Landings lb			Expected Prices (in 2025$/lb)			Price for LAGC lb
Run	APL	U10	11+	U10	11+	Weighted Avg Price	w/ premium price +12.39%
27 DAS, No AA	15.54	0.85	14.91	$39.03	$16.20	$17.67	$19.57
32 DAS, 15k trip	22.12	1.33	21.19	$36.82	$15.93	$17.46	$19.26
36 DAS, 12k trip	22.55	1.38	21.53	$36.62	$15.91	$17.42	$19.26
40 DAS, 9k trip	22.84	1.42	21.73	$36.45	$15.90	$17.40	$19.27
42 DAS, 15k trip	25.33	1.53	24.29	$35.94	$15.79	$17.33	$35.94
36 DAS, No AA	18.73	1.10	18.05	$37.81	$16.07	$17.71	$19.44

SHORT-TERM ECONOMIC IMPACTS

		27 DAS, No AA	32 DAS, 15k trip	36 DAS, 12k trip	40 DAS, 9k trip	42 DAS, 15k trip	36 DAS, No AA
Landings	mil lbs.	15.54	22.12	22.55	22.84	25.33	18.73
Revenue	mil $	$274.63	$386.26	$392.94	$397.29	$438.81	$331.72
Net Revenue	mil $	$239.12	$334.22	$338.06	$339.63	$373.96	$283.58
Producer Surplus	mil $	$155.79	$242.17	$244.52	$244.62	$275.16	$193.59
Consumer Surplus	mil $	$4.92	$10.07	$10.48	$10.78	$13.16	$7.26
Total Benefits	mil $	$160.71	$252.24	$255.00	$255.40	$288.32	$200.85
Difference from SQ							
Landings	mil lbs.	-3.18	3.40	3.83	4.11	6.60	
Revenue	mil $	-$57.09	$54.54	$61.22	$65.57	$107.09	
Net Revenue	mil $	-$44.46	$50.63	$54.48	$56.05	$90.37	
Producer Surplus	mil $	-$37.80	$48.58	$50.93	$51.03	$81.57	
Total Benefits	mil $	-$40.14	$51.39	$54.15	$54.55	$87.47	
	RANK	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	

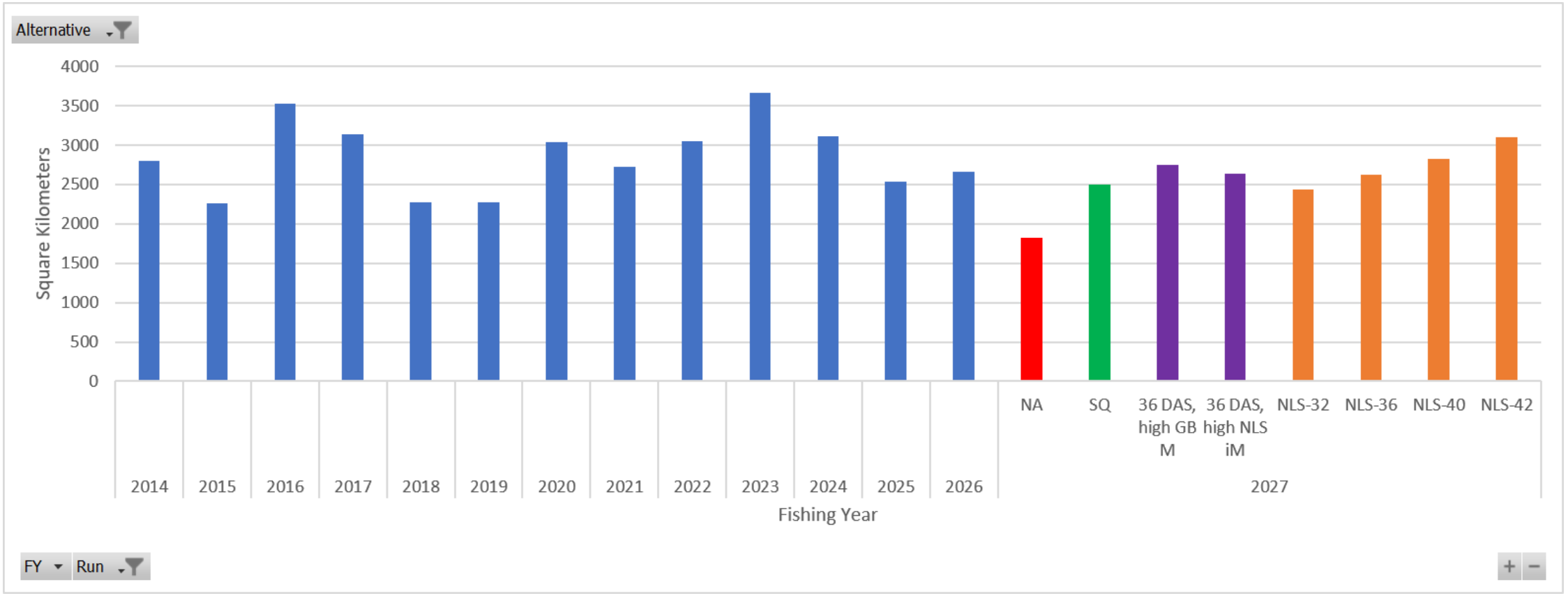
SHORT TERM ECONOMIC IMPACTS – LAGC IFQ

		27 DAS, No AA	32 DAS, 15k	36 DAS, 12k	40 DAS, 9k	42 DAS, 15k	36 DAS, No AA
Landings	Mil lbs.	0.85	1.22	1.24	1.26	1.39	1.03
TDAS	Days	2,026	2,883	2,939	2,976	3,301	2,441
Revenue*	Mil $	$16.98	$23.88	$24.29	$24.56	$27.12	$20.51
Net Revenue	Mil $	$14.31	$20.09	$20.42	$20.64	$22.78	$17.30
Difference from SQ							
Revenue	Mil $	-$3.53	$3.37	$3.78	$4.05	$6.62	$0.00
Net Revenue	Mil $	-$2.98	$2.79	$3.13	$3.35	$5.49	$0.00
Rank		5	4	3	2	1	

LONG-TERM ECONOMIC IMPACTS

		27 DAS, No AA	32 DAS, 15k trip	36 DAS, 12k trip	40 DAS, 9k trip	42 DAS, 15k trip	36 DAS, No AA
Landings	mil lbs.	493.18	495.45	495.52	495.52	496.33	494.09
Revenue	mil $	$5,436.33	$5,492.18	$5,493.58	$5,493.65	$5,513.72	$5,462.36
Net Revenue	mil $	$4,891.89	$4,934.89	$4,933.80	$4,931.38	$4,945.72	$4,907.24
Producer Surplus	mil $	$3,975.22	$4,011.45	$4,009.04	$4,005.31	$4,016.63	$3,984.94
Consumer Surplus	mil $	$219.54	$218.89	$218.75	$218.60	$218.96	$218.74
Total Benefits	mil $	$4,194.76	$4,230.33	$4,227.80	$4,223.91	$4,235.58	$4,203.68
Difference from SQ							
Landings	mil lbs.	-0.91	1.37	1.43	1.433	2.25	
Revenue	mil $	-26.04	$29.81	$31.22	$31.29	$51.35	
Net Revenue	mil $	-15.35	$27.65	$26.56	$24.14	$38.47	
Producer Surplus	mil $	-9.72	$26.51	$24.10	$20.37	$31.69	
Total Benefits	mil $	-8.92	$26.66	$24.12	$20.23	$31.91	
	RANK	**5**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**1**	

BOTTOM AREA SWEPT



POSSIBLE LAGC IFQ TRIPS

Access Area Allocations	Total Trips	IFQ Allocations to AA (5.5%)
9,000 pounds	202 trips	161,865 pounds
12,000 pounds	270 trips	215,820 pounds
15,000 pounds	337 trips	269,775 pounds

SUMMARY OF PROTECTED RESOURCES IMPACTS

- There are greater PR interaction concerns on Mid-Atlantic (i.e., turtles or sturgeon) vs. Georges Bank.
- Effort expected to be mostly in the Mid-Atlantic, similar to recent levels.
- More DAS fishing on GB, options keep DAS effort similar to recent levels. Swept area below recent levels under all alternatives.
- NGOM fishery harvest likely to slightly decrease, and season likely to conclude before mid-May (i.e., prior to sea turtles migrating into the area).

BIOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Overall F ranges from 0.13 – 0.24 (F_{ABC}=0.36, and F_{ACT}=0.29)
- Risk of overfishing is low for all alternatives under consideration. Trade-offs should be considered based on optimal yield-per-recruit.
- Projected LPUE may be underestimated. If so, then fishing mortality and expected landings will be greater per DAS.
- Roughly half of all scallops across the resource are located within the Nantucket Lightship South and Extension areas. This cohort is slow-growing, but less-dense and in better habitat than the Peter Pan cohort.
- For all DAS options, F rates for open bottom fishing elevated for Hudson Canyon South (F=0.72-0.91) and the Elephant Trunk (F=0.48-0.60).
- Harvest levels in 2027 will have impacts on available biomass for 2028 and beyond

FISHERY SPECIFICATIONS: ACCESS AREA & DAS ALLOCATIONS

Action 2 – Fishery Specifications Choose one alternative.		Preferred by		
		PDT	AP	CTE
No Action	No Action (27 DAS, Area II and NLS (South + North closed Default measures from Framework 40			
Alternative 2	No Access Area fishing			
Alternative 2 – Select DAS allocation between 32 and 42 DAS				
Option 1 – Lower Bound	32 DAS			
Option 2 – Status Quo	36 DAS	✓		
Option 3 – Upper Bound	42 DAS			
Alternative 3	9,000 lb allocation in the Nantucket Lightship (North + South) Access Area			
Alternative 3 – Select DAS allocation				
Option 1 – Lower Bound	32 DAS			
Option 2 – Status Quo	36 DAS			
Option 3 – Upper Bound	42 DAS			
Alternative 4	12,000 lb allocation in the Nantucket Lightship (North & South) Access Area			
Alternative 4 – Select DAS allocation				
Option 1 – Lower Bound	32 DAS	✓		
Option 2 – Status Quo	36 DAS			
Option 3 – Upper Bound	42 DAS			
Alternative 5	15,000 lb allocation in the Nantucket Lightship (North & South) Access Area			
Alternative 5 – Select DAS allocation				
Option 1 – Lower Bound	32 DAS			
Option 2 – Status Quo	36 DAS			
Option 3 – Upper Bound	42 DAS			

Decisions, information to consider:

- Matrix 3 access area trip limits for NLS (N&S) with a no access area option, and range of DAS allocations
  - Values within 32-42 are viable recommendations
- FY2028 default = 75% of FY 2027 DAS & no access area allocation
- LAGC IFQ access area default = 5.5% total allocation in 800 lb trip units
- Committee did not recommend any RSA compensation fishing within potential NLS access area

SEASONAL CLOSURE OF NANTUCKET LIGHTSHIP AREA

- Both AP and Committee were supportive of a seasonal closure in a NLS access area in FY 2027 to reduce mortality and improve yields.
  - Motion included an **April 1 – May 31 & October 1 – May 31 closure.**

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
	Seasonal Closure of Nantucket Lightship Access Area											
No Action												
CTE motion												
PDT recommend.												

  - PDT recommend **<u>1st year with a delayed opening until May 15</u>**, and a **seasonal closure from October 1 until January 1** with no sunset date.

SEASONAL CLOSURE OF POTENTIAL NANTUCKET LIGHTSHIP ACCESS AREA FOR FY 2027

Seasonal Closure of Nantucket Lightship Access Area		Preferred by		
		PDT	AP	CTE
No Action	Any harvest allocations to a Nantucket Lightship Access Area may be fished beginning on April 1.			
Committee Motion	Implement a seasonal closure in the Nantucket Lightship Access Area. Nantucket Lightship Access Area would be closed from April 1 through May 31, and from October 1 until May 31 (7-month closure).			
PDT Rec.	Implement a delayed opening from April 1 through May 14, and a seasonal closure from October 1 through December 31. The delayed opening would only be for FY 2027, while the seasonal closure would be in place for any future Nantucket Lightship fishing.	✓		

<u>Information to consider</u>:

- The seasonal closure of the NLS access area would remain in effect for any future access area trip until otherwise changed via management action.

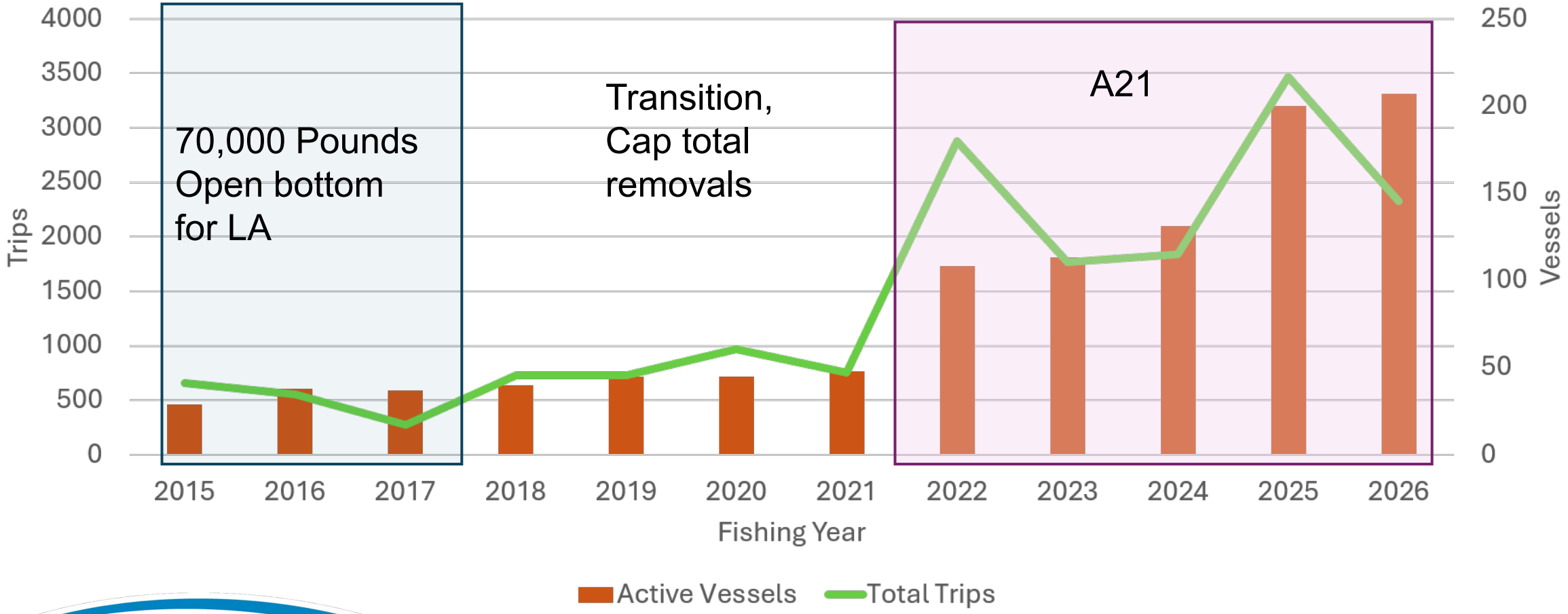
OTHER SPECIFICATIONS

- Nantucket Lightship Access Area would remain closed to transit in FY 2027.
- Default specifications for FY 2028 would be 75% of FY 2027 allocation of LAGC IFQ quota and LA DAS. No access area harvest would be allocated by default.
- The default NGOM set-aside for FY 2028 would be 50% of the FY 2027 NGOM set-aside.
- Any LAGC IFQ access area allocation would be made available in the Nantucket Lightship area only.
- LAGC Incidental TAC would be set at 50,000 lb
- FY 2027 RSA compensation harvest would be limited to open bottom

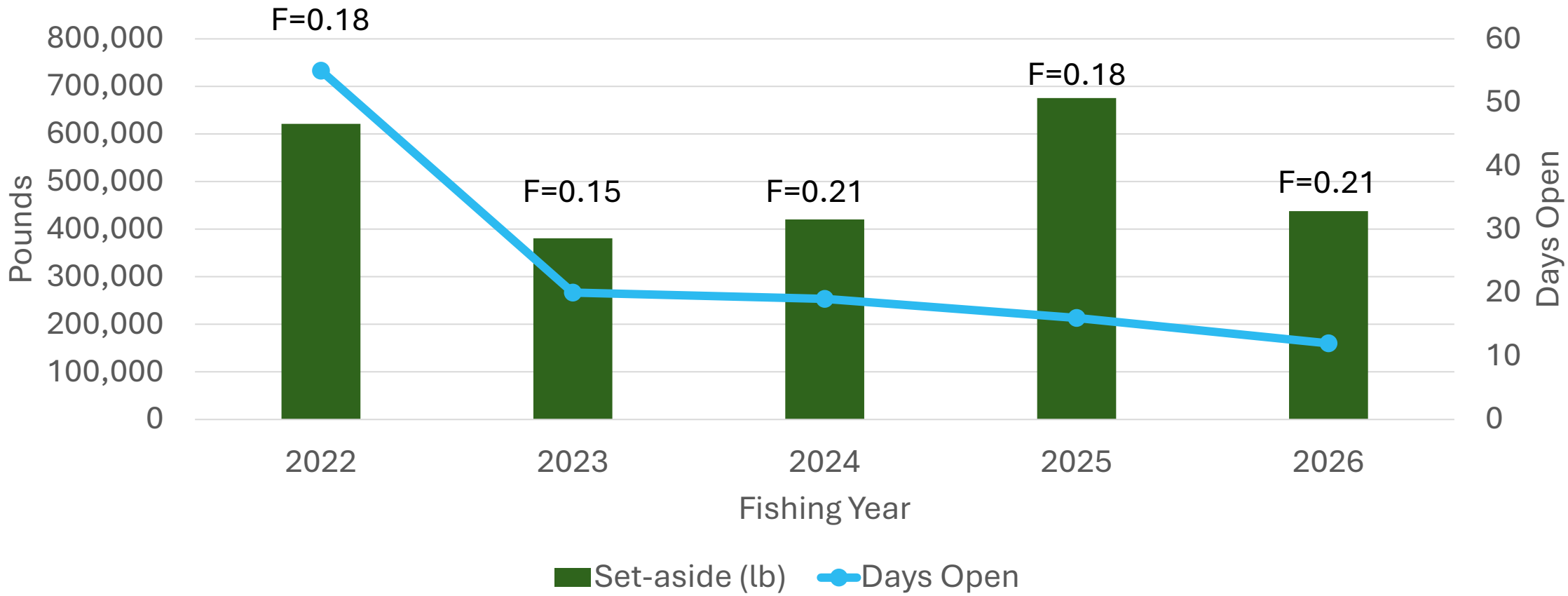
2027 NGOM SET-ASIDE

	NGOM 2027 Exploitable Biomass	FY 2027 (lbs)		
	Stellwagen-NGOM	1,020,740		
	Jeffreys	500,449		
	NGOM-Other	923,737		
B	ABC (F=0.29 all NGOM areas)	1,750,470		
	Fishing Mortality Rate	*50% of FY26 (No Action)*	0.21	0.23
	Area(s) Fished			
C	Total Allowable Landings	-	434,311	469,585
D	1% NGOM ABC for Observers	17,505	17,505	17,505
E	RSA Contribution	25,000	25,000	25,000
F	NGOM Set-Aside	220,135	391,806	427,080
G	Deduction for 2025 overage	-7,149	-7,149	-7,149
H	2027 NGOM Set-Aside	212,986	384,657	419,931
	2028 (Default) NGOM Set-Aside	N/A	192,329	209,966

NGOM SCALLOP FISHERY PARTICIPATION



NGOM SET-ASIDE



SHORT-TERM ECONOMIC IMPACTS –NGOM

		No Action	F=0.23	F=0.21 (SQ)
2027 NGOM Set-Aside	lbs.	220,135	427,080	391,806
Expected Revenue	mil $	$4.33	$8.40	$7.71
Total Days Fished	TDAS	1,101	2,135	1,959
Days fished per vessel (assuming 200 vessels)		5.3	10.5	9.6
Expected Trip Costs	mil $	$1.16	$2.25	$2.06
Expected Net Revenue	mil $	$3.17	$6.15	$5.64
Net Revenue net of NA	mil $	$0.00	$2.98	$2.47
Rank			1	2

2027 BYCATCH PROJECTIONS

- Not available for today, and PDT will plan to review via correspondence and include in the action, as well as sharing the Groundfish PDT.
- Anticipated scallop sub-ACLs decreased for Georges Bank yellowtail, while increasingly substantially for northern and southern windowpane flounder

Alternative	Scenario	GB YT	SNE/MA YT	GOM/GB WP	SNE/MA WP
Anticipated 2027 sub-ACL		4.0 mt	2.7 mt	39.5 mt	120.9 mt
No Action	27 DAS, No Access Areas	**TBD**			
Status Quo	36 DAS, No Access Areas	**TBD**			
Proposed Action	TBD	**TBD**			

FY 2027 & FY 2028 (DEFAULT) NGOM TAL, SET-ASIDE

Northern Gulf of Maine Management (NGOM) Area and TAL Setting		Preferred by		
		PDT	AP	CTE
Alternative 1	No Action FW40 Default NGOM Set-Aside set at 212,986 pounds.			
Alternative 2	Set NGOM TAL, with set-asides to support research, monitoring, and a directed LAGC fishery			
Alternative 2 – Select Target F rate for NGOM TAL				
Option 1	Set NGOM TAL at F=0.21 (Status Quo) using all open NGOM areas TAL= 434,311 pounds, NGOM Set-Aside 384,657 pounds FY 2028 Default: 192,329 pounds	✓		
Option 2	Set NGOM TAL at F=0.23 using all open NGOM areas TAL= 469,585 pounds, NGOM Set-Aside 419,931 pounds FY 2028 Default: 209,966 pounds			

Information to consider:

- PDT recommended <= F=0.21 → uncertainty in biomass estimates, declines in exploitable biomass on Stellwagen
- Most of the biomass seems to be off Stellwagen (not covered by optical survey) → fishing effort likely highest on Stellwagen though

SUMMARY OF DECISION POINTS FOR TODAY: PROVIDE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON 2027 SPECS

Action anticipated: Select the *preferred alternative* for measures to include in specifications action, including:

- Overfishing limit and acceptable biological catch
- Fishery specifications for FY 2027 and FY 2028 (default), including access area and DAS allocations.
- Seasonal closures of a potential Nantucket Lightship Access Area.
- Northern Gulf of Maine total allowable landings in FY 2027 and FY 2028 (default).

UPCOMING MEETINGS

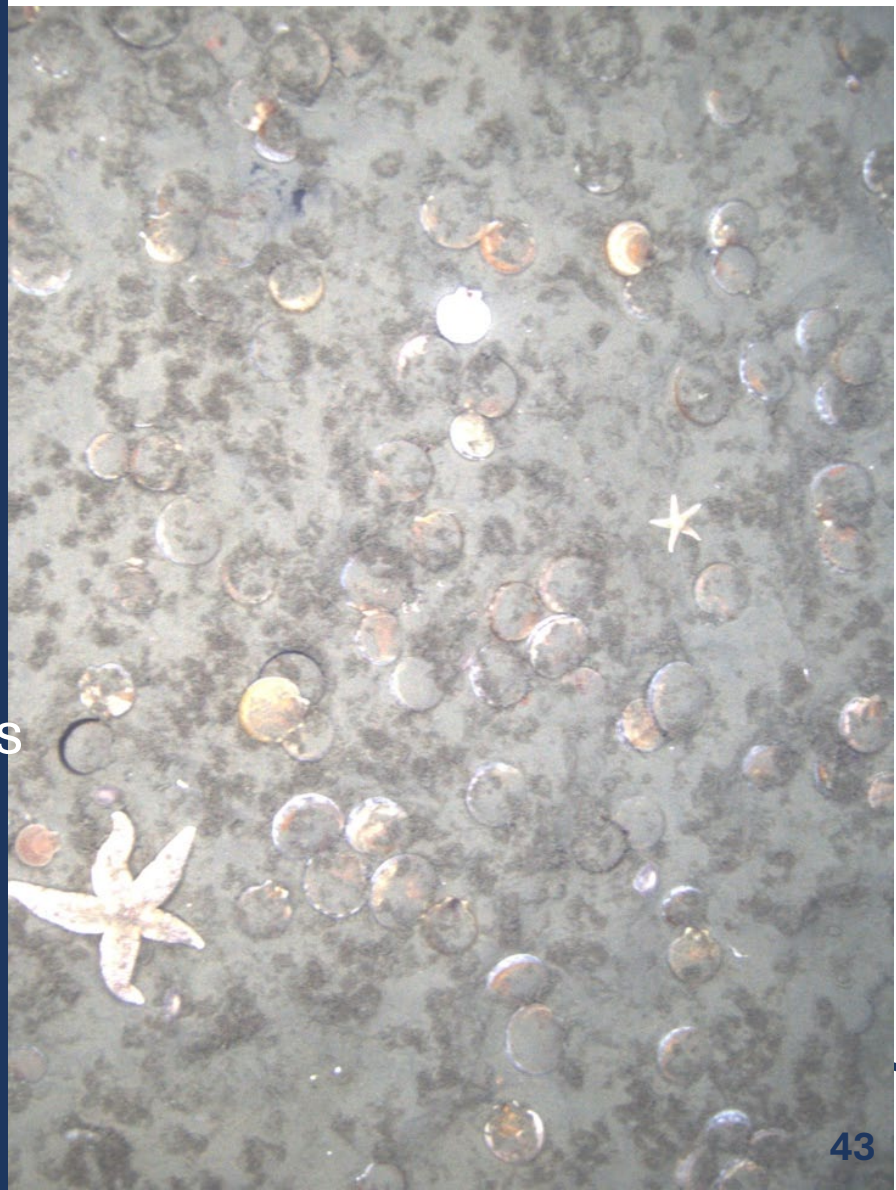
December 9 – NEFMC final action on Scallop Specifications action

2027: **meetings primarily focused on FW42** *(NGOM sub-management areas, regional DAS)*

- Jan: PDT, AP, Cte meetings → determine range of alternatives
- Jan/Feb: potential Enforcement Cte meeting (TBD)
- March:
  - PDT, AP, Cte meetings → select preferred alternatives
  - RSA Share Day → TBD
- April: NEFMC final action

New England Fishery Management Council

Nantucket Lightship South CFF HabCam 2026



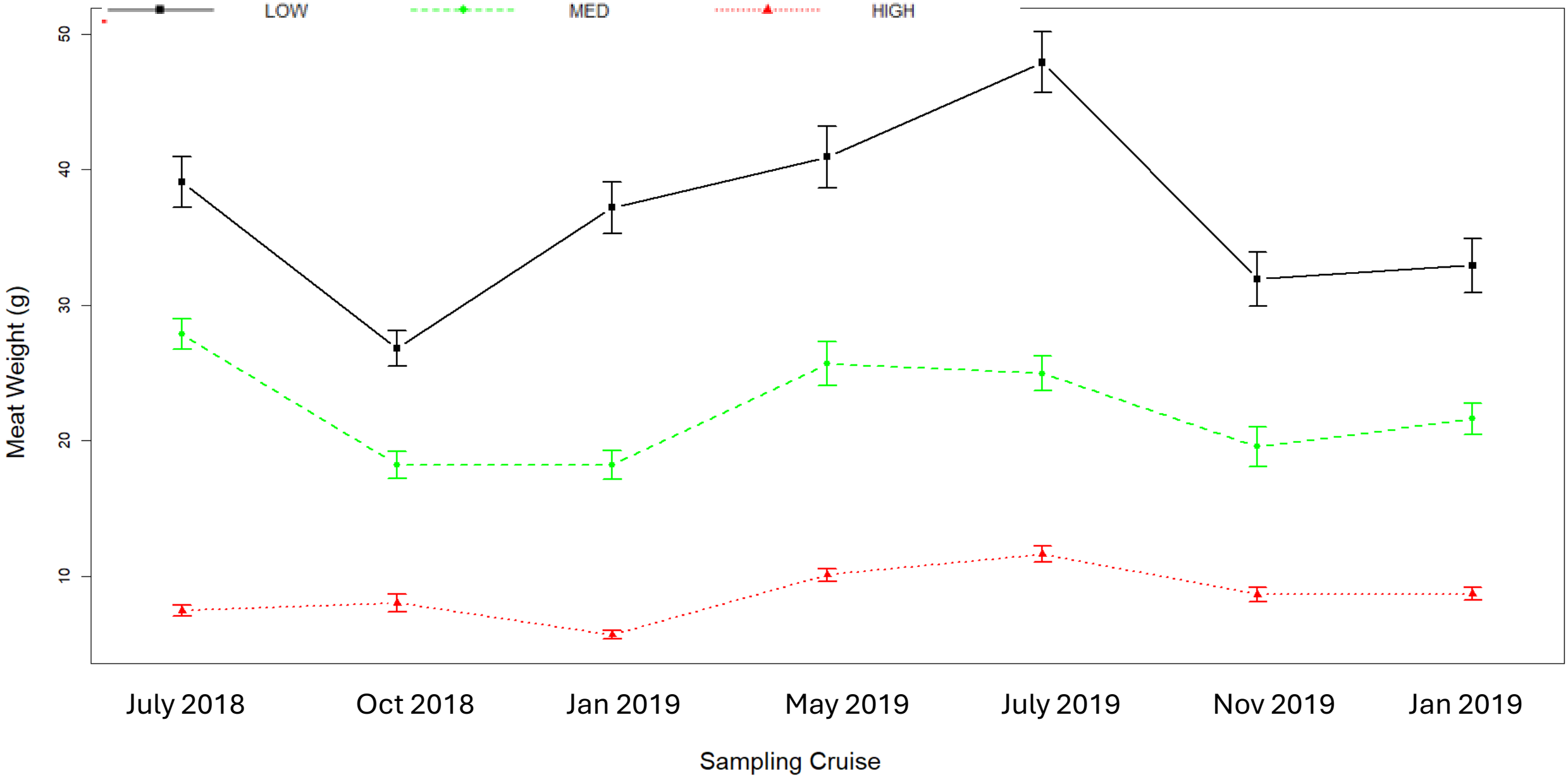
QUESTIONS?

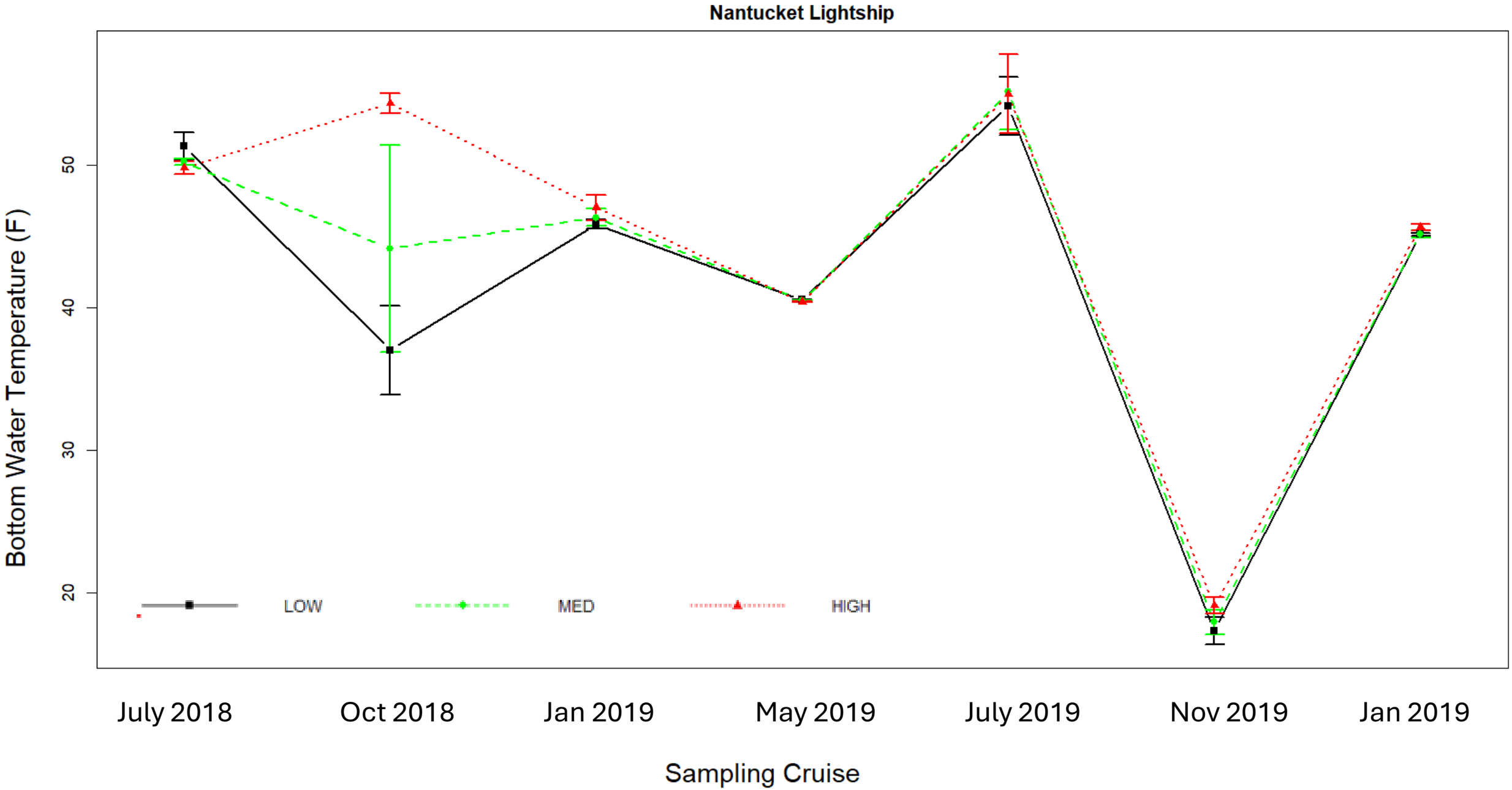
OTHER BUSINESS

EXTRA SLIDES

FY 2027 AND FY 2028 PROJECTIONS

	SAMS/Region	2027 Biomass (mt)	2027 Exploitable (mt)	2028 Biomass (mt)	2028 Exploitable (mt)
Mid-Atlantic	Hudson Canyon South	6292	4369	4809	3036
	Virginia	10	0	11	0
	Elephant Trunk	7067	4280	7998	2797
	Delmarva	212	60	218	64
	New York Bight	3913	2317	3189	2362
	Long Island, Block Island	5184	3383	4120	3146
	MAB-Inshore	108	1	327	43
	Mid-Atlantic Total	**22786**	**14410**	**20672**	**11448**
Georges Bank	CA1-Sliver	1796	807	1624	844
	CA1-Access	554	299	505	238
	CA2-N	3833	2936	3226	1788
	CA2-S	12538	1041	18144	1896
	CA2-Ext	2798	1000	3287	785
	NLS-W	197	115	178	99
	NLS-N	944	606	776	462
	NLS-S	14092	5837	12340	7155
	NLS-Ext	13540	5028	11639	6756
	Great South Channel	5287	2976	7837	2733
	Northern Flank	1605	505	2290	818
	Southern Flank	8162	4028	9262	4198
	Georges Bank Total	**65347**	**25178**	**71108**	**27772**
Gulf of Maine	Stellwagen South (Open)	480	346	449	306
	Stellwagen NGOM	794	463	1225	450
	Jeffreys Ledge	270	227	220	173
	NGOM-Other	492	419	448	290
	WGOM Closure	3177	2774	1812	1670
	Gulf of Maine Total	**4961**	**4229**	**4154**	**2889**


LOW
MED
HIGH
Meat Weight (g)
10
20
30
40
50
July 2018
Oct 2018
Jan 2019
May 2019
July 2019
Nov 2019
Jan 2019
Sampling Cruise


Nantucket Lightship
Bottom Water Temperature (F)
20
30
40
50
LOW
MED
HIGH
July 2018
Oct 2018
Jan 2019
May 2019
July 2019
Nov 2019
Jan 2019
Sampling Cruise

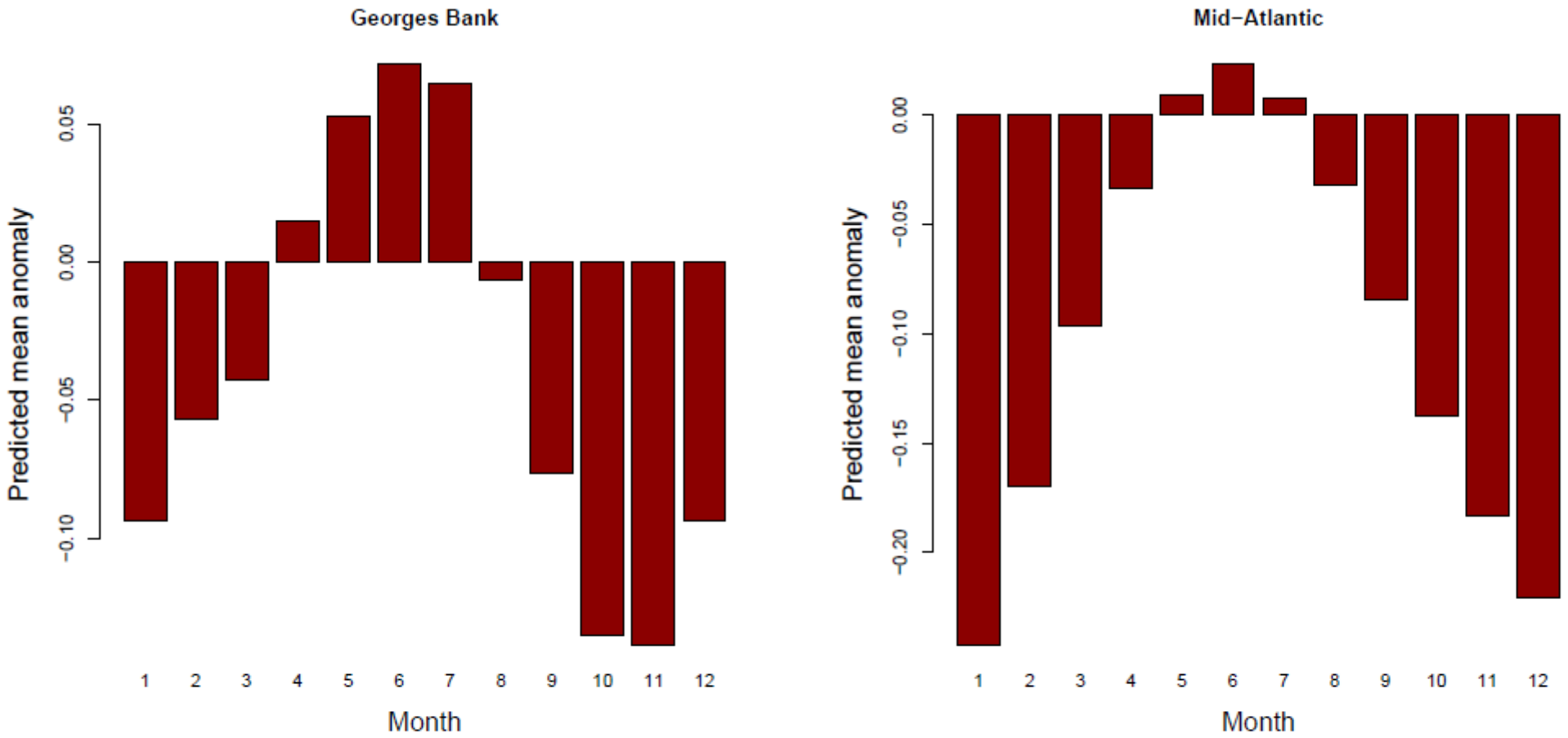
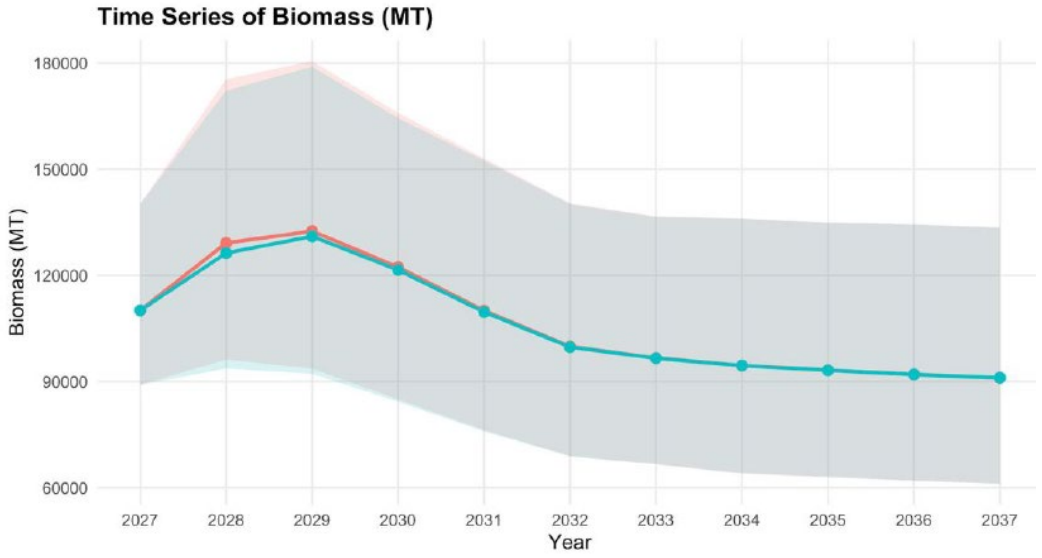
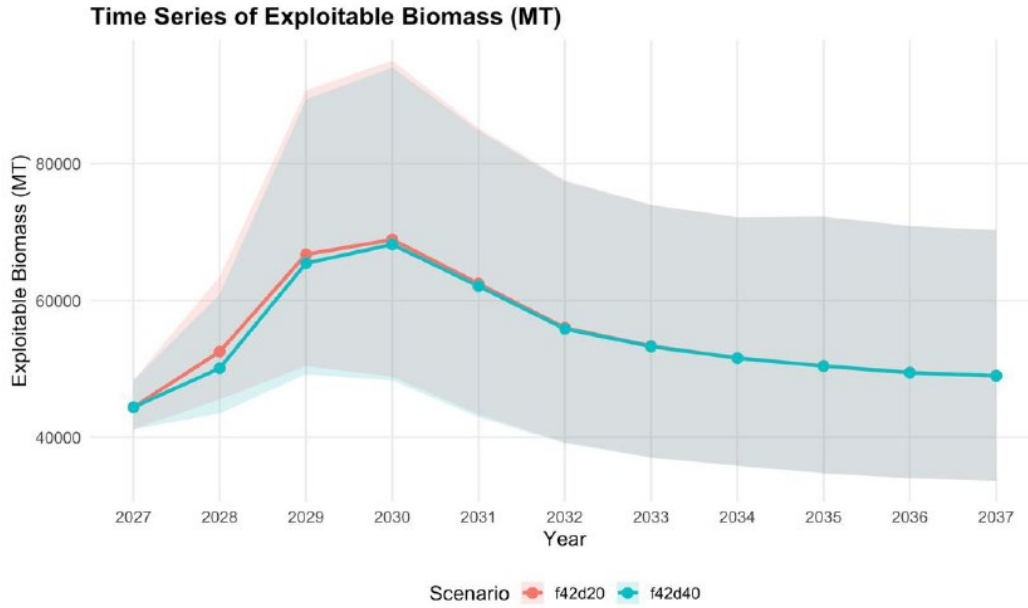


Figure App A2-7: Mean monthly meat weight anomalies on Georges Bank (left) and Mid-Atlantic (right) open areas from GAM predictions.

20 DAS & 15K NLS TRIP VS 40 DAS AND 9K NLS TRIP







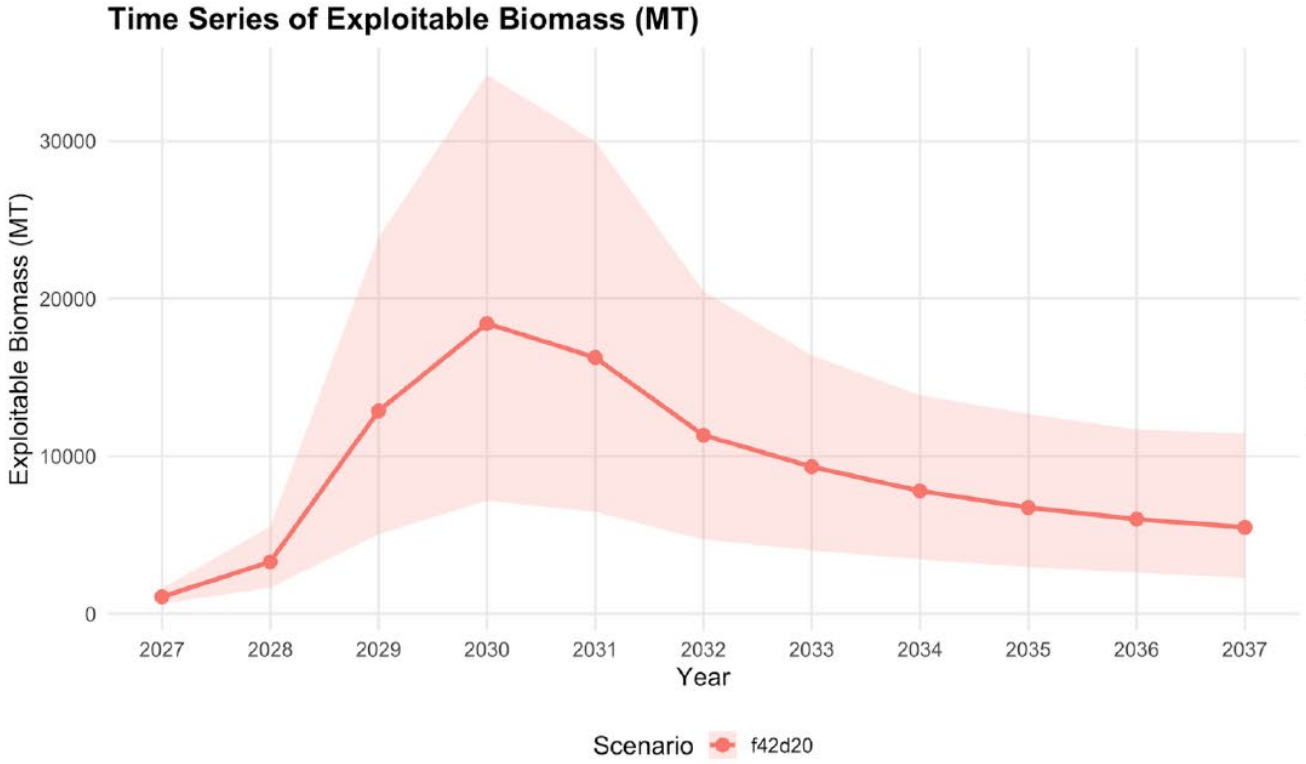
Dvora Hart & Han Chang (NEFSC 2026)

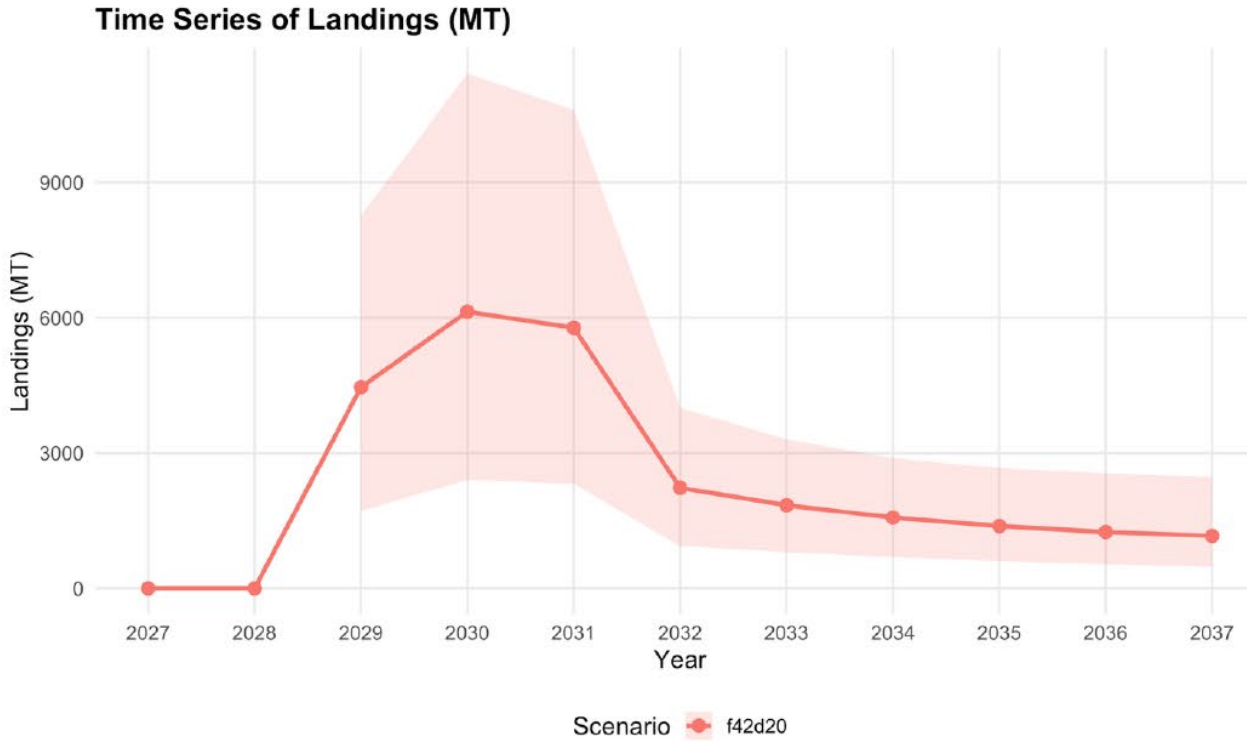
CLOSED AREA II

Most scallops will not reach exploitable size until 2029.

How to best manage Nantucket Lightship resource until Closed Area II is viable?

Dvora Hart & Han Chang (NEFSC 2026)

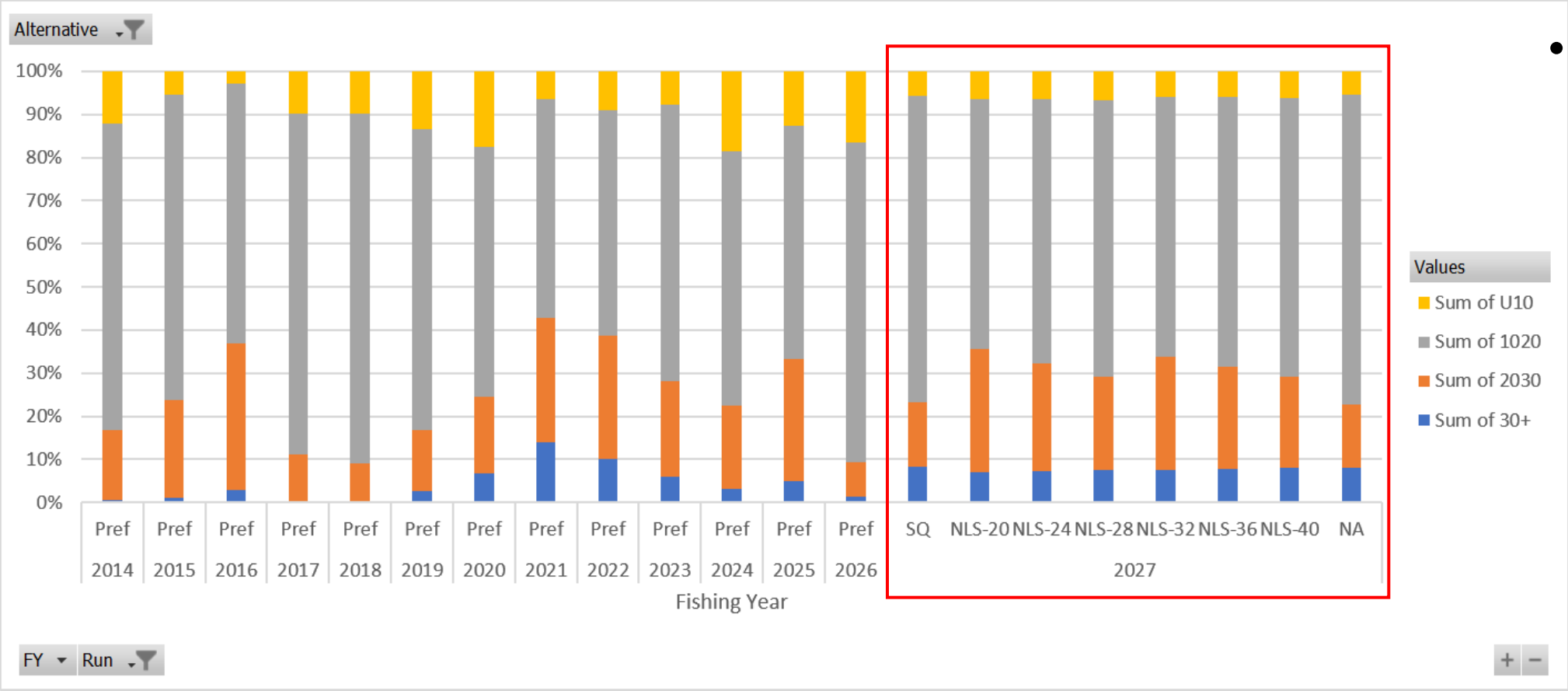




A CLOSED AREA 2 EXAMPLE

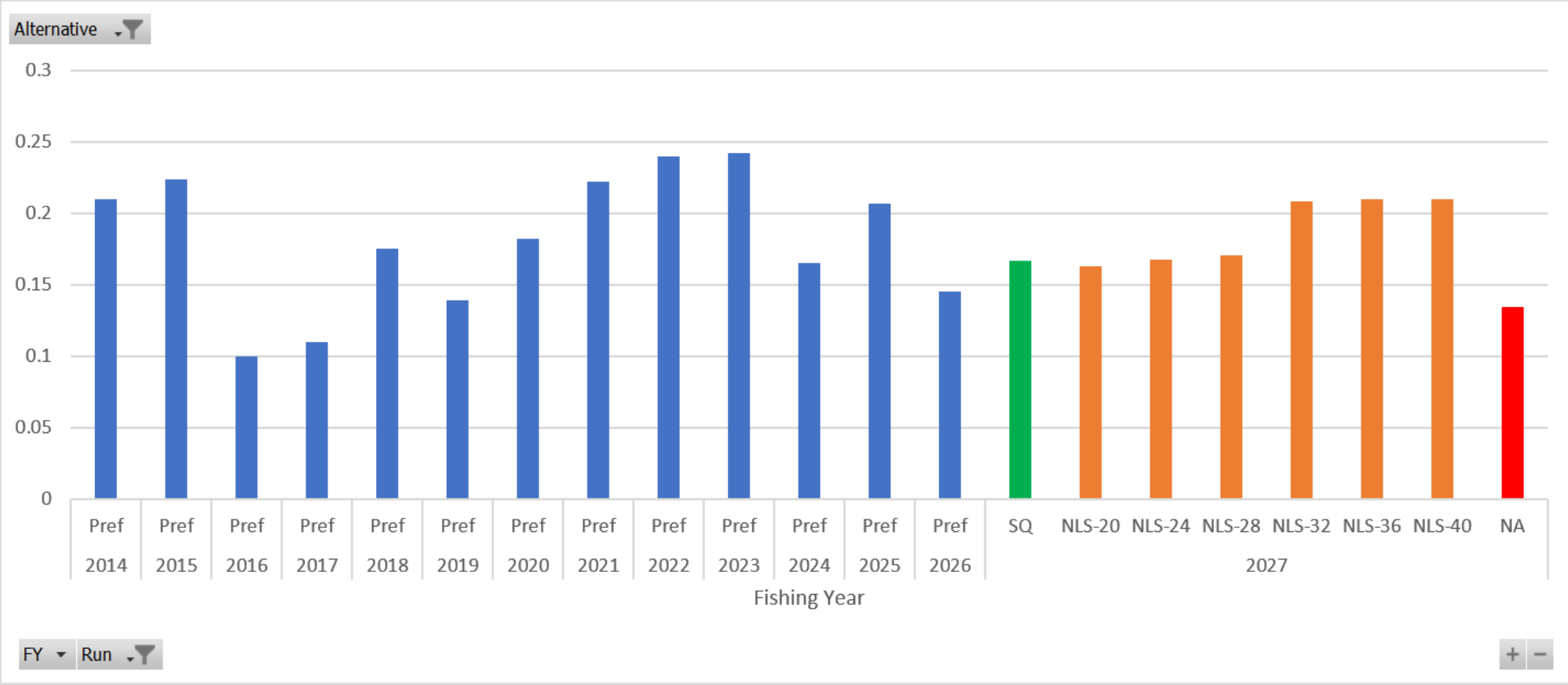
Year	CA2 Allocation	Fishing Mortality			CA2 Exp. Biomass
		CA2-SE	CA2-SW	CA2-Ext	
2021	1x 18k lb	0	0.15	0.12	27,104
2022	2x 15k lb	0	0.28	0.18	22,815
2023	2x 12k lb	0.36	0.36	0.36	13,850
2024	2x 12k lb	0.4	0.4	0.4	9,960
2025	1x 12k lb	0.37	0.37	0.37	5,808
2026	None	0	0	0	1,198

PROJECTED LANDINGS BY MARKET CATEGORY

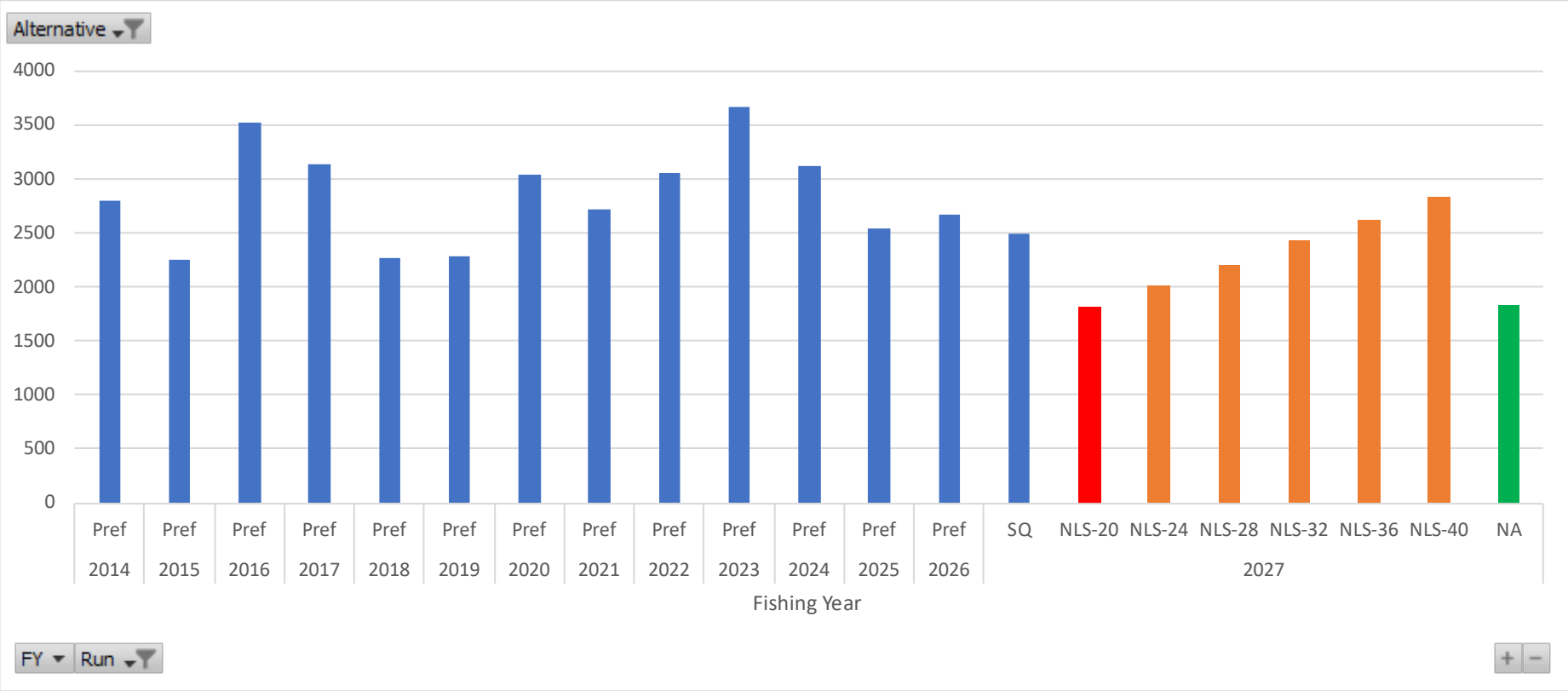


- Increase in proportion of 20-30s with higher NLS AA allocation, and fewer 10-20s.

TOTAL FISHING MORTALITY



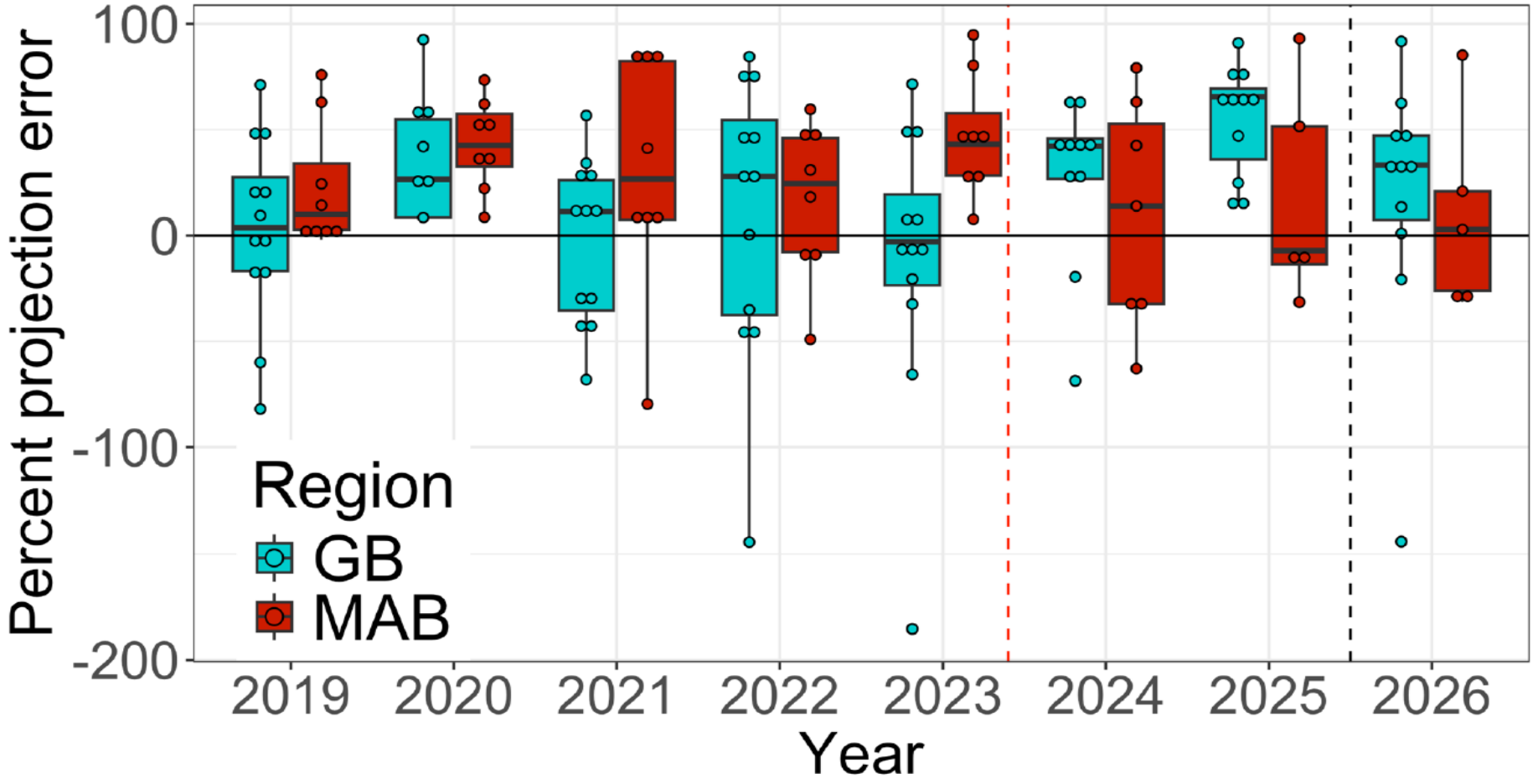
BOTTOM AREA SWEPT



- Bottom area swept will remain at or below recent levels under all options

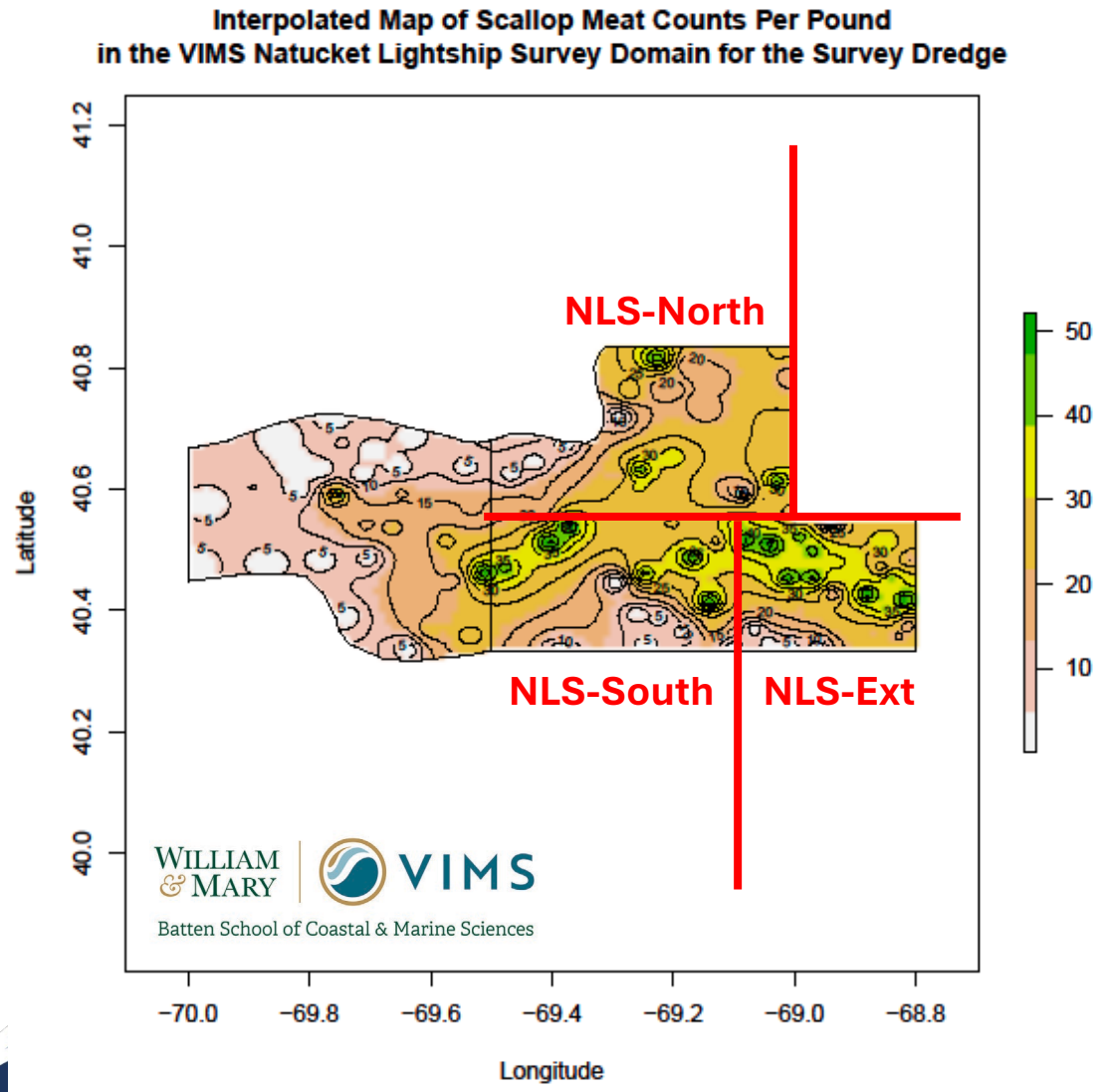
SAMS MODEL PERFORMANCE

D. Hart (NEFSC 2026)



- Mid-Atlantic projection error is minimal, but Georges Bank natural mortality may still be underestimated.
- **PDT will consider an elevated natural mortality sensitivity run for final preferred alternative**

NANTUCKET LIGHTSHIP

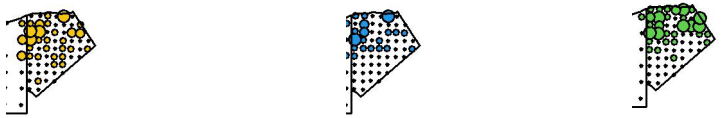


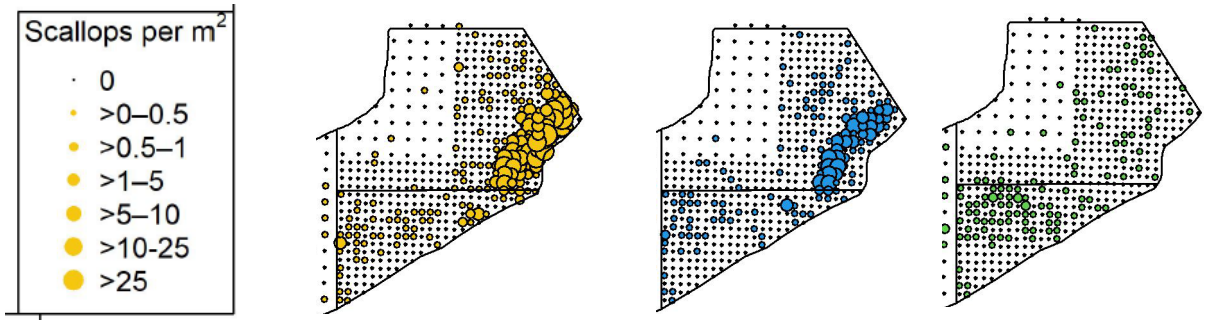
Sub-Area	2026 Biomass	Average Shell Size	Year Classes in the Area	Recruitment ?
NLS North	2.0 mil lbs.	2.5 in.	Multiple	Minor
NLS South	26.2 mil lbs.	3 in.	One	Minor
NLS Extension	24.6 mil lbs.	3 in.	One	Minor

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





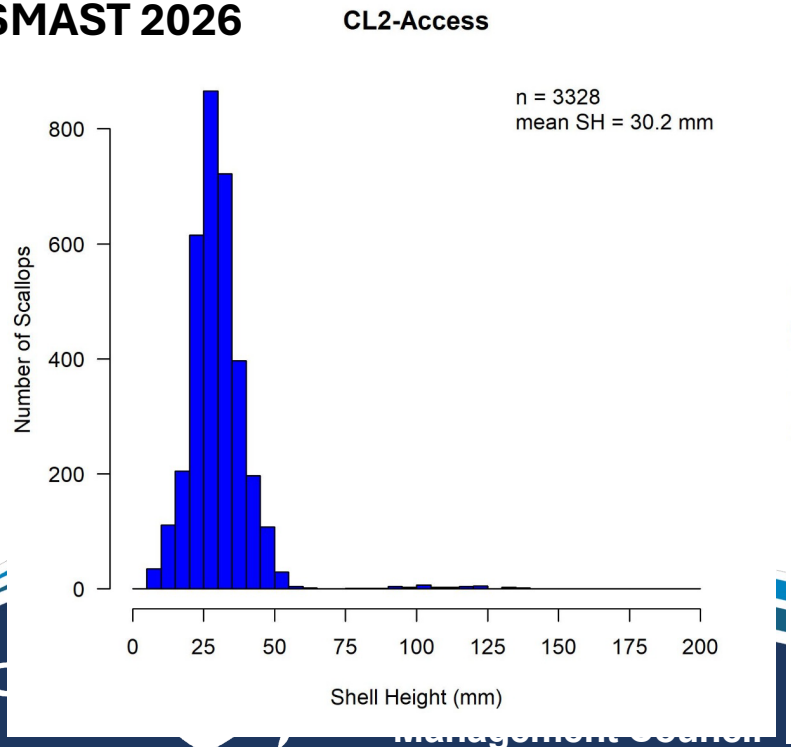
< 35mm

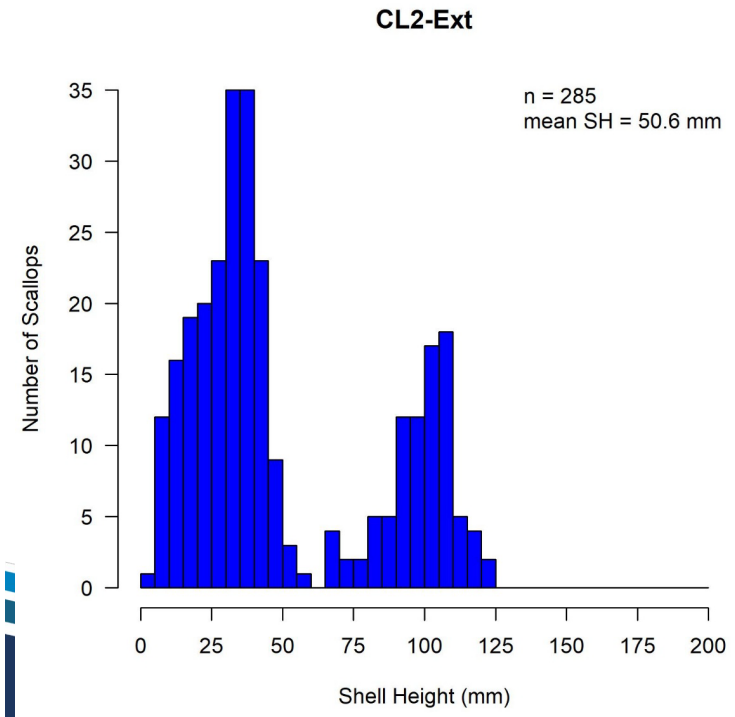
35-75 mm

>75 mm

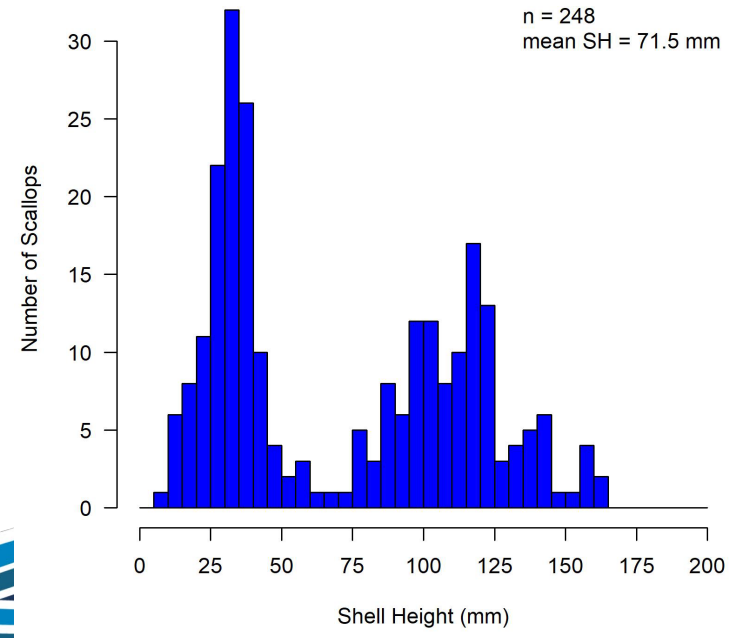
- Scallop PDT input for FY 2027
  - Large recruitment event in Closed Area II Access
  - Recommend continued closure

SMAST 2026





Northern Edge / HAPC



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