

Scallop AP and Committee Meetings



November 19 & 20, 2025
Webinar

Today's AP Meeting:

AGENDA

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 9:00 AM | Welcome and Updates |
| 9:15 | Framework 40 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Receive presentation from Staff on range of alternatives and anticipated impacts. |
| 10:30 | <i>Break</i> |
| 10:45 | Framework 40 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommend preferred alternatives in Framework 40. |
| 12:45 PM | Long-Term Scallop Strategic Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Receive presentation from Staff on the final draft of the Scallop Strategic Plan |
| 1:15 | Other Business |
| 1:30 | Adjourn |

Today's Committee Meeting:

AGENDA

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 9:00 AM | Welcome, Introductions, and Updates |
| 9:15 | Advisory Panel Chair Report |
| 9:30 | Framework 40 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Receive presentation from Staff on range of alternatives and anticipated impacts. |
| 10:30 | <i>Break</i> |
| 10:45 | Framework 40 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommend preferred alternatives in Framework 40. |
| 11:45 | Long-Term Scallop Strategic Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Receive presentation from Staff on the final draft of the Scallop Strategic Plan |
| 12:15 PM | Other Business |
| 12:30 | Adjourn |

FY 2025 Fishery Performance

Limited Access sub-ACL

	OPEN	CA I	CA II	NYB	MONTHLY TOTAL	CUMULATIVE TOTAL	% OF SUB- ACL (35,031,453 lb)	% OF APL (17,041,733 lb)	Observer Set Aside
April	1,091,218	0	118,113	141,786	1,351,117	1,351,117	3.86%	7.93%	19,790
May	3,579,373	173,421	326,420	107,205	4,186,419	5,537,536	15.81%	32.49%	48,649
June	2,046,732	459,217	1,044,236	6,935	3,557,120	9,094,656	25.96%	53.37%	44,767
July	491,346	564,687	1,202,779	0	2,258,812	11,353,468	32.41%	66.62%	43,732
August	654,947	399,974	488,897	0	1,543,818	12,897,286	36.82%	75.68%	18,779
September	819,477	284,231	277,609	245,501	1,626,818	14,524,104	41.46%	85.23%	39,333
October	366,680	37,369	60,890	191,625	656,564	15,180,668	43.33%	89.08%	10,249
November	4,774	0	0	9,600	14,374	15,195,042	43.38%	89.16%	0
TOTAL	9,054,547	1,918,899	3,518,944	702,652	15,195,042				225,299

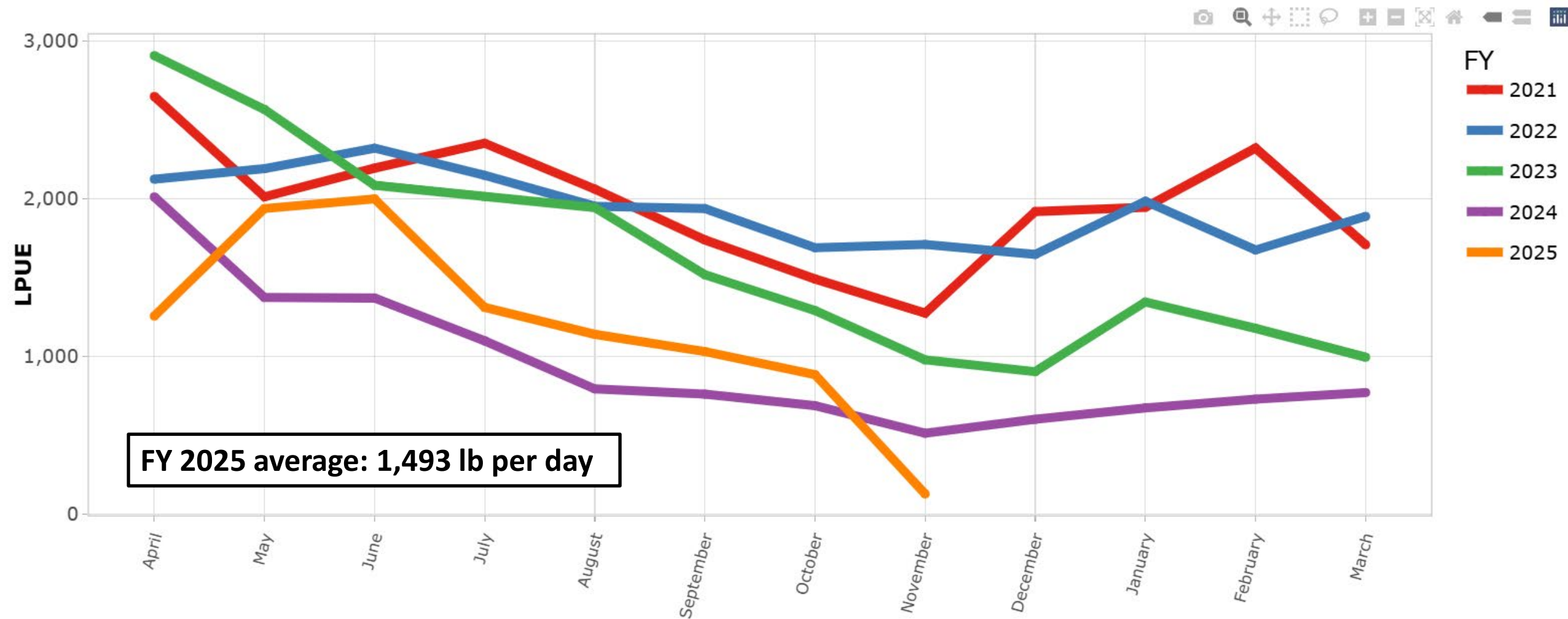
FY 2025 Fishery Performance

	DAS	CUMULATIVE DAS	PERCENT OF ALLOCATION (7,810 days)
April	904	904	11.57%
May	1,863	2,767	35.43%
June	1,040	3,807	48.74%
July	384	4,191	53.66%
August	586	4,777	61.16%
September	825	5,602	71.72%
October	423	6,025	77.15%
November	37	6,062	77.62%

* DAS usage accounts for observer set-aside credits issued to vessels that carry an observer on open area trips.

† Allocation does not include carryover Days at Sea.

FY 2025 Fishery Performance



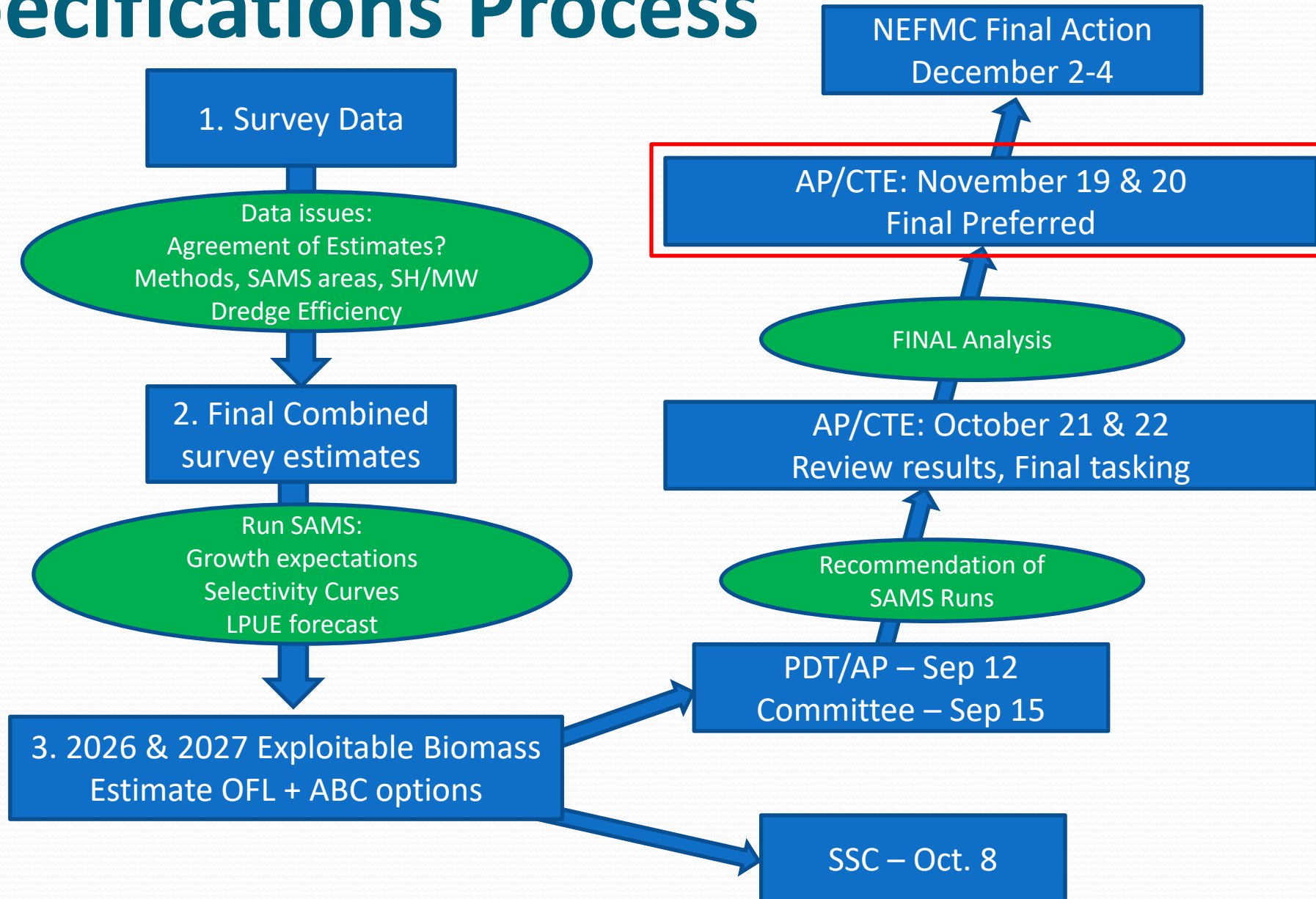
FY 2025 Fishery Performance

Limited Access General Category sub-ACL

	OPEN	CA I	CA II	NGOM	MONTHLY TOTAL (ACL)	CUMULATIVE TOTAL (ACL)	% OF SUB-ACL (1,854,088 lb)	CUMULATIVE TOTAL (APL)	% APL (901,691 lb)	Observer Set Aside
April	34,325	199	0	232,370	34,524	34,524	1.86%	266,894	29.6%	3,900
May	113,978	27,745	0	0	141,723	176,247	9.51%	408,617	45.32%	1,400
June	43,110	133,173	0	0	176,283	352,530	19.01%	584,900	64.87%	2,800
July	41,258	122,638	0	0	163,896	516,426	27.85%	748,796	83.04%	3,100
August	32,802	73,742	0	0	106,544	622,970	33.6%	855,340	94.86%	1,100
September	26,530	20,825	0	0	47,355	670,325	36.15%	902,695	100.11%	2,900
October	10,213	2,272	0	0	12,485	682,810	36.83%	915,180	101.5%	1,800
November	5,102	98	0	0	5,200	688,010	37.11%	920,380	102.07%	0
TOTAL	307,318	380,692	0	232,370	688,010					17,000

* ACL/APL does not include 155,162 Carryover pounds

Specifications Process



Framework 40 Actions

1. Overfishing limit and acceptable biological catch (Section 4.1)
2. Northern Gulf of Maine total allowable landings in FY 2026 and FY 2027 (Section 4.2)
3. Fishery specifications for FY 2026 and FW 2027 (default), including access area and DAS allocations (Section 4.3)
4. LAGC IFQ access area trip allocations (Section 4.4)

AP and Committee: Refer to Document 3a (FW40 Decision Document)

Anticipated Outcomes

1. Select the *preferred alternative* for overfishing limits and acceptable biological catches (Section 4.1)
2. Select the *preferred alternative* for Northern Gulf of Maine total allowable landings in FY 2026 and FY 2027 (Section 4.2.1).
3. Consider any modifications to the specification alternatives in Section 4.3. If changes are recommended, they should be made as a motion.
4. Select the *preferred alternative* for fishery specifications for FY 2026 and FY 2027 (default) including access area and DAS allocations (Section 4.3).
5. Select the *preferred alternative* for LAGC IFQ access area trip allocations (Section 4.4).
6. Develop motions or consensus statements to move measures that were not selected as *preferred* to considered but rejected.

Framework 40: Purpose and Need

- **Need:**

- Prevent overfishing
- Improve yield per recruit
- Manage total removals from NGOM

- **Purpose:**

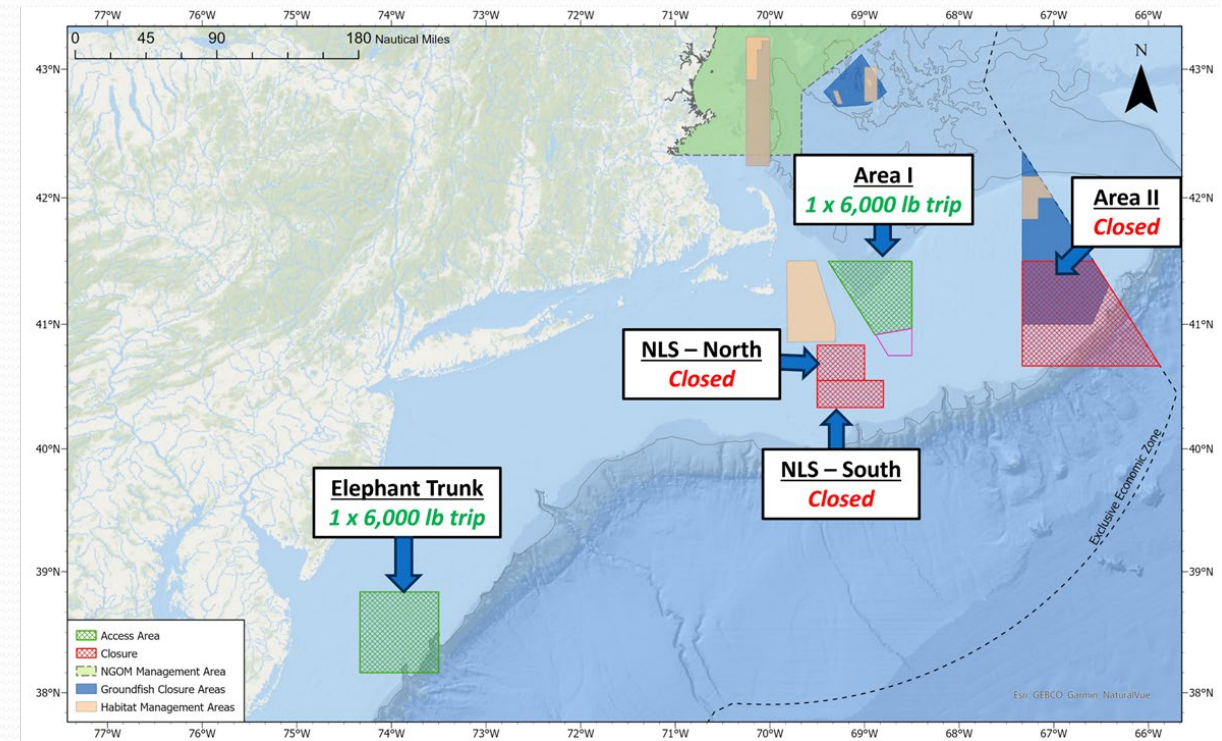
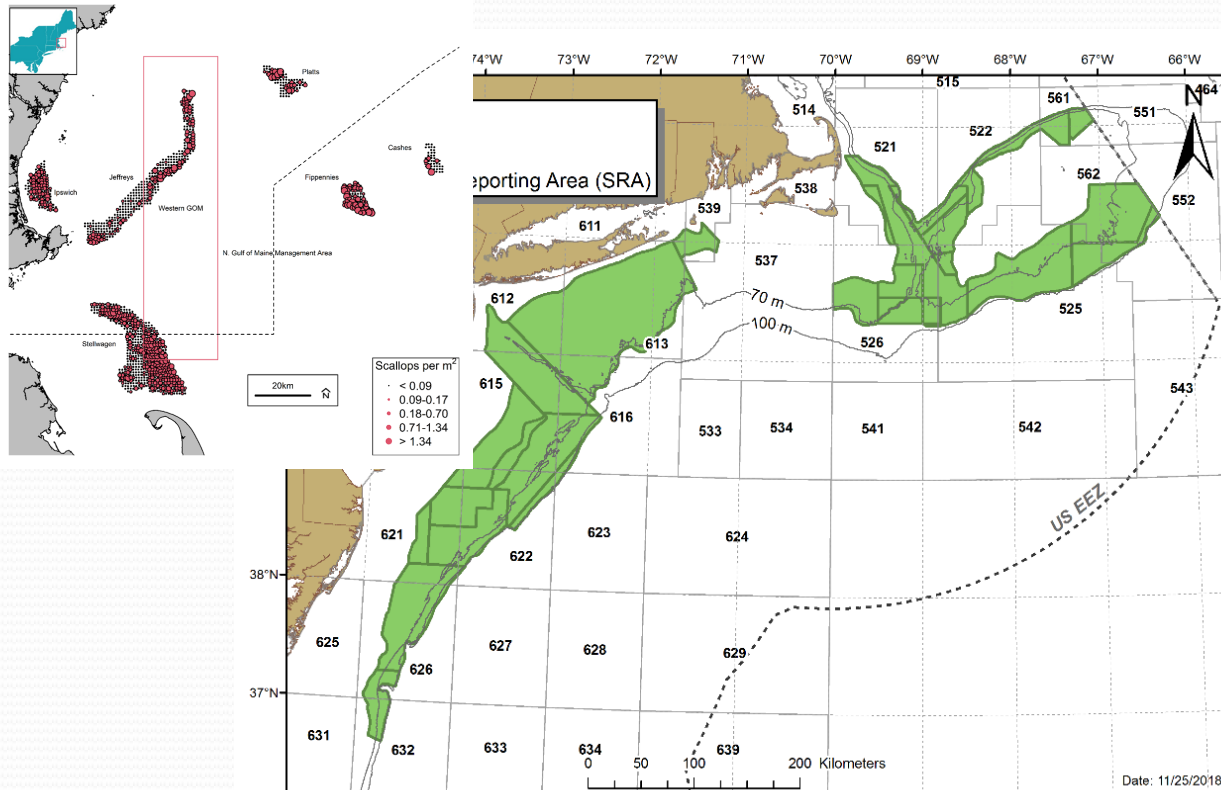
- Set Specifications, including Annual Projected Landings
- Set landings limits from NGOM based on biomass

Proposed FY 2025 ABC/ACL (F=0.36)

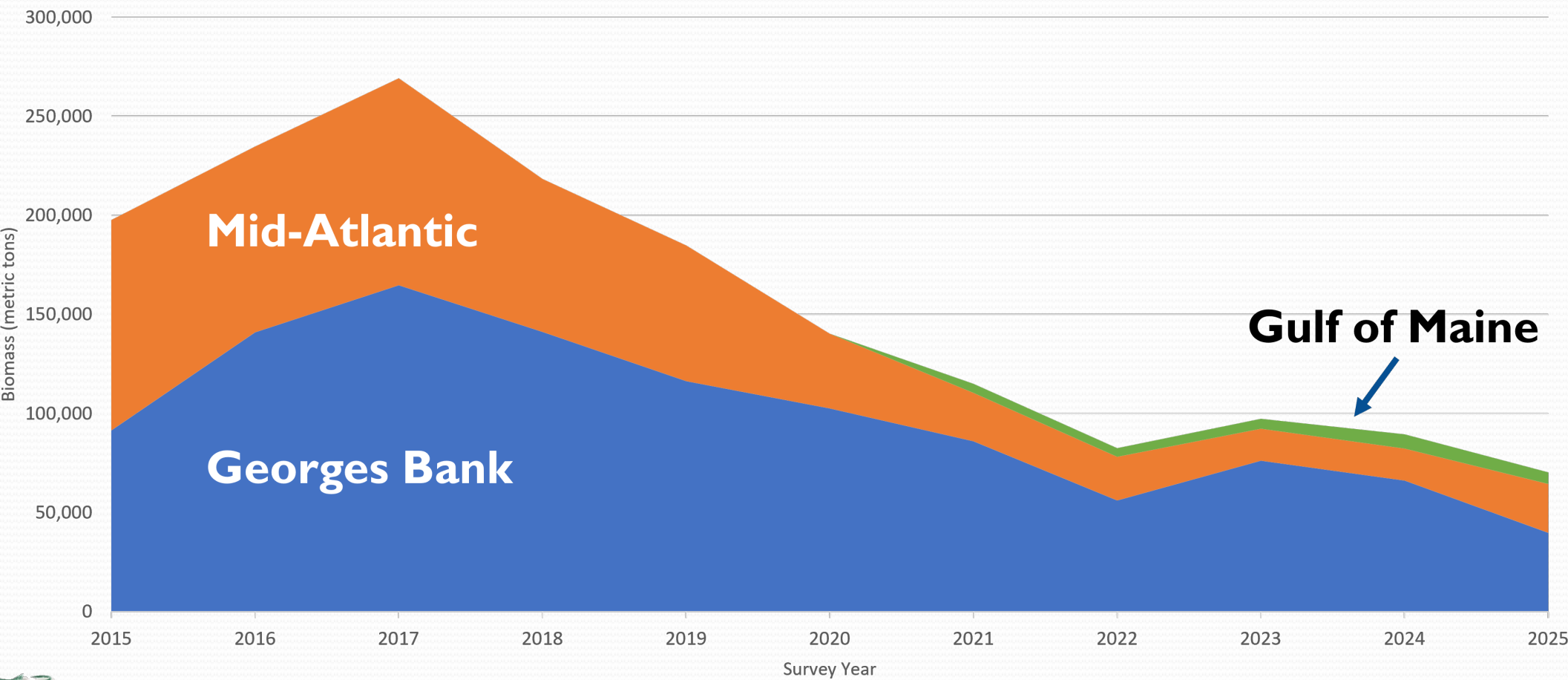
34 million lbs

Spatial Management FY 2026 Possible Landings

14.5-19.3 million lbs



Georges Bank and Mid-Atlantic Biomass Estimates (2015 – 2025)

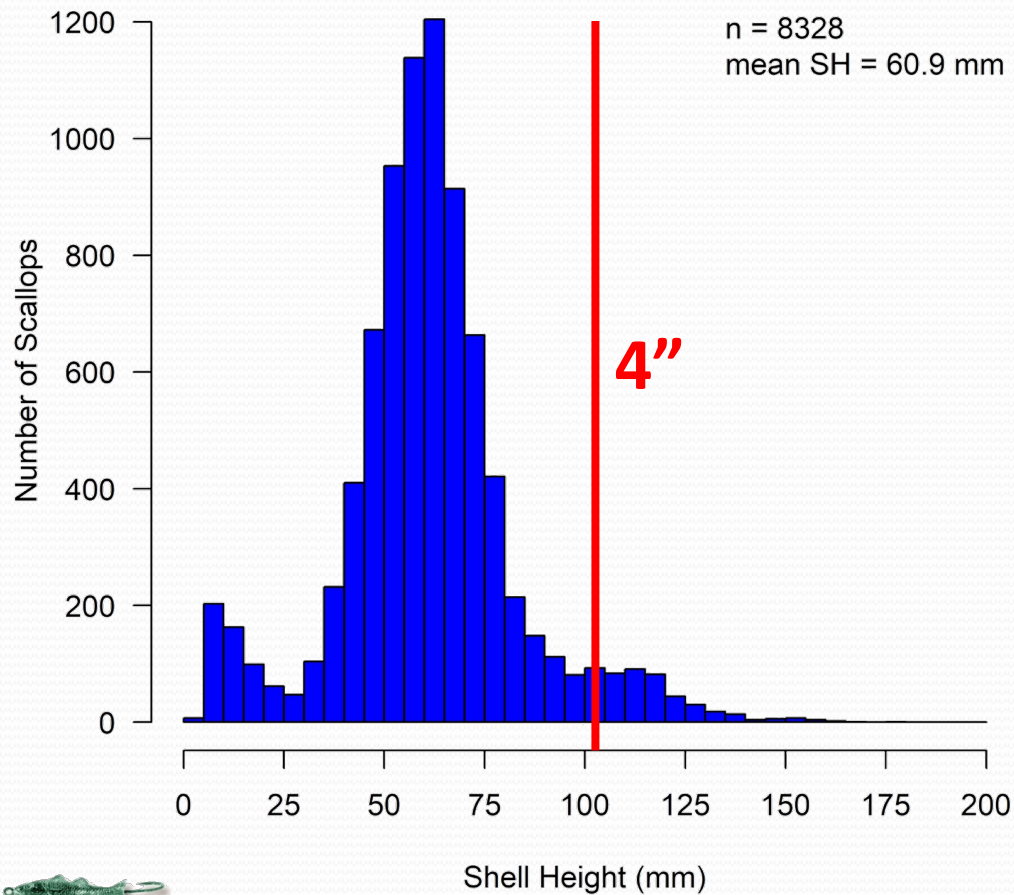


Outlook for the Scallop Resource – 2025 Surveys

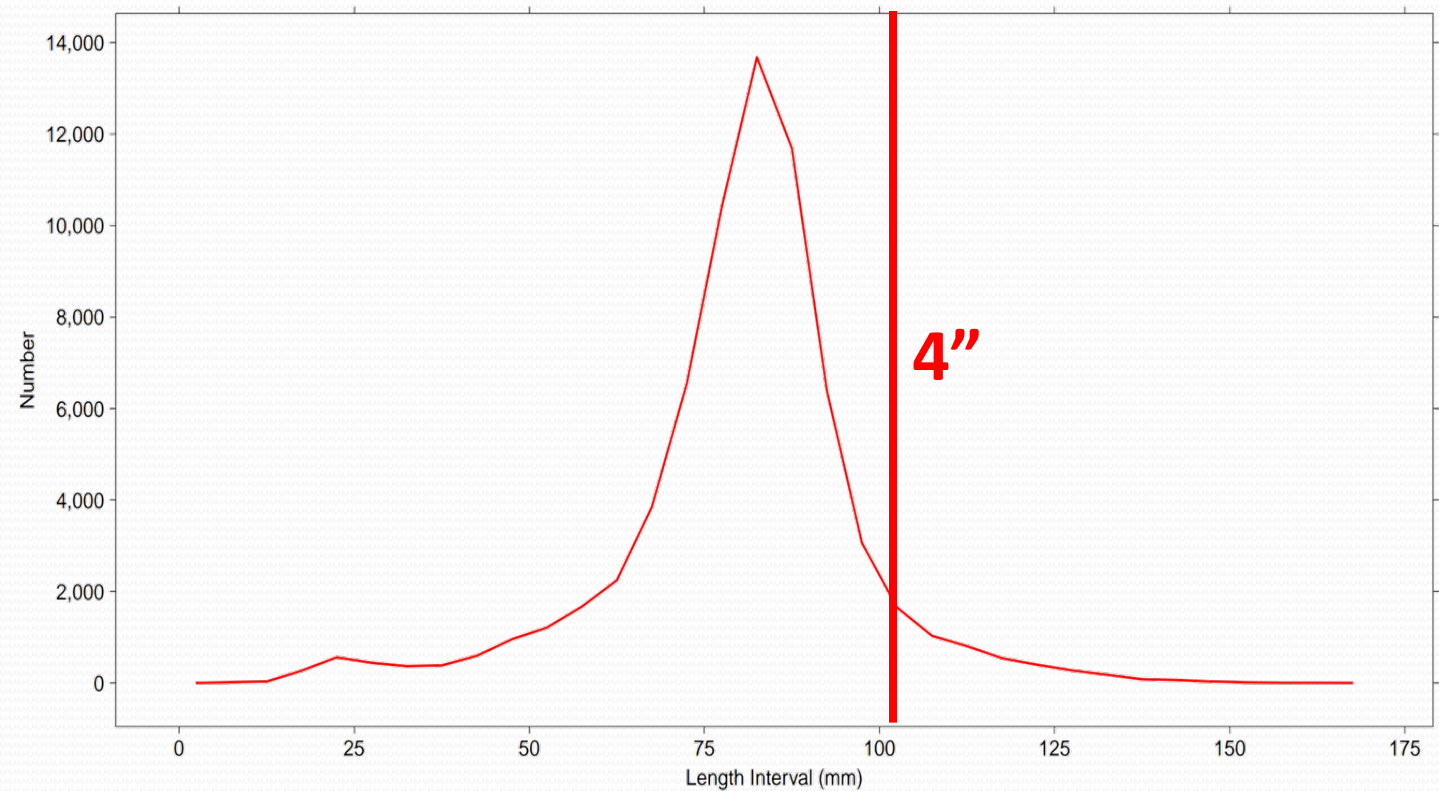
- **54% of the biomass on Georges Bank, 38% in the Mid-Atlantic, 8% in Gulf of Maine**
 - Decline in biomass in Area I and Area II regions.
 - Continued growth of large year class in Nantucket Lightship South – 47% of total scallop abundance and 27% of total scallop biomass.
 - Mid-Atlantic biomass increased overall, driven by growth in the Elephant Trunk & Hudson Canyon South, and recruitment in Block Island and Long Island.
- **71% of the scallops are on Georges Bank, 27% in the Mid-Atlantic, 2% in the Gulf of Maine**
 - No strong recruitment observed. Moderate recruitment noted in the Southern Flank, Northern Flank, Closed Area II-North, Nantucket Lightship South, Block Island, and Long Island.
 - Majority of animals on Georges Bank and Mid-Atlantic are 3 years old and will largely be unavailable to the fishery before 2027.

Size-Distribution of the Scallop Resource

Georges Bank all (SMAST 2025)



Mid-Atlantic all (VIMS 2025)



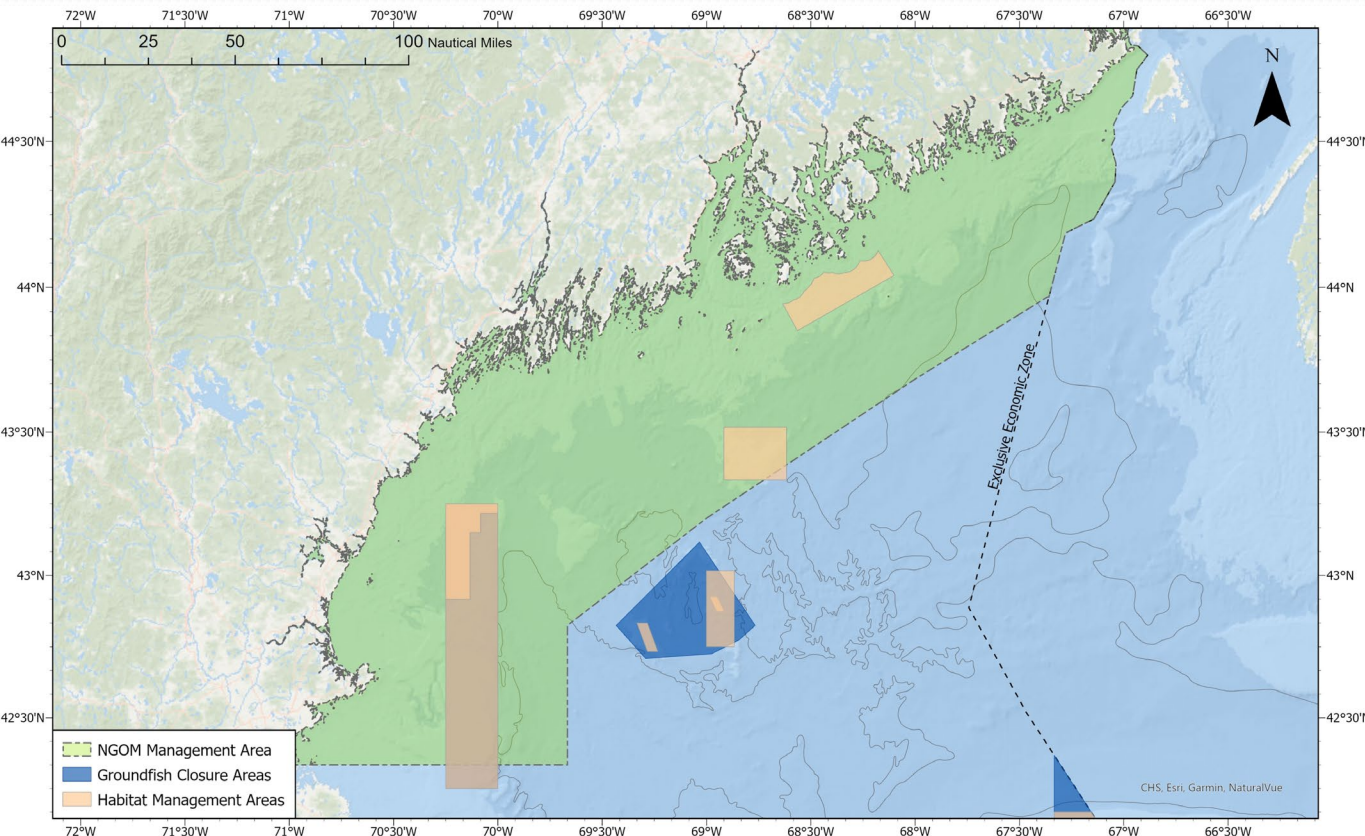
Section 4.1 – Action 1 – Overfishing Limit and Acceptable Biological Catch <i>Choose one alternative.</i>		Preferred by		
		PDT	AP	CTE
Alternative 1 (Sec. 4.1.1)	No Action (default OFL and ABC for FY 2026 from Framework 39)			
Alternative 2 (Sec. 4.1.2)	Updated OFL and ABC for FY 2026 and FY 2027.	X		
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider				
Action 1 considers updating OFL and ABC estimates using the most recent survey information and updated reference points from the 2025 scallop research track assessment. The SSC recommended updated OFL and ABC values for 2026 and 2027 (default) at its meeting on Oct. 8, 2025. The Atlantic sea scallop stock is not overfished, and overfishing is not occurring.				
Other important Considerations/Draft EA References				
- Biological impacts: Section 6.2.2 - Economic impacts: Section 6.6.1.2				

Section 4.2 - NGOM TAL

- Year 5 of TAL sharing arrangement, set-asides for observers and research (A21)
- Impacts: Consider where fishing is likely to occur
- 2027 default measures based on 50% of 2026 NGOM Set-Aside
- **Alternative 1:** Default FY 2026 set-aside = 507k lb (*Overall $F=0.22$*)
- **Alternative 2:** Set NGOM TAL by applying $F=0.25$ to NGOM-Stellwagen only (*Overall $F=0.11$*).
 - Large decline in NGOM harvest – lowest since A21.
- **Alternative 3:** Split NGOM management unit and set separate set-asides for NGOM-Stellwagen @ $F=0.25$ and NGOM-North @ $F=0.18$ (*Overall $F=0.21$*)
 - NGOM-Stellwagen opening on April 1, NGOM-North opening after projected closure of NGOM-Stellwagen.
 - 50% of total RSA/observer contribution from each area
 - ***PDT does not recommend this alternative, but notes this is a proposed 2026 work priority.***
 - ***Delays in implementation of FW40 would eliminate benefit of Alternative 3 in FY 2026***

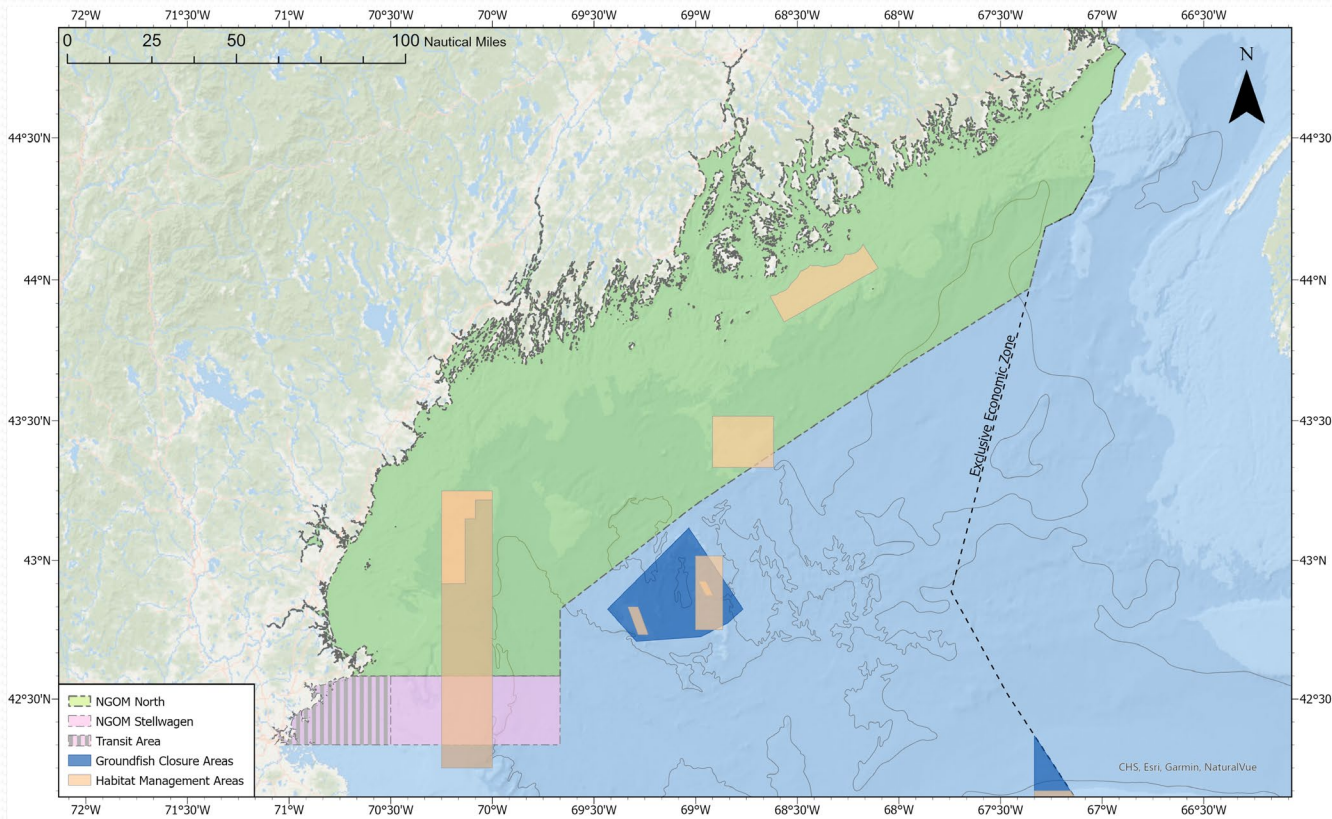
	NGOM 2026 Exploitable Biomass	2026 (mt)	2026 (lbs)		
	Stellwagen-NGOM	523	1,153,018		
	Ipswich	127	279,987		
	NGOM-Other	500	1,102,311		
B	ABC (F=0.29 all NGOM areas)	902	1,988,570		
		No Action	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	SQ
	Fishing Mortality Rate	75% (F=0.22)	0.11	0.21	0.18
	Area(s) Fished	N/A	NGOM-Stellwagen (F=0.25)	NGOM-Stellwagen (F=0.25), NGOM-North (F=0.18)	All areas
C	Total Allowable Landings		255,047	482,752	417,642
D	1% NGOM ABC for Observers	19,886	19,886	19,886	19,886
E	RSA Contribution	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
F	NGOM Set-Aside	507,063	204,694	437,866	372,756
	No 2024 Overage - No AM				
	2026 NGOM Set-Aside	507,063	204,694	437,866	372,756
	2026 NGOM-Stellwagen Set-Aside			232,604	
	2026 NGOM-North Set-Aside			205,263	
	50% - 2027 (Default) NGOM Set-Aside		102,347	218,933	
	2027 NGOM-Stellwagen Set-Aside			116,302	
	2027 NGOM-North Set-Aside			102,631	

NGOM TAL: Alternative 2



- No sub-area catch limits
- $F=0.25$ using exp. biomass from Stellwagen Bank only.
- *NGOM Open $F=0.11$*
- **FY 2026 Set-Aside = 204,694 lb**
- **FY 2026 revenue = \$0.82 million**

NGOM TAL: Alternative 3

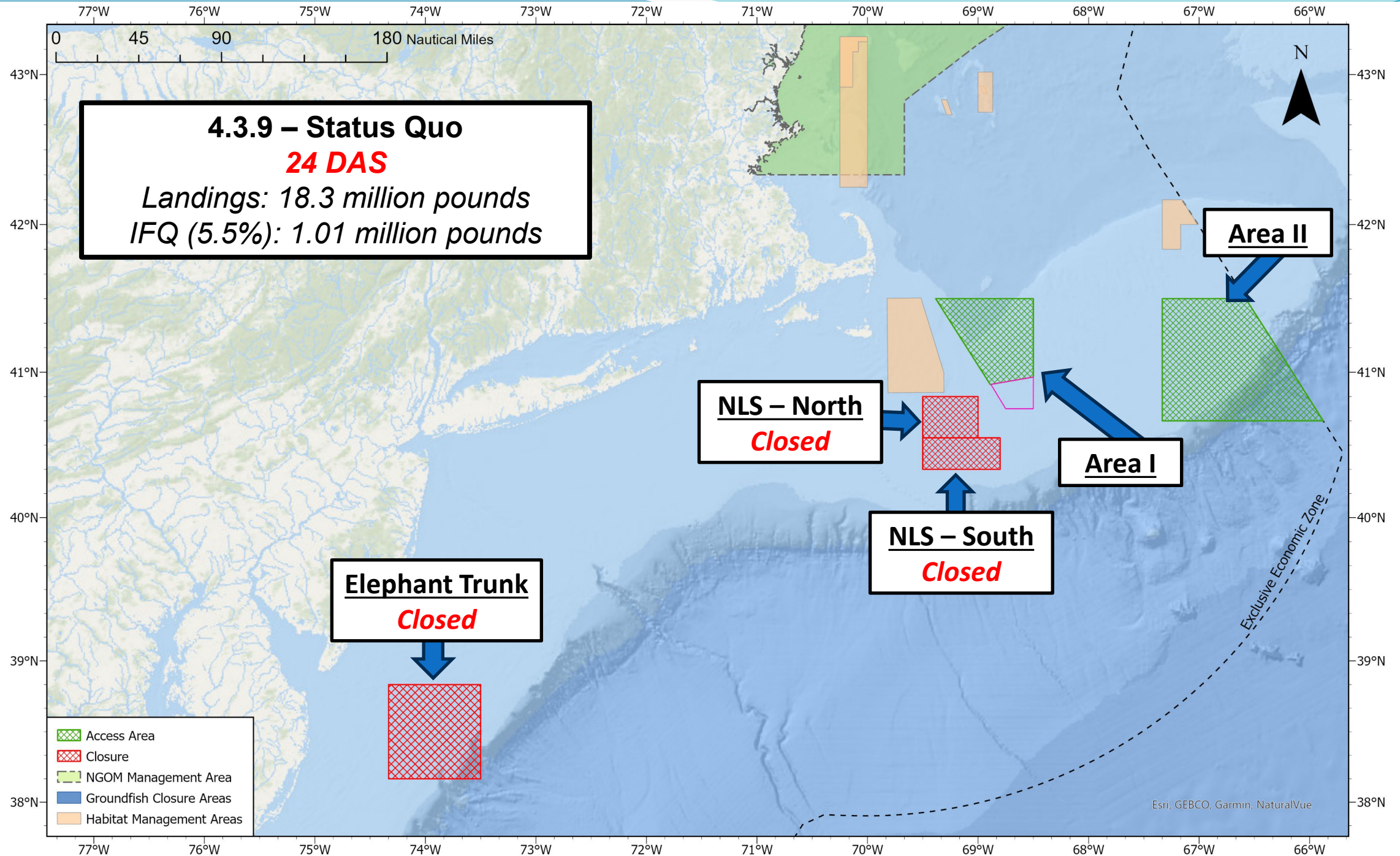


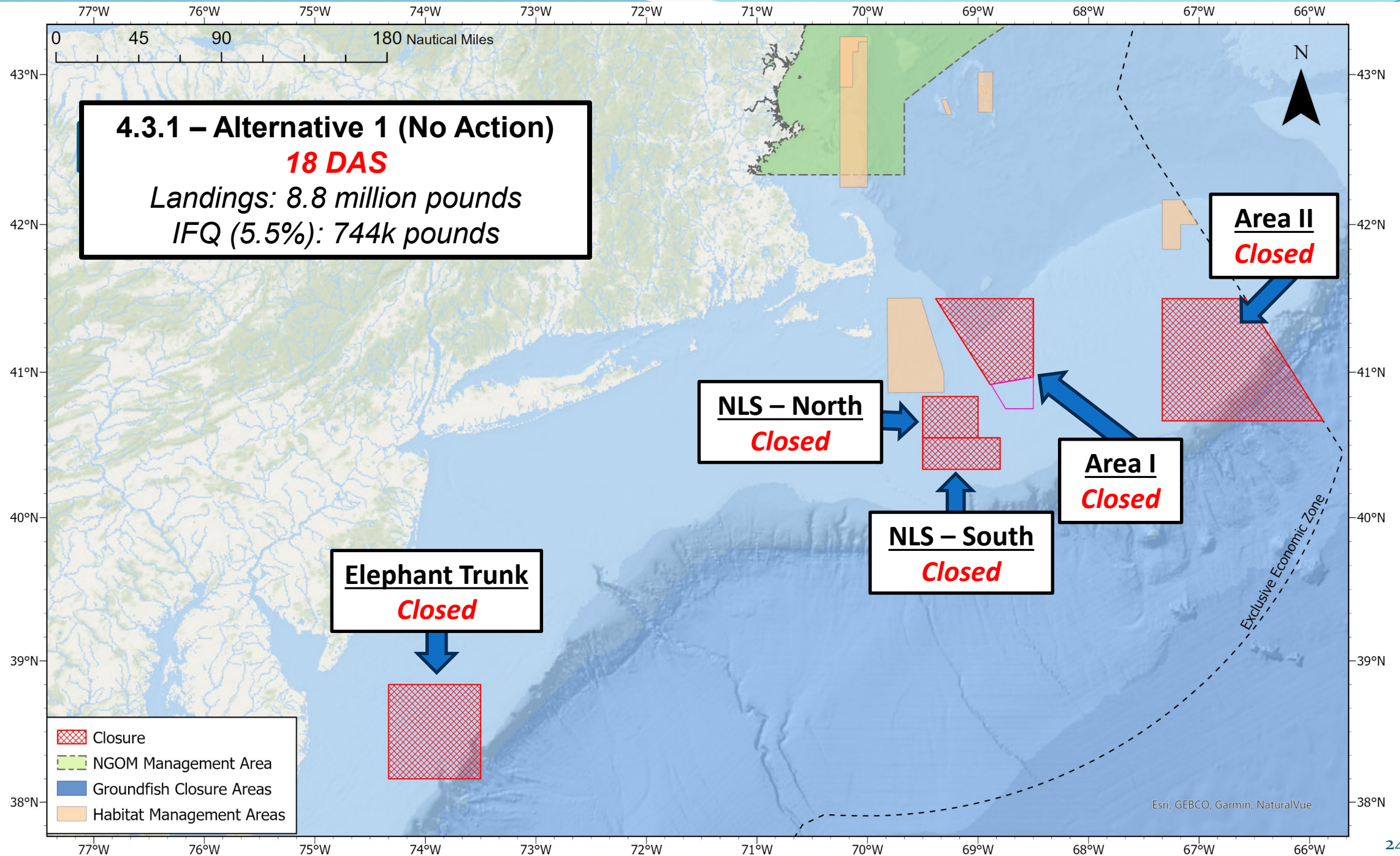
- Straight boundary across 41°35'N to eastern boundary of NGOM
- Transit area west of Stellwagen Bank 70°30'W
- NGOM-Stellwagen $F=0.25$
 - **FY 2026 set-aside = 232,604 lb**
- NGOM-North $F=0.18$
 - **FY 2026 set-aside = 205,263 lb**
- *NGOM Open* $F=0.21$
- **FY 2026 Revenue = \$1.76 million**

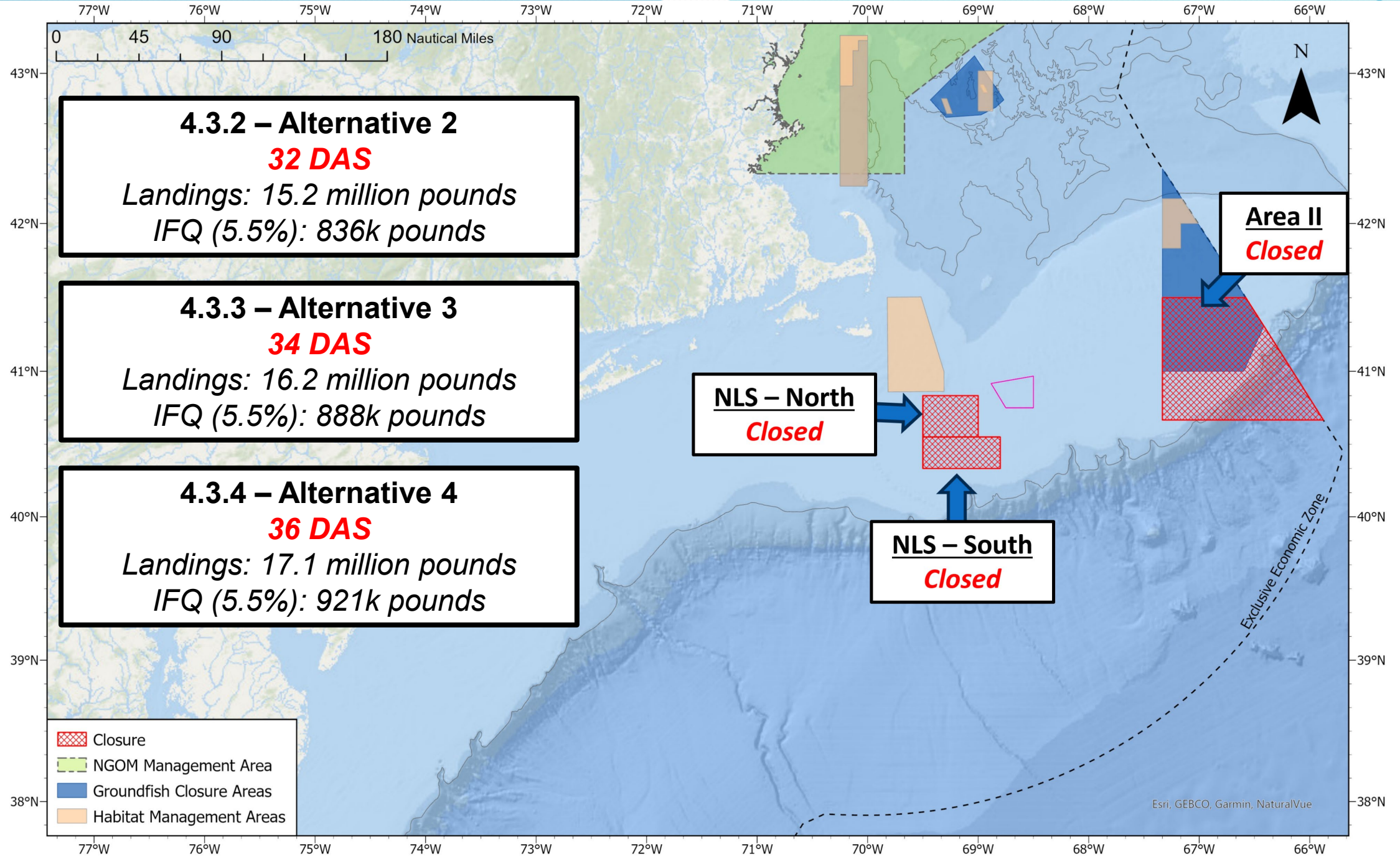
Economic Impacts (in mil. 2024 dollars) of NGOM TAL alternatives

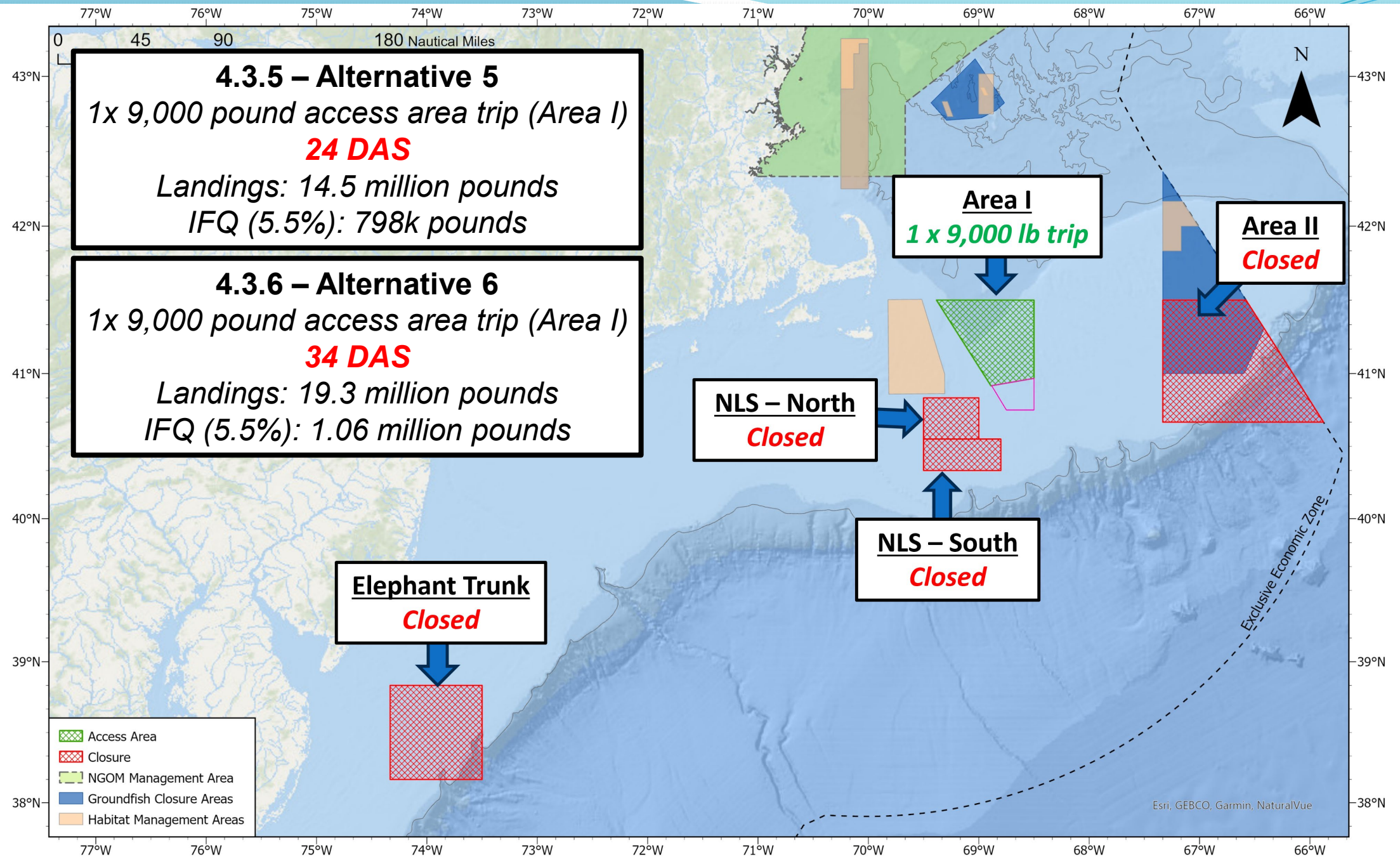
Description	No Action	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Status Quo
	75%	F=0.25	F=0.21	F=0.18
Area(s) Fished		NGOM-Stellwagen	NGOM-Stellwagen (F=0.25), NGOM-Other (F=0.18)	All areas
2026 Total Allowable Landings	-	255,047	482,752	417,642
1% NGOM ABC for Observers	19,886	19,886	19,886	19,886
RSA Contribution	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
2026 NGOM Set-Aside	507,063	204,694	437,866	372,756
Impacts of the NGOM Set-Aside:				
NGOM Revenue	\$9.22	\$3.72	\$7.96	\$6.78
DAS	2,535	1,023	2,189	1,864
Trip Costs	\$2.04	\$0.82	\$1.76	\$1.50
Net Revenue	\$7.19	\$2.90	\$6.21	\$5.28
Net Revenue net of No Action	\$0.00	-\$4.29	-\$0.98	-\$1.90

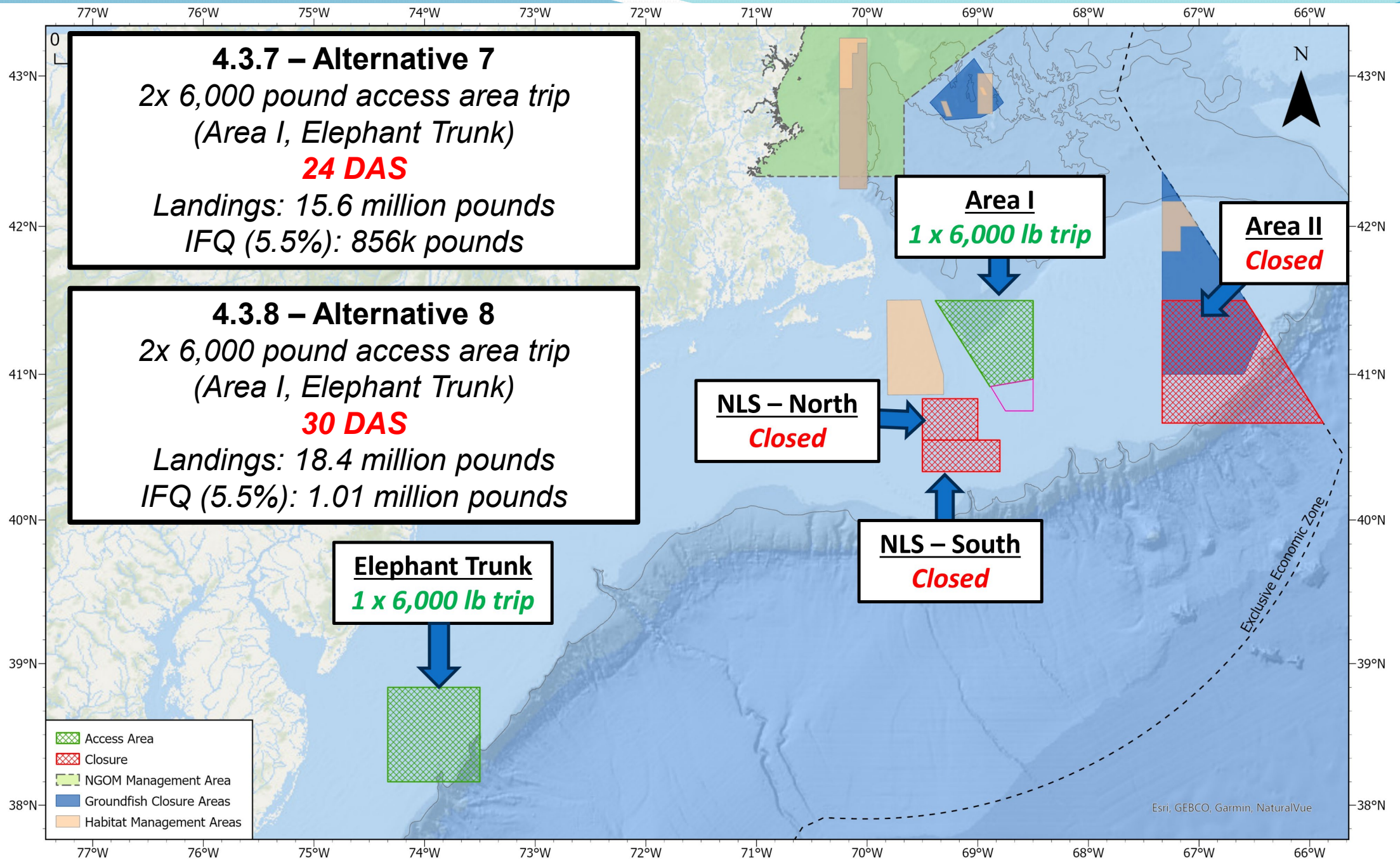
Section 4.2 – Action 2 – Northern Gulf of Maine Management and TAL Setting Section 4.2.1 – Northern Gulf of Maine TAL Setting		Preferred by		
		PDT	AP	CTE
Alternative 1 (Sec. 4.2.1.1)	No Action <i>FW39 Default NGOM Set-Aside set at 507,063 pounds.</i>			
Alternative 2 (Sec. 4.2.1.2)	<i>Set NGOM TAL at F=0.25 (NGOM-Stellwagen only), with set-asides to support research, monitoring, and a directed LAGC fishery</i> TAL= 255,047 lb, NGOM Set-Aside = 204,694 lb, 2027 Default = 102,347			
Alternative 3 (Sec. 4.2.1.3)	<i>Set TALs for NGOM-Stellwagen at F=0.25 and NGOM-North at F=0.18, with set-asides to support research, monitoring, and a directed LAGC fishery</i> TAL = 482,752 lb, NGOM-Stellwagen Set-Aside = 232,604 lb, NGOM-North Set-Aside= 205,263 lb 2027 NGOM-Stellwagen Default = 116,302 lb, 2027 NGOM-North Default = 102,631 lb			
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider				
<i>The PDT does not recommend Alternative 3.</i> The PDT considered that with the lack of NOAA support for analysis and implementation, Alternative 3 is likely not feasible for implementation in FY 2026. The PDT notes that the fishing mortality rate and resulting FY 2026 NGOM Set-Aside under Alternative 2 would be low relative to the FY 2025 NGOM Set-Aside, but would effectively limit fishing effort on Stellwagen Bank. The PDT also notes that currently, only the SMAST drop camera survey is scheduled to survey the Gulf of Maine in 2026. Without the ME DMR dredge survey in the area, there is likely to be additional uncertainty in NGOM biomass estimates, particularly in the area defined as NGOM-North. Stellwagen Bank holds high densities of scallops in the management unit and is where most of the fishing is expected to occur in 2026, but the PDT notes that there is a similar level of exploitable biomass between Ipswich Bay, Jeffreys Ledge, Platts Bank, and Machias Seal Island. The PDT notes that there have been higher levels of mortality in high density areas, such as the NLS-West and NLS-South. Scallops in the Stellwagen area are 9 years old and likely have little growth potential. The Council’s preferred alternative was F=0.18 in FW39.				
Other important Considerations/Draft EA References				
- Biological impacts: Section 6.2.2 - Economic impacts: Section 6.6.1.2				











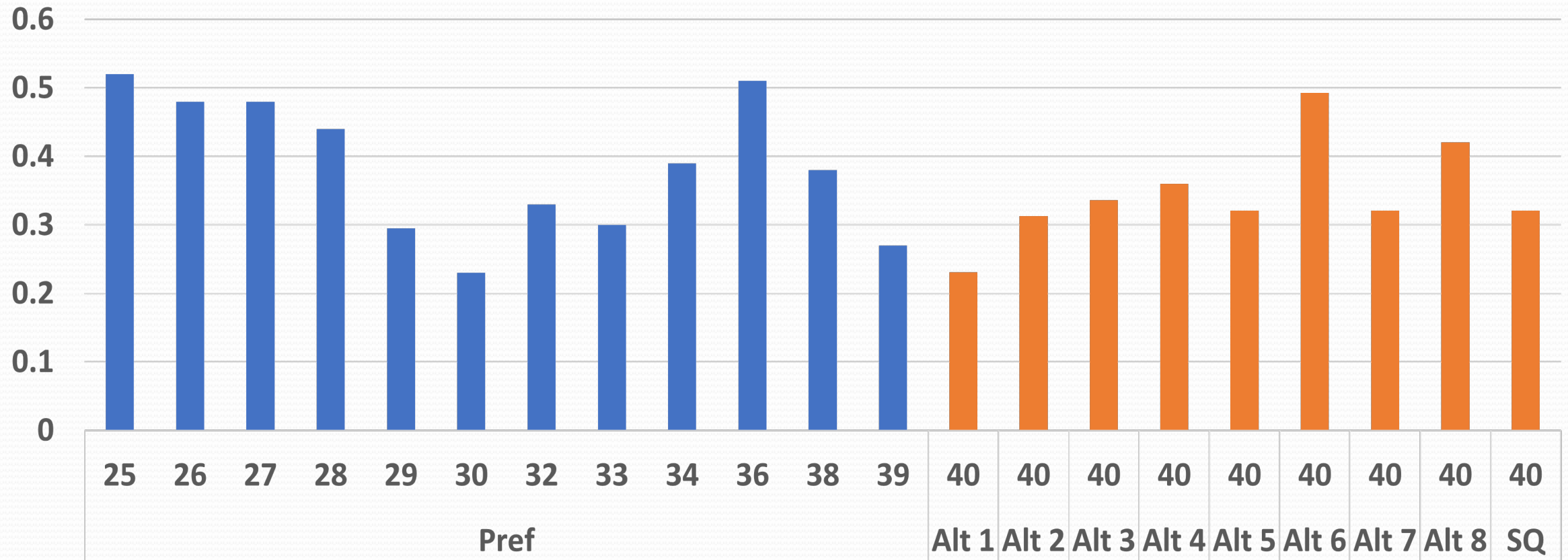
Annual Projected Landings

LPUE estimate used for calculations = 1,373 lb/day

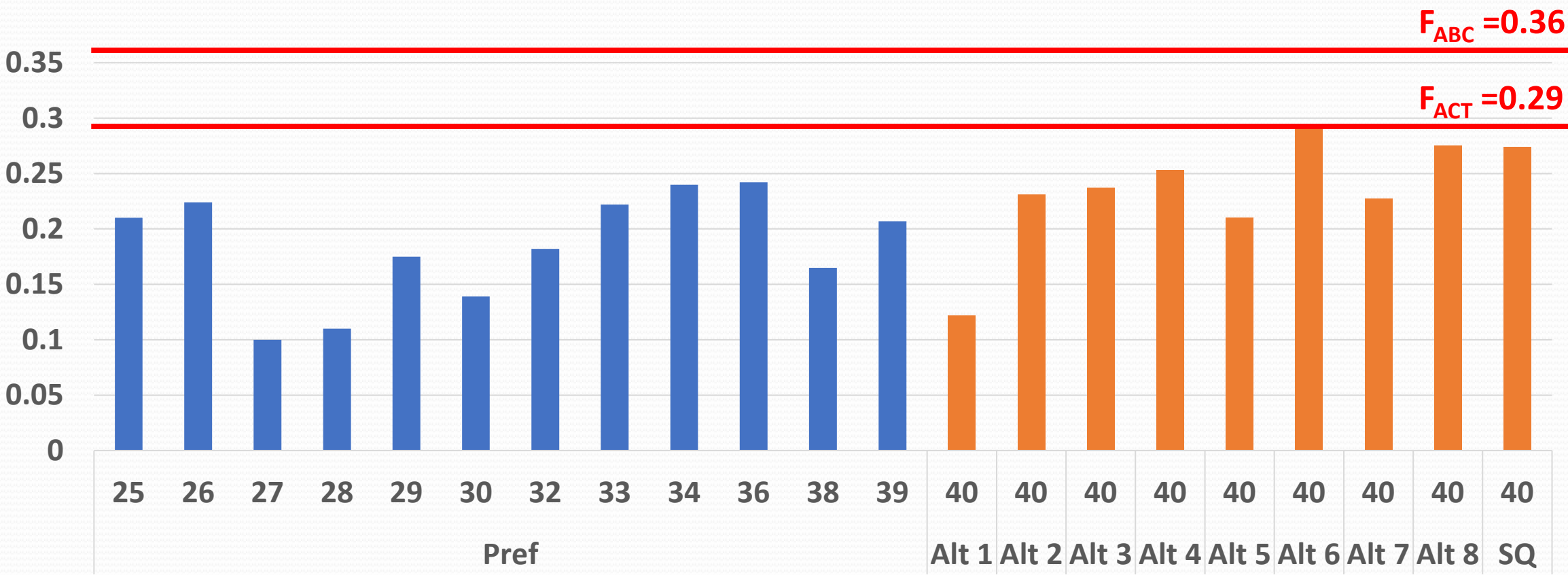
Alternative	Description	Overall F	Open Area F	DAS	Annual Projected Landings	APL with Set-Asides removed	LA APL (94.5%)	LAGC IFQ APL (5.5%)	LAGC IFQ only (5%)	LA with IFQ (0.05%)
4.3.1	No Action (Default Measures), no AAs	0.118	0.230	18	10,133,800	8,825,327	8,081,478	743,849	676,227	67,622
4.3.2	32 DAS, no AAs	0.231	0.313	32	16,785,213	15,203,242	14,367,063	836,178	760,162	76,016
4.3.3	34 DAS, no AAs	0.237	0.336	34	17,735,421	16,153,450	15,265,010	888,440	807,673	80,767
4.3.4	36 DAS, no AAs	0.253	0.360	36	18,685,622	17,103,651	16,162,950	940,701	855,183	85,518
4.3.5	24 DAS, 9k trip (AI), ET closed	0.210	0.321	24	16,098,686	14,516,715	13,718,295	798,419	725,836	72,584
4.3.6	34 DAS, 9k trip (AI), ET closed	0.290	0.492	34	20,849,698	19,267,727	18,208,002	1,059,725	963,386	96,339
4.3.7	24 DAS, 2x 6k trips (AI or ET)	0.227	0.321	24	17,136,784	15,554,813	14,699,299	855,515	777,741	77,774
4.3.8	30 DAS, 2x 6k trips (AI or ET)	0.275	0.420	30	19,987,387	18,405,416	17,393,118	1,012,298	920,271	92,027
4.3.9	Status Quo	0.274	0.321	24	19,931,639	18,349,668	17,340,437	1,009,232	917,483	91,748

- Range of Open Bottom F-rates: 0.31 – 0.49
 - Alts 5 & 6 – ET closed; Alts 7 & 8 – ET access area
 - Alt 5 lowest overall F, same as status quo
- Range of projected landings after set-asides: Highest = Alt 6, Lowest = Alt 5
- Range of IFQ APL: Highest = Alt 6, Lowest = Alt 5
- Compared to Status Quo: Alternatives 6 and 8 give higher APL after set-asides and higher APL for the IFQ component; also highest open area F

Open Area Fishing Mortality



Total Fishing Mortality



Economic Impacts (in mil. 2024 dollars)

	SQ 24DAS 2x12k	NA 18 DAS	Alt 2 32 DAS	Alt 3 34 DAS	Alt 4 36 DAS	Alt 5 24 DAS 9k	Alt 6 34 DAS 9k	Alt 7 24 DAS 2x6k	Alt 8 30 DAS 2x6k
Landings	18.350	8.825	15.203	16.153	17.104	14.517	19.268	15.555	18.405
Revenue	\$296.951	\$148.079	\$248.981	\$263.591	\$278.094	\$238.357	\$310.728	\$254.399	\$297.790
Net Revenue (after Trip Cost)	\$264.964	\$133.172	\$222.479	\$235.434	\$248.280	\$213.054	\$277.143	\$227.285	\$265.707
Difference from SQ on:									
Revenue	0	-\$148.87	-\$47.97	-\$33.36	-\$18.86	-\$58.59	\$13.78	-\$42.55	\$0.84
Net Revenue	0	-\$131.79	-\$42.48	-\$29.53	-\$16.68	-\$51.91	\$12.18	-\$37.68	\$0.74
Economic Ranking		8	6	4	3	7	1	5	2

LA Part Time Allocations

- 40% of Full Time Allocations

Alternative	Alt 1 18 DAS	Alt 2 32 DAS	Alt 3 34 DAS	Alt 4 36 DAS	Alt 5 24 DAS, 9k	Alt 6 34 DAS, 9k	Alt 7 24 DAS, 2x6k	Alt 8 30 DAS, 2x6k
PT DAS	7.2	12.8	13.6	14.4	9.6	14.4	9.6	12
PT AA Allocation	-	-	-	-	3,600 lb	3,600 lb	4,800 lb	4,800 lb

FY2027 Default Measures

- LA – 75% of DAS.
- LAGC IFQ – 75% of 2026 allocations.
- *No default FY2027 access area trips allocated*

Scallop RSA

- With 2026 NOFO publication unlikely, Council could consider whether to reduce the RSA set-aside in 2026.
 - 1.275 million pounds
 - 538,714 for multi-year awards
 - 736,286 pounds remaining.
- **AP and Committee:**
 - **No Action required**
 - The PDT does not recommend a lower RSA set-aside amount given current uncertainty
 - Unawarded RSA Set-Aside could be used to expand 2026 survey efforts to cover potential short-falls.

Summary of Protected Resources Impacts

- Fewer PR interaction concerns on Georges Bank (i.e., turtles or sturgeon) vs. Mid-Atlantic.
- Effort expected mostly on GB
 - Expecting slightly more effort in Mid-Atlantic compared to recent levels.
- ↑ open bottom DAS under all alternatives
- Overall ↓ in days fished.
- NGOM fishery harvest may decrease
 - Season likely to conclude before mid-May (i.e., prior to sea turtles migrating into the area).

Non-Target Impacts: Flatfish bycatch

- Will analyze FY 2026 projected bycatch for Council preferred alternatives when possible.
- Closure of Area II = likely decreased bycatch of Georges Bank yellowtail
 - Catch of northern windowpane may continue to exceed sub-ACL.

EFH Impacts

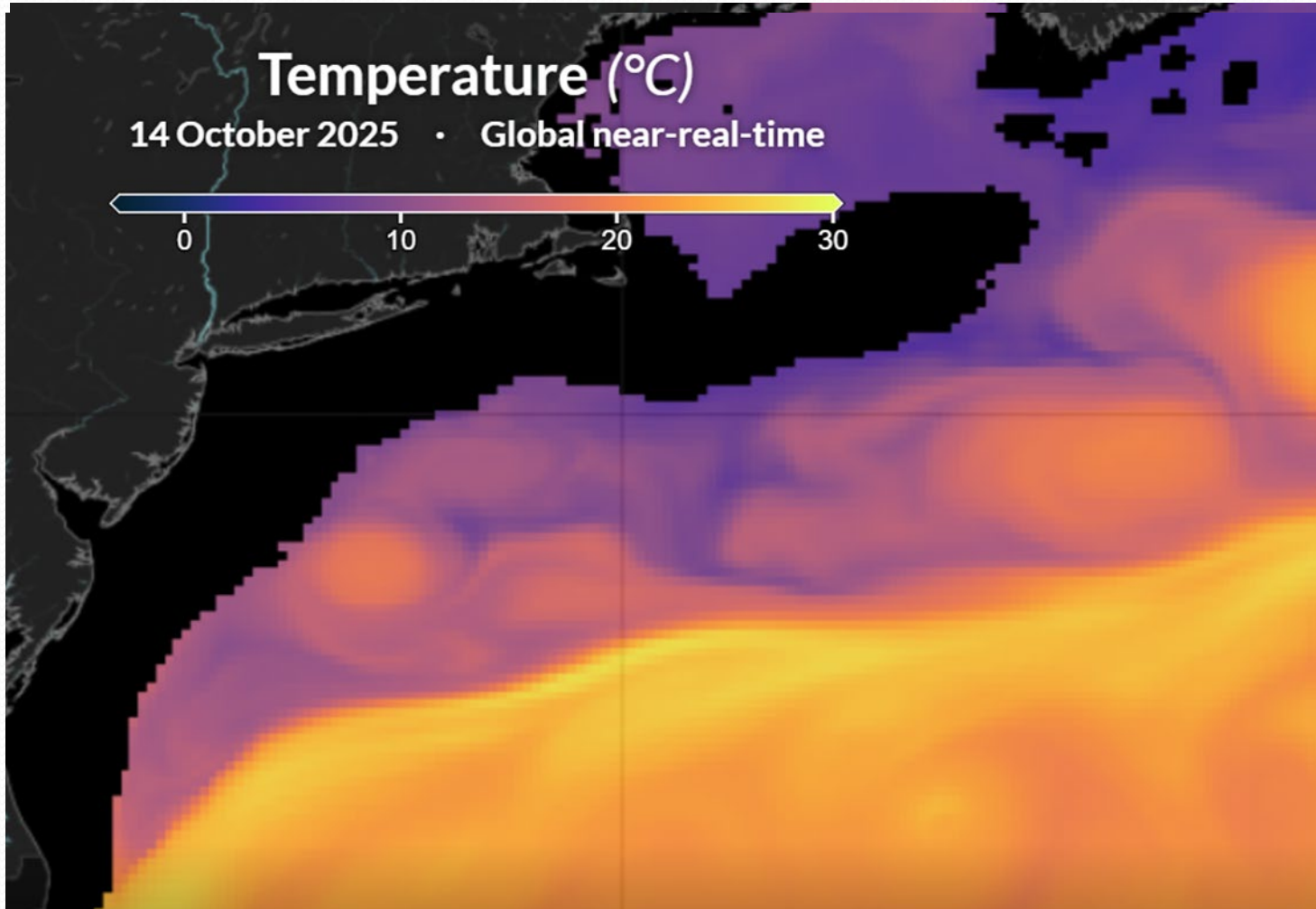
- Will analyze FY 2026 projected bycatch for Council preferred alternatives when possible.
- With spatial management focusing on spreading out the fleet on DAS, habitat efficiency will likely be much lower.

Biological Considerations

- Overall F for all runs is less than $F=0.30$ (ABC set at $F=0.36$)
- Risk of overfishing is low for all alternatives under considerations, but higher realized fishing mortality on Georges Bank is likely (uniform LPUE assumption).
- Recent projections have been biased high in the Mid-Atlantic – this is likely less of an issue with increased natural mortality parameters in our projections.
- Majority of biomass is on Georges Bank, with 27% of total scallop biomass in the NLS-South (3-years old).
- Uncertain outlook for scallop resource in the Mid-Atlantic as well as Area I (environmental change, elevated natural mortality).
- Harvest levels in 2026 will have impacts on available biomass for 2027 and beyond.

Section 4.3 – Action 3 – Fishery Specifications <i>Choose one alternative.</i>		Preferred by		
		PDT	AP	CTE
Alternative 1 (Sec. 4.3.1)	No Action - <i>Default measures from Framework 39</i>			
Alternative 2 (Sec. 4.3.2)	32 Days At Sea			
Alternative 3 (Sec. 4.3.3)	34 Days At Sea	X		
Alternative 4 (Sec. 4.3.4)	36 Days At Sea			
Alternative 5 (Sec 4.3.5)	24 Days At Sea, one access area trip with 9,000-pound trip limit			
Alternative 6 (Sec. 4.3.6)	34 Days At Sea, one access area trip with 9,000-pound trip limit			
Alternative 7 (Sec. 4.3.7)	24 Days At Sea, two 6,000 lb access area trips with 12,000-pound trip limit			
Alternative 8 (Sec. 4.3.8)	30 Days At Sea, two 6,000 lb access area trips with 12,000-pound trip limit			
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider				
The PDT considered available data and was not supportive of allocating access area trips (Alternatives 5-8). The PDT notes that a large proportion of landings from Area I in FY 2025 have been from smaller market grades (20-30 and 30-40 count). The PDT also considered the total fishing mortality rates for Alternative 4, Alternative 6, and Alternative 8 which are higher than that associated with the Council's preferred alternative in recent years.				
Other important Considerations/Draft EA References				
- Biological impacts: Section 6.2.2 - Economic impacts: Section 6.6.1.2				

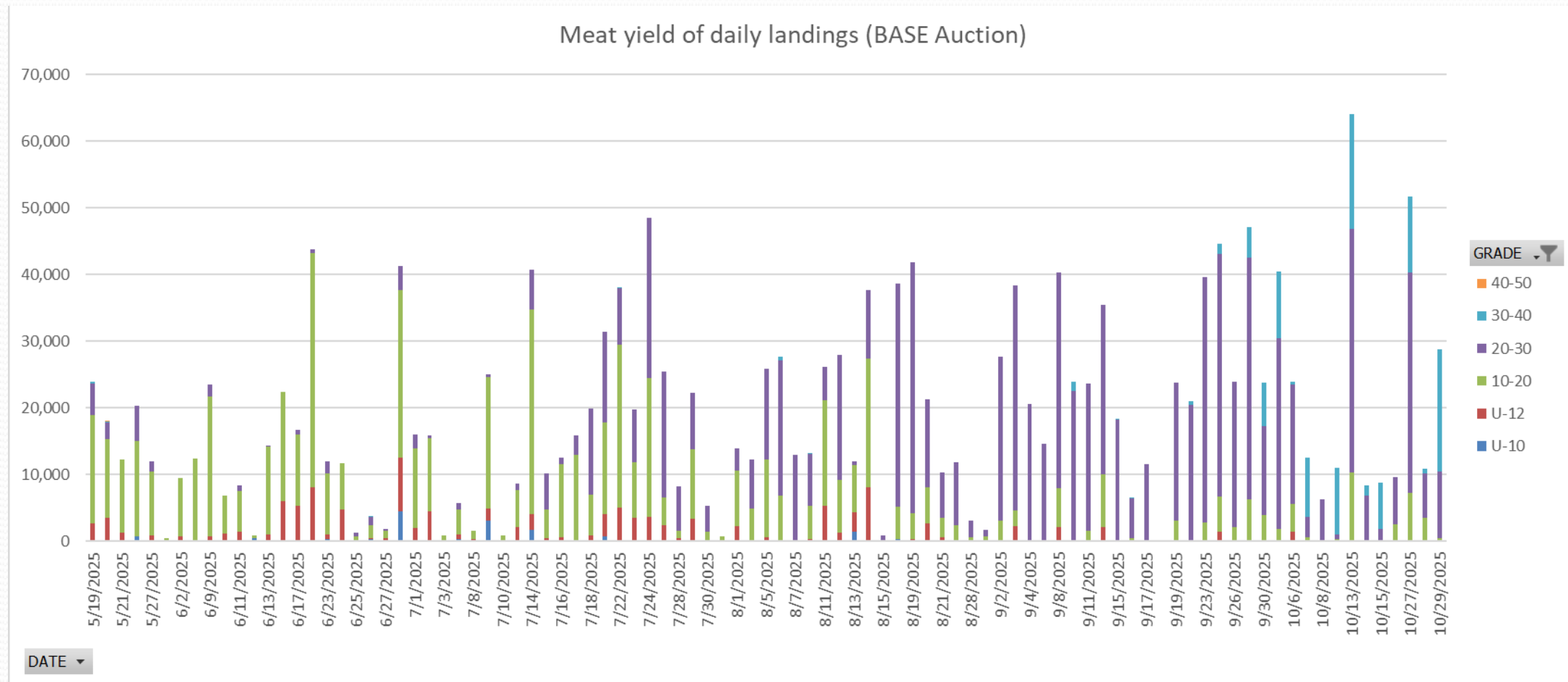
Mid-Atlantic Bottom Water Temperature



- At 50 meters depth, water temperature in southern Mid-Atlantic ranging from 15-18C
- At 75-100m depth, 10-14C
- Uncertain how temperatures may impact survival in the Elephant Trunk into FY 2026.

FY 2025 – Area I

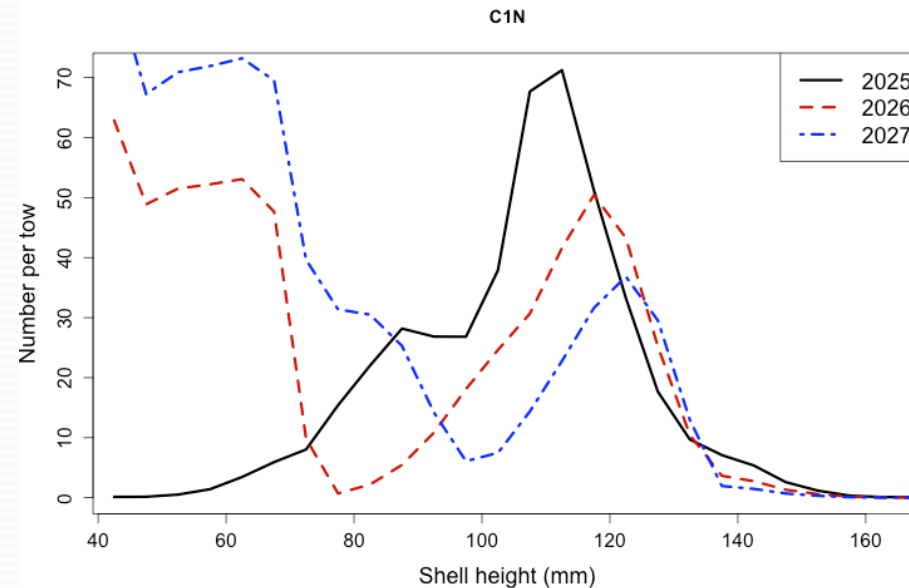
Meat yield of daily landings (BASE Auction)



Area I

- FY 2025 access area fishing in Area I has seen more than 50% of FY 2025 landings of 20-30.
- Roughly 50% of Area I allocation has been harvested (< 2 million lbs, including 2024 carryover trips.).

Market Grade	Area I Landings
U-10	0.79%
U-12	6.53%
10-20	35.00%
20-30	52.01%
30-40	5.66%
40-50	0.01%



Other considerations

- Committee motion tabled on October 22 – Removing delayed opening in Area I if the area reverts to open bottom in FY 2026, allowing remaining 2025 access area trips to fish beginning on April 1.
 - Area I would be available for open bottom fishing following the end of the 60-day carryover period.
 - If implementation is delayed past April 1, Area I would remain closed until May 15th or published final rule.

Section 4.4 – Action 4 – Access Area Trip Allocations to the LAGC IFQ Component <i>Choose one alternative.</i>		Preferred by		
		PDT	AP	CTE
Alternative 1 (Sec. 4.5.1)	No Action			
Alternative 2 (Sec. 4.5.2)	Update LAGC IFQ Access Area Trip Allocations, Distribute LAGC IFQ Access Area Allocation to available access area(s)	X		
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider				
Alternative 2 would make the total LAGC IFQ access area trip allocation available in any available access area(s). There would not be a specific number of trips allocated to an access area, but rather, vessels would be able to fish in available access areas and trips would be counted against the total trip allocation. Once the total trip allocation is projected to have been taken, all areas would be closed to LAGC IFQ access area fishing for the remainder of the fishing year.				
Other important Considerations/Draft EA References				
• Biological impacts: Section 6.2.2 • Economic impacts: Section 6.6.1.2				

Streamlining Framework 40

- Staff recommend referring any alternatives that you do not want considered for further analysis or implementation to “Considered but Rejected”
 - Streamlines the document and will help us comply with new NEPA page limit restrictions.
 - Will help us reduce the overall range of impacts analyzed in the document, which could help us get to the FW40 Final Rule in place as close to April 1 as possible.
Delays in FW40 implementation are not unlikely.
- **AP and Committee:** Consider motion to recommend the Council move alternatives they do not want developed further to ‘Considered but Rejected’

Next steps

- Council to vote on Final Action for FW40 on December 3
- Staff will continue to prepare document for submission to NOAA Fisheries with coordination with GARFO Staff.
- If new information is available before AP/CTE materials are sent, we will not plan to substitute new estimates for projected landings, revenues, etc, in place of what has already been reviewed.
 - We will use additional projections to inform impact analyses and prepare document for submission to NOAA Fisheries.

Anticipated Outcomes

1. Select the *preferred alternative* for overfishing limits and acceptable biological catches (Section 4.1)
2. Select the *preferred alternative* for Northern Gulf of Maine total allowable landings in FY 2026 and FY 2027 (Section 4.2.1).
3. Consider any modifications to the specification alternatives in Section 4.3. If changes are recommended, they should be made as a motion.
4. Select the *preferred alternative* for fishery specifications for FY 2026 and FY 2027 (default) including access area and DAS allocations (Section 4.3).
5. Select the *preferred alternative* for LAGC IFQ access area trip allocations (Section 4.4).
6. Develop motions or consensus statements to move measures that were not selected as *preferred* to considered but rejected.

Questions?

Long-Term Strategic Plan

Long-term Strategic Plan

- Defining a 3-5 year vision for the fishery, and the actions that would be needed to achieve that vision.
 - Where are we going and how will we get there?
 - Final action to approve the plan in December 2025 → align the plan with the start of any new projects in 2026.
- Long-Term Strategic Plan (Document 4a)
 - 9 objectives and 29 strategies, developed through:
 1. Information assembled from recent scallop-related projects, Council discussion, and public correspondence.
 2. Public input from 4 visioning sessions in Rockport, ME; New Bedford, MA, Philadelphia, PA, and by webinar.
 3. Continuous input from Scallop PDT, AP, and Committee throughout 2025.
 - SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) assessment, focusing on the scallop resource, the fishery, and the environment developed by the Scallop PDT

Long-term Strategic Plan

- Appendix I: Goals and Objectives of the Scallop FMP & Subsequent Actions (Document 4b)
 - Strategic Plan does not supplant overall management objectives, but works as an action plan for achieving them.
 - Reference document for Council consideration.
- Appendix II: Evaluation Criteria
 - Propose an annual 'benchmarking' exercise to evaluate whether the Council is achieving the outlined objectives of the Strategic Plan, and serving as a check-in before Council develops next year's work priorities.

	The Resource	The Fishery	The Habitat
Definition	The Atlantic Sea scallops within U.S. federal waters.	The entities involved in the harvest of the scallop resource or in related shoreside businesses.	The environment where Atlantic Sea scallops feed, grow, and reproduce.
Strengths	- Scallops are highly fecund (a high reproductive output) - Multiple, independent, annual resource surveys that produce high-quality biological estimates	- Mature management approaches - Large quantity and quality of fishery dependent data (i.e. high-resolution VMS data used to describe fishing activity) - Highly engaged fishing industry that supports scallop science and management. - Fishery is distributed across many ports from Maine to North Carolina. - Industry typically sees high net profit margins - Cultural significant seafood product for the region	- Wide, geographic range of suitable habitat - Suitable habitat on Georges Bank appears more resilient to rising ocean temperatures
Weaknesses	- Vulnerable to growth-overfishing (being caught before they reach their full size, leading to lower yields) - Biologically vulnerable to both warming temperatures and acidification, but more research is needed to understand future impact - Sedentary species, and highly limited by settlement location (high growth when larvae settle in suitable habitat, low/no growth if larvae settle in unsuitable habitat)	- Recent application of rotational management may have led to negative outcomes for the fishery in access areas - Some fishing practices, such as high-grading, lead to increased mortality of small scallops - Dependent on strong recruitment events - Dependent on substantial proportion of total biomass in areas that are closed to fishing - Bycatch of	- Suitable habitat is patchy in distribution - Knowledge gap around the relationship between environment and recruitment dynamics
Opportunities	Scallop resource enhancement could be used to supplement natural recruitment	- Scallop Research Set-Aside program has the capacity to support research needs - Electronic monitoring	- Emerging technologies for predator control - Gear innovations to reduce incidental mortality and bycatch
Threats	- Predators - Parasites (Nematodes/Sulcascaaris sulcata) - Disease (Grey meats/apicomplexan sp./mycobacteria) - Bycatch and mortality (discard/incidental) of small scallops	Irregular recruitment, periods of low and below average recruitment	- Warming bottom sea temperatures, and a contraction of thermally suitable habitat in the southern and inshore areas of the Mid-Atlantic - Changing oceanographic patterns and general uncertainty - Increasing prevalence of Astropectin sea stars, a predator of scallop spat, moving into shallower

Strategic Plan Objectives

1. Improve management capacity, flexibility, and responsiveness in a changing environment
2. Improve the reliability of annual projections of scallop biomass and abundance
3. Expand opportunities in the Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) fishery while maintaining conservative management approaches
4. Improve rotational management performance and access area fishing opportunities
5. Improve fishing practices to minimize incidental scallop mortality, bycatch, and impacts on habitat and protected resources
6. Maintain the economic viability of the scallop fleet
7. Maintain a dynamic Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) program to fund scallop research and resource surveys
8. Develop the regulatory, management, and funding infrastructure to support a scallop enhancement program
9. Improve scallop industry engagement at meetings of the Council's Scallop Plan Development Team, Advisory Panel, and Committee

Implementation

- Purpose of the Strategic Plan: Organize possible work priorities earlier in the year and coordinate work
 - 1) Promote efficiencies
 - Some of the objectives need additional research or infrastructure from outside of the Council process (e.g. Electronic Monitoring).
 - Track ongoing work related to important Strategic Plan objectives even when those topics are not part of current year's work priorities
 - Batch related strategies into single work priorities to support multiple Strategic Plan objectives.
 - 2) Guide long-term decision-making
 - Identify what work needs to begin in 2026 to reach 2030 goals
 - A longer runway will help make more time for tackling larger, more complex issues in the fishery given current resource-constrained environment.

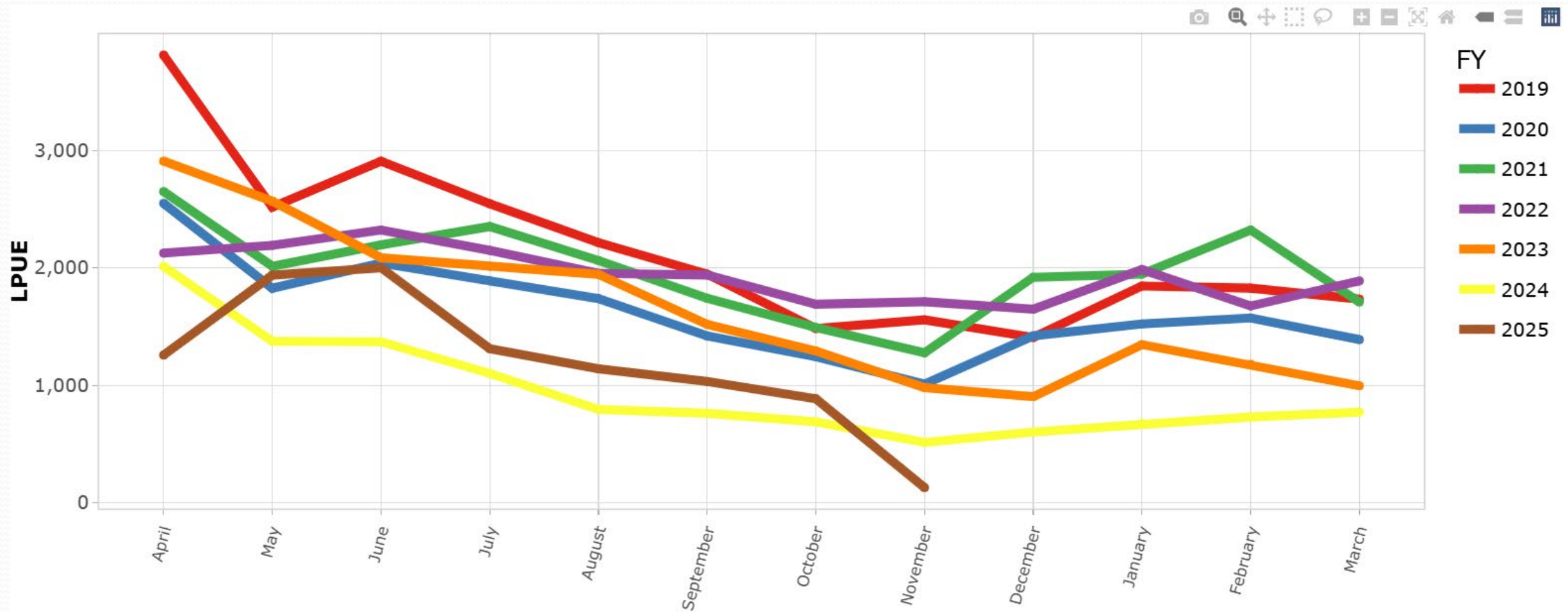
Long-Term Strategic Plan

- **AP and Committee:** Input regarding the use of the Scallop Strategic Plan, evaluating progress, or next steps?
- **Committee:** Looking for a motion to accept the Scallop Strategic Plan as complete, satisfying the 2025 Council work priority.

Questions?

Back Pocket

LPUE

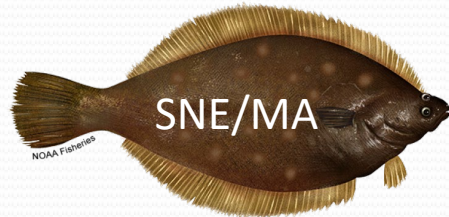


Recent Open Area F rate, LPUE, DAS

FW	FY	Overall F	Open F	Landings	Open Landings	LPUE	Op LPUE	MA LPUE	GB LPUE	TDAS	Open DAS	FTDAS	Bottom Area Swept	Habitat Efficiency	AA DAS
29	2018	0.175	0.295	60,062,739	22,037,408	2837	2581	2471	3087	21170	8538	24	2271	11.99	12632
30	2019	0.139	0.23	62,542,939	20,835,888	3070	2395	2990	3141	20375	8701	24	2278	12.45	11674
32	2020	0.182	0.33	51,619,034	21,545,777	2931	2459	2906	2949	17612	8761	24	3034	7.71	8851
33	2021	0.222	0.3	40,044,765	15,875,487	2037	1802	1951	2086	19651	8811	24	2723	6.67	10840
34	2022	0.24	0.39	34,039,373	19,477,841	2410	2266	1727	2615	14123	8597	24	3050	5.06	5526
36	2023	0.242	0.51	25,007,034	16,521,442	2134	1835	1458	2348	11720	9005	24	3665	3.09	2715
38	2024	0.165	0.38	27,846,588	14,905,454	2237	1996	1769	2504	12450	7469	20	3115	4.05	4981
39	2025	0.207	0.27	20,461,103	10,337,475	1071	1126	609	2063	19098	9182	24	2542	3.65	9916

- As LPUE decreases..
 - DAS increase, fishing mortality rate is higher for a given amount of catch
 - Bottom area swept increases, with corresponding impacts to habitat and protected species.
- 2025 model estimates of LPUE were adjusted to better reflect resource conditions.
- Framework 39 range of alternatives analyzed impacts of open area fishing mortality from F=0.18 – 0.295 (18-26 DAS)

Flatfish Bycatch



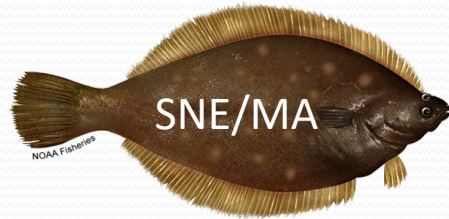
Month Sums	1,369	3,652	12,102	12,699	5,411	2,725	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumulative Total	1,369	5,021	17,123	29,822	35,233	37,958	37,958	37,958	37,958	37,958	37,958	37,958
Percent of Sub-ACL	5.6%	20.7%	70.6%	123.0%	145.3%	156.5%	156.5%	156.5%	156.5%	156.5%	156.5%	156.5%

Month Sums	1,317	6,138	3,015	285	318	326	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumulative Total	1,317	7,455	10,470	10,755	11,073	11,399	11,399	11,399	11,399	11,399	11,399	11,399
Percent of Sub-ACL	22.1%	125.3%	175.9%	180.7%	186.0%	191.5%	191.5%	191.5%	191.5%	191.5%	191.5%	191.5%

Month Sums	6,900	6,197	7,181	6,376	4,694	1,066	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumulative Total	6,900	13,097	20,278	26,654	31,348	32,414	32,414	32,414	32,414	32,414	32,414	32,414
Percent of Sub-ACL	11.6%	22.0%	34.1%	44.8%	52.7%	54.5%	54.5%	54.5%	54.5%	54.5%	54.5%	54.5%

Month Sums	4,282	9,340	4,358	775	925	345	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumulative Total	4,282	13,622	17,980	18,755	19,680	20,025	20,025	20,025	20,025	20,025	20,025	20,025
Percent of Sub-ACL	2.7%	8.7%	11.5%	12.0%	12.6%	12.8%	12.8%	12.8%	12.8%	12.8%	12.8%	12.8%

Flatfish Bycatch



Month Sums	1,369	3,652	12,102	12,699	5,411	2,725	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumulative Total	1,369	5,021	17,123	29,822	35,233	37,958	37,958	37,958	37,958	37,958	37,958	37,958
Percent of Sub-ACL	5.6%	20.7%	70.6%	123.0%	145.3%	156.5%	156.5%	156.5%	156.5%	156.5%	156.5%	156.5%

Month Sums	1,317	6,138	3,015	285	318	326	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumulative Total	1,317	7,455	10,470	10,755	11,073	11,399	11,399	11,399	11,399	11,399	11,399	11,399
Percent of Sub-ACL	22.1%	125.3%	175.9%	180.7%	186.0%	191.5%	191.5%	191.5%	191.5%	191.5%	191.5%	191.5%

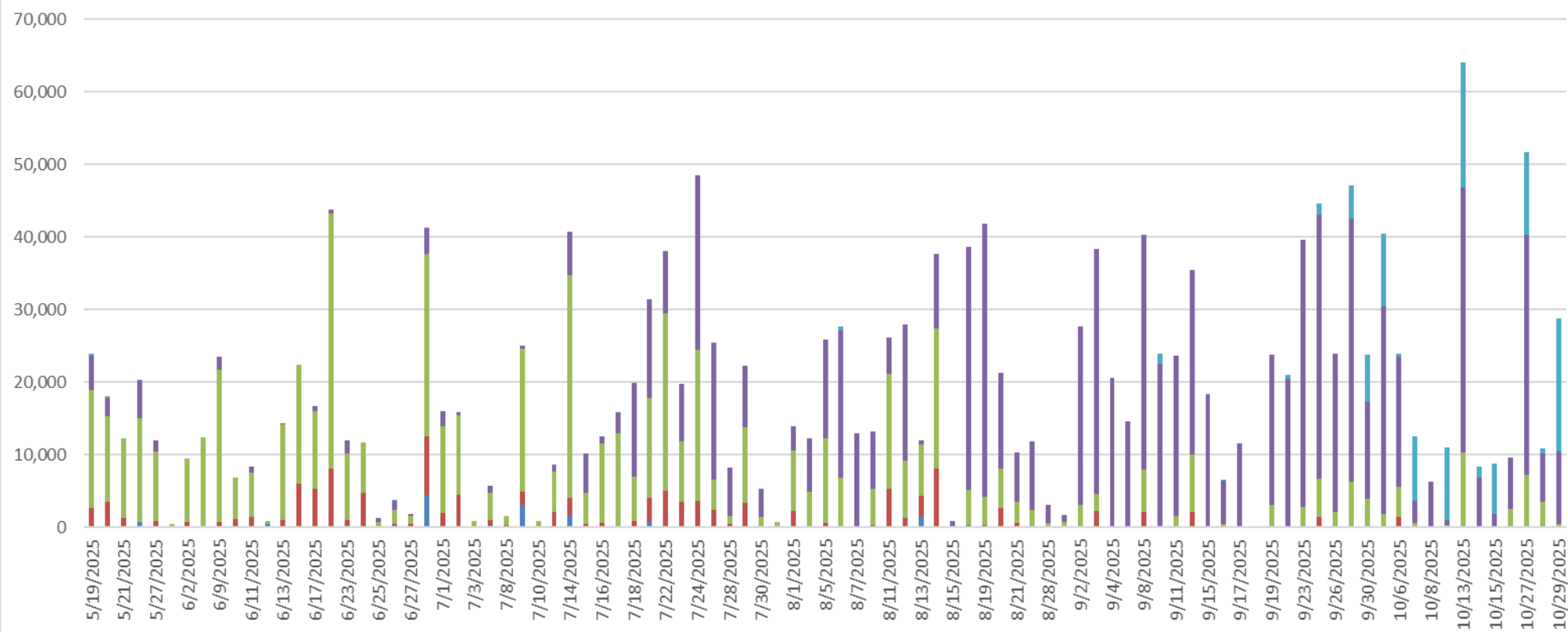
- Scallop fishery will likely formally exceed both GB and SNE/MA yellowtail flounder sub-ACLs by more than 50% in FY 2025
 - Change in AM trigger not yet in place (Groundfish Framework 69)
 - Georges Bank AND Mid-Atlantic AM would be in place in FY 2027
 - In Mid-Atlantic, modified gear would be required everywhere west of 71°W, outside of access areas, from April 1, 2027 – May 31, 2027.

FY 2025 – Area I

REGION ▼

Sum of WEIGHT

Meat yield of daily landings (BASE Auction)



GRADE ▼

40-50

30-40

20-30

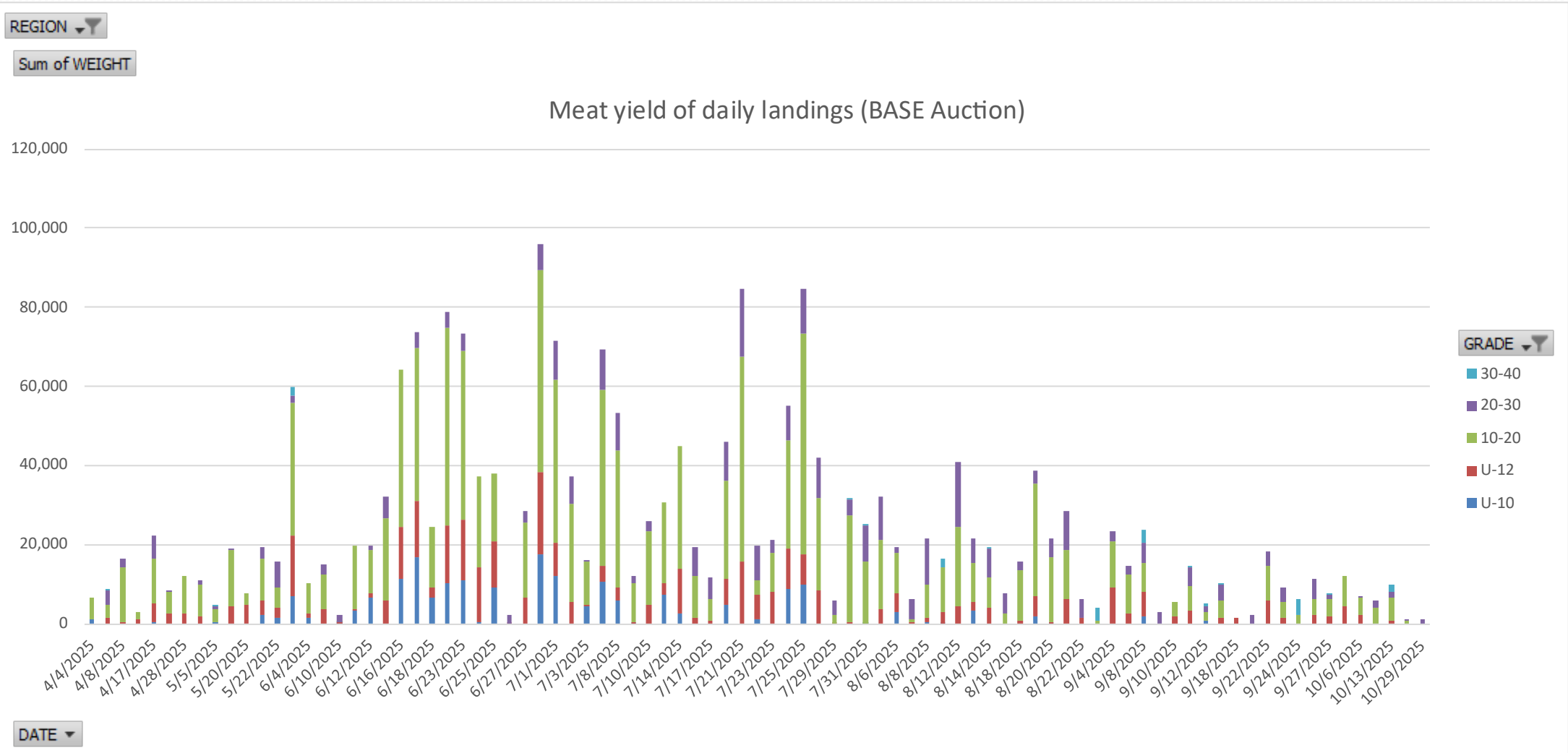
10-20

U-12

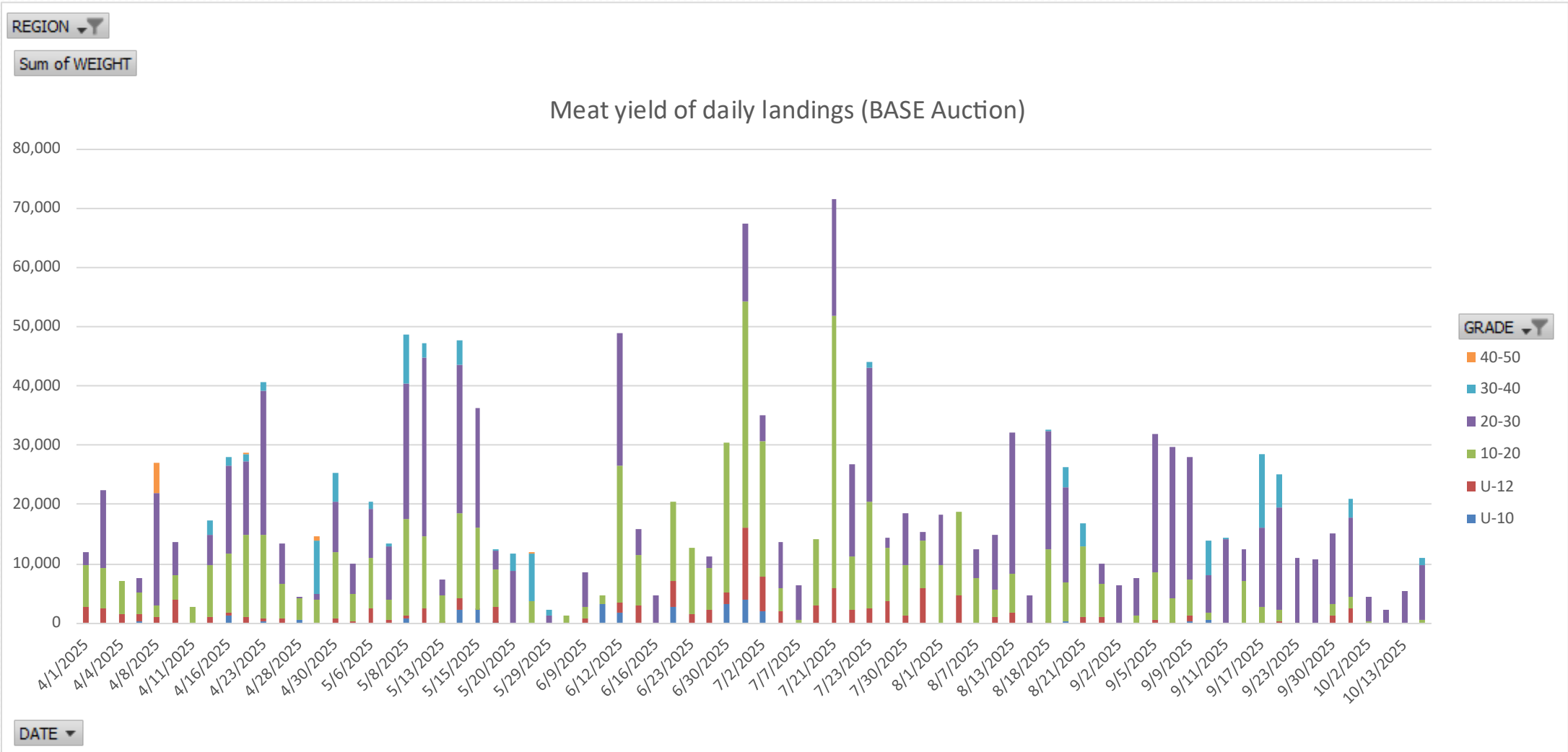
U-10

DATE ▼

FY 2025 – Area II



FY 2025 – Georges Bank Open

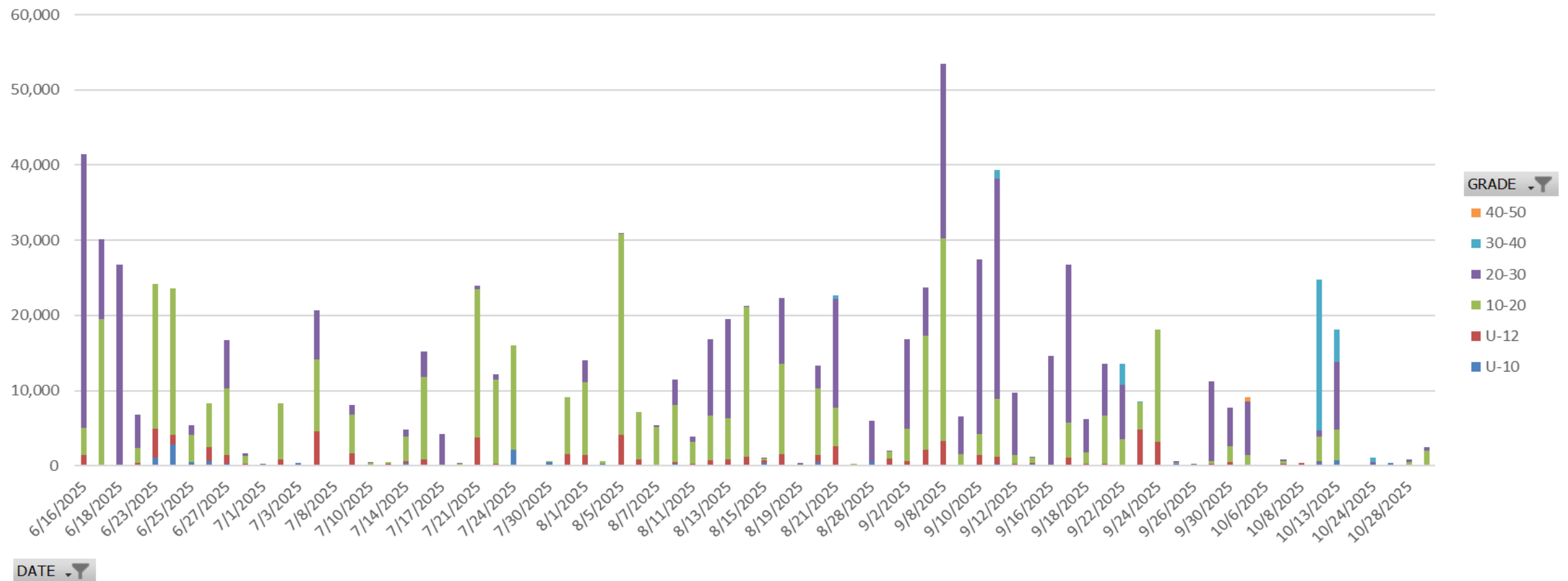


FY 2025 – Channel

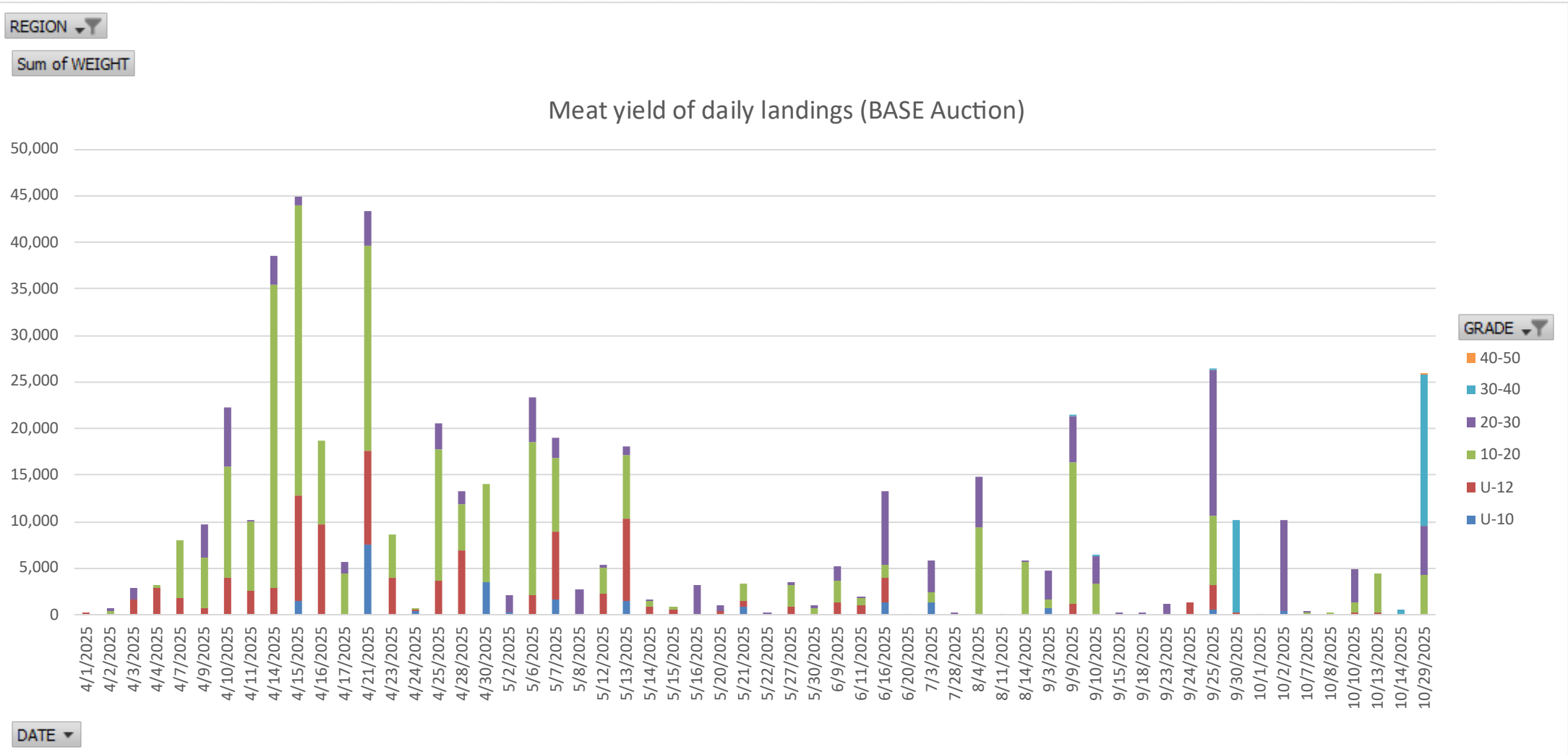
REGION ▼

Sum of WEIGHT

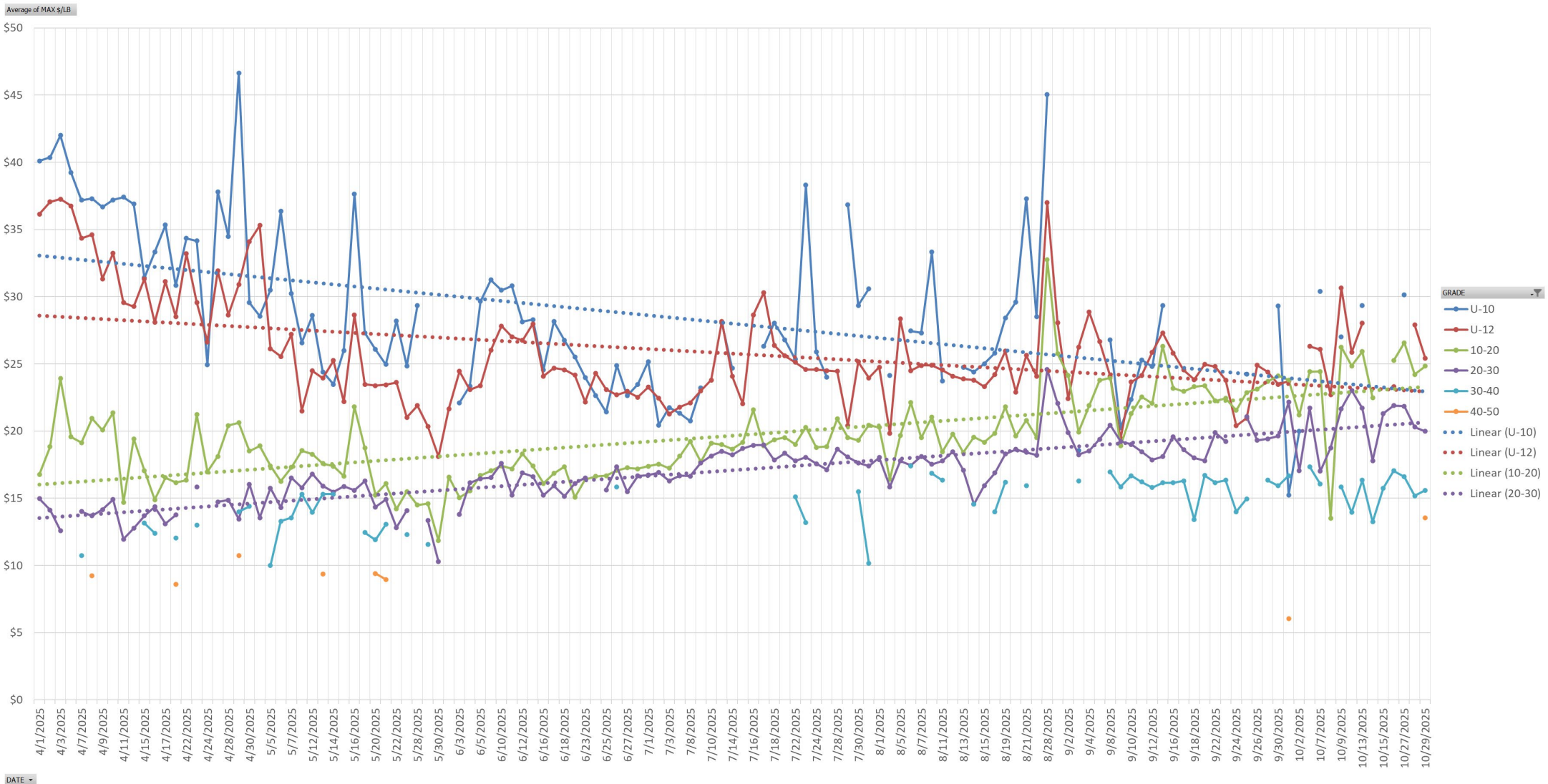
Meat yield of daily landings (BASE Auction)



FY 2025 – Mid-Atlantic Open

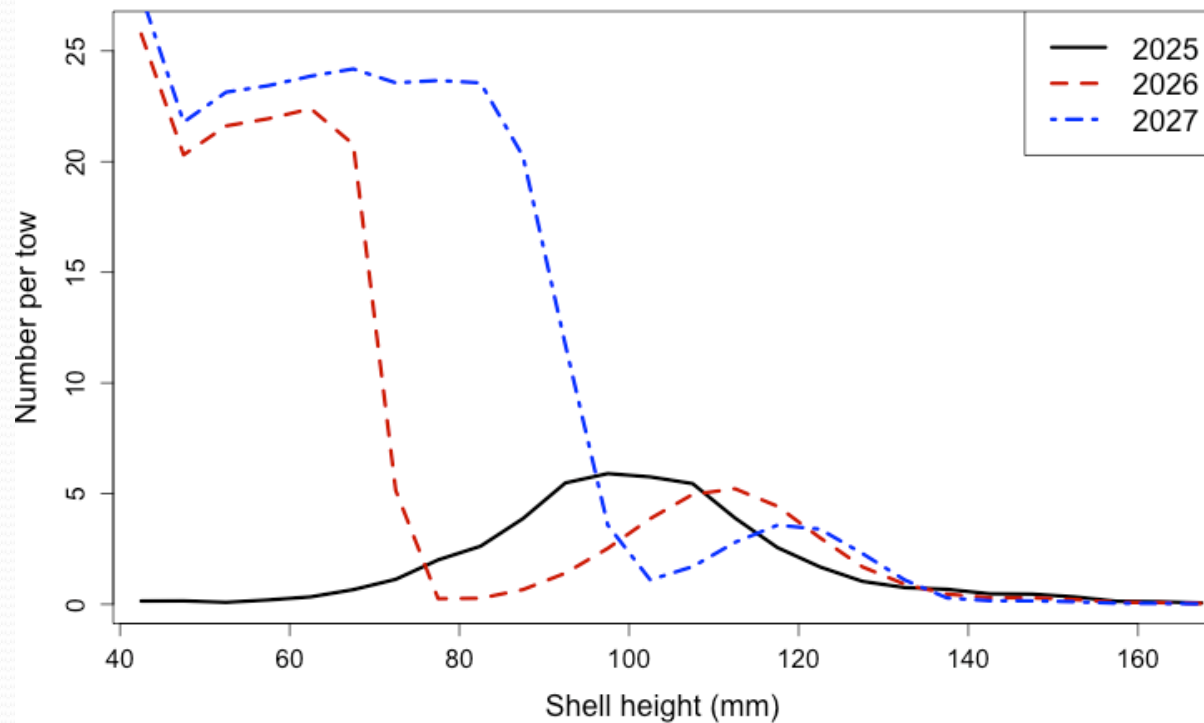


Row Labels	Landings (lb)							Proportion by grade							Total Landings (lb)	Total Proportion by grade
	Area I	Area II	Channel	Georges Bank	Gulf of Maine	Mid-Atlantic	New York Bight	Area I	Area II	Channel	Georges Bank	Gulf of Maine	Mid-Atlantic	New York Bight		
U-10	14,156	186,092	70,338	25,701	150,610	21,801	16,799	0.79%	8.72%	1.92%	1.73%	38.39%	4.23%	9.63%	485,497	4.78%
U-12	116,737	359,841	473,766	103,244	206,587	97,581	12,952	6.53%	16.87%	12.91%	6.95%	52.66%	18.91%	7.43%	1,370,708	13.49%
10-20	626,026	1,234,860	2,562,222	574,805	33,388	261,467	98,464	35.00%	57.89%	69.83%	38.70%	8.51%	50.68%	56.47%	5,391,232	53.07%
20-30	930,230	333,273	528,762	689,222	1,716	107,867	46,145	52.01%	15.62%	14.41%	46.41%	0.44%	20.91%	26.47%	2,637,215	25.96%
30-40	101,227	19,191	33,135	86,085		27,175		5.66%	0.90%	0.90%	5.80%	0.00%	5.27%	0.00%	266,813	2.63%
40-50	211		904	6,090		54		0.01%	0.00%	0.02%	0.41%	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	7,259	0.07%
Grand Total	1,788,587	2,133,257	3,669,127	1,485,147	392,301	515,945	174,360	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	10,158,724	100.00%

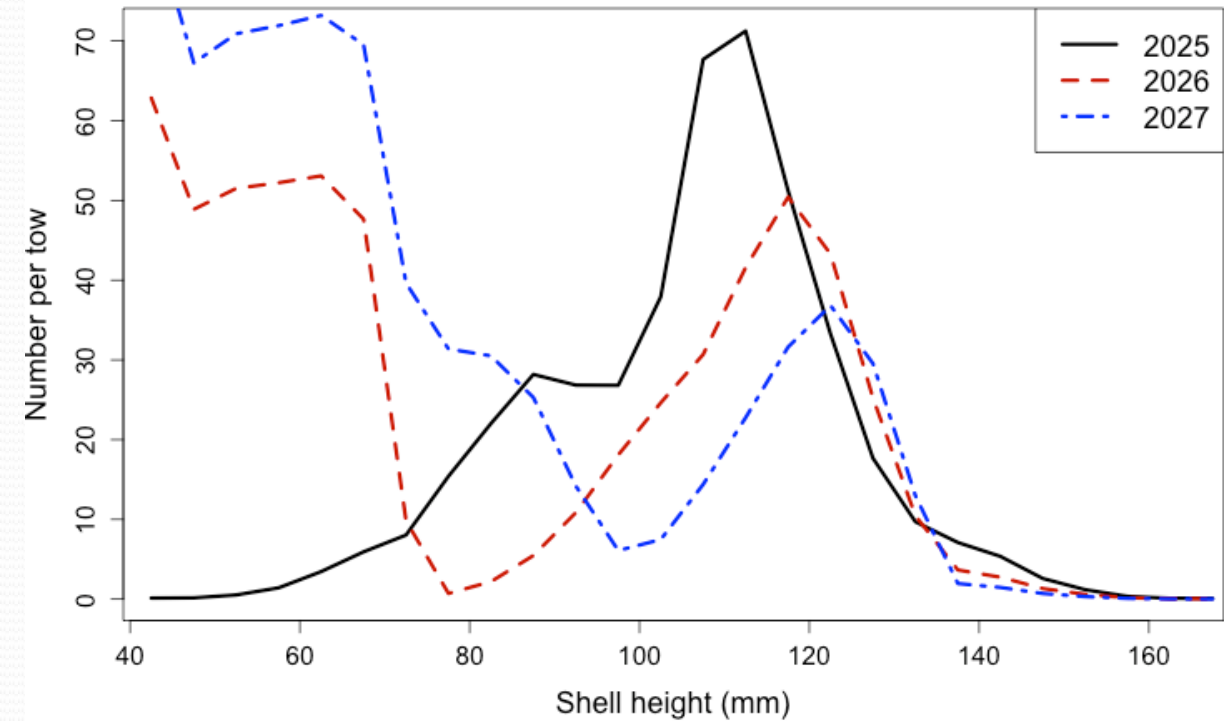


GSC and Area I - Sliver

GSC

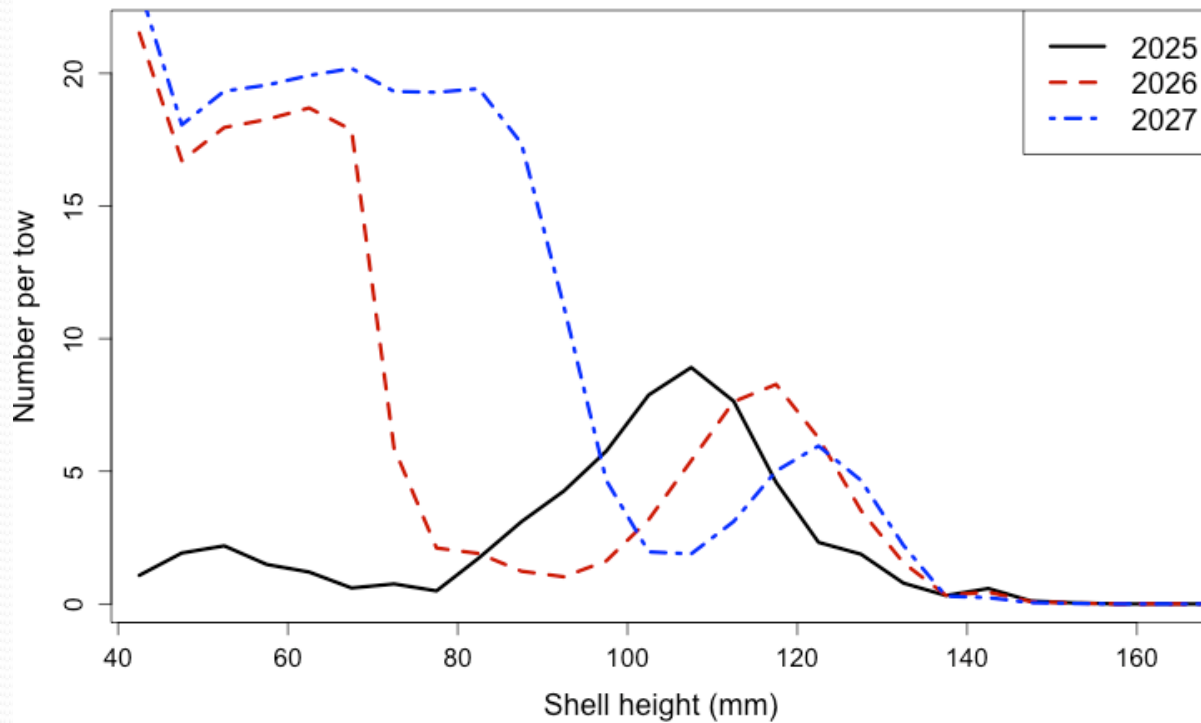


C1N

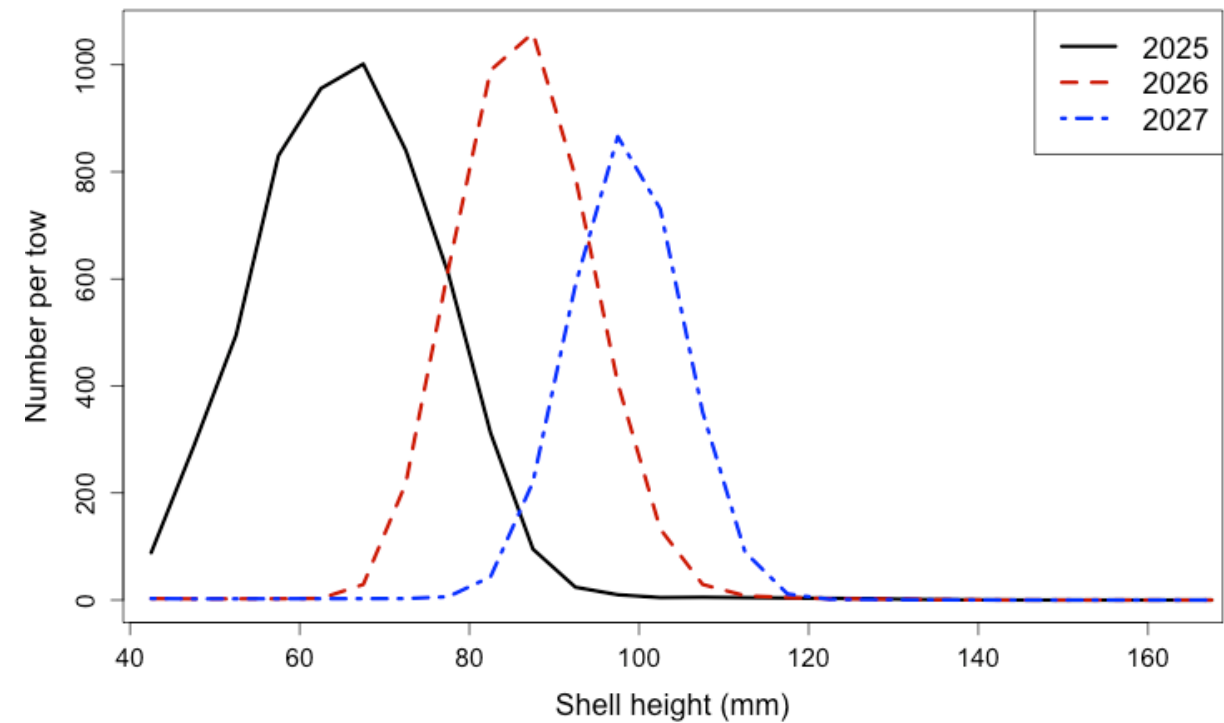


Nantucket Lightship – North and South

NLSN

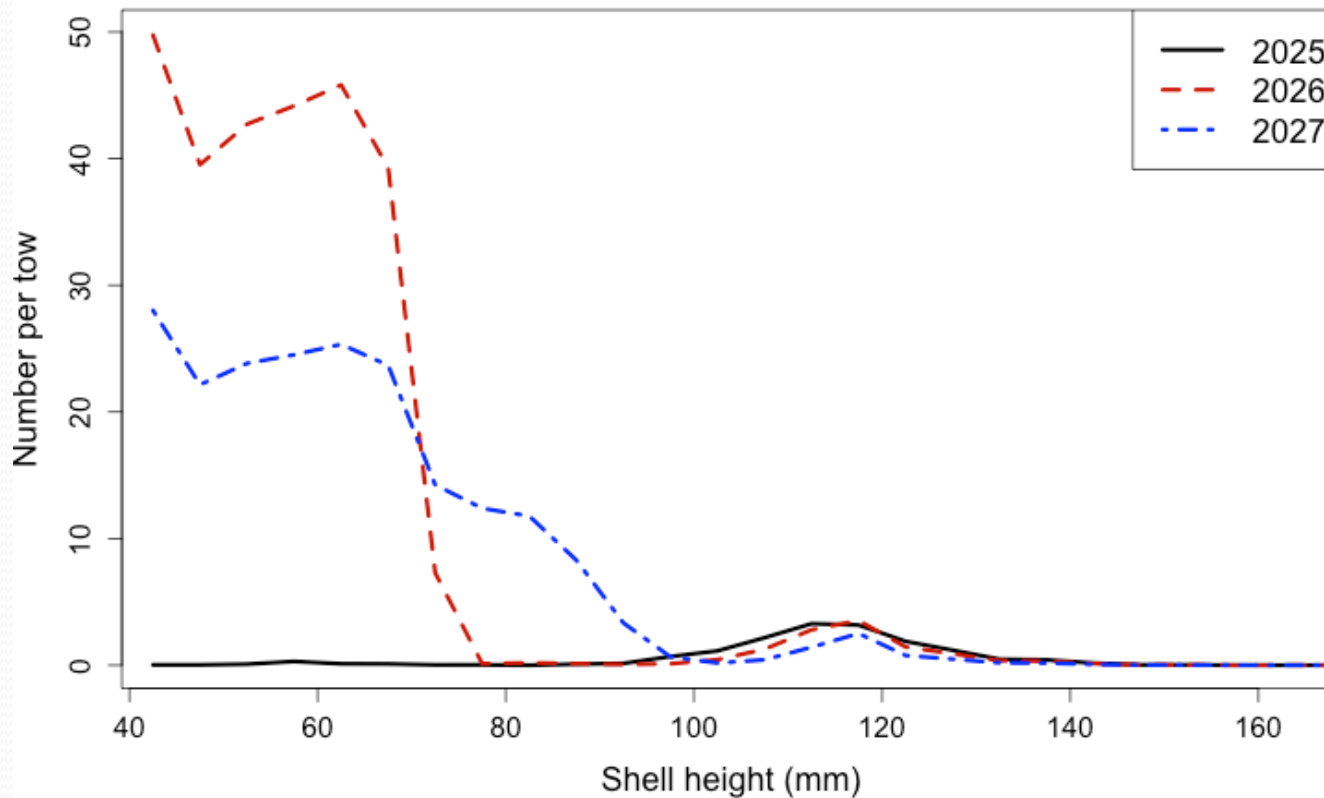


NLSS



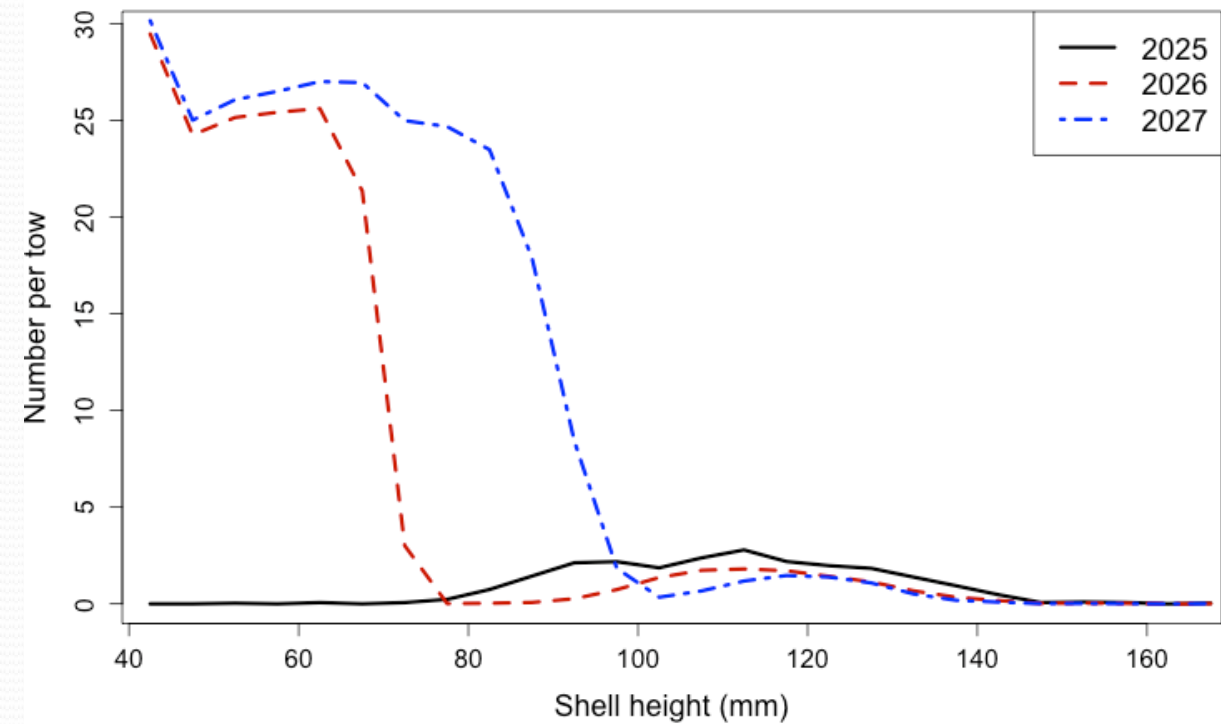
Nantucket Lightship - West

NLSW

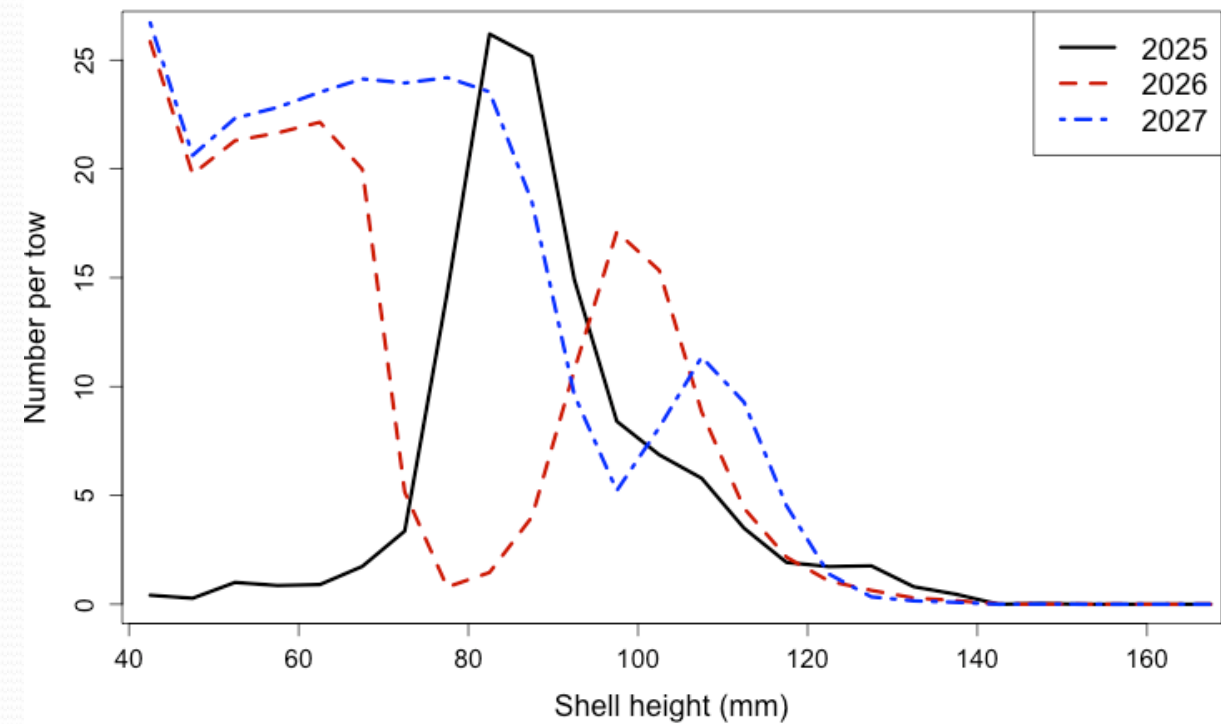


Area II

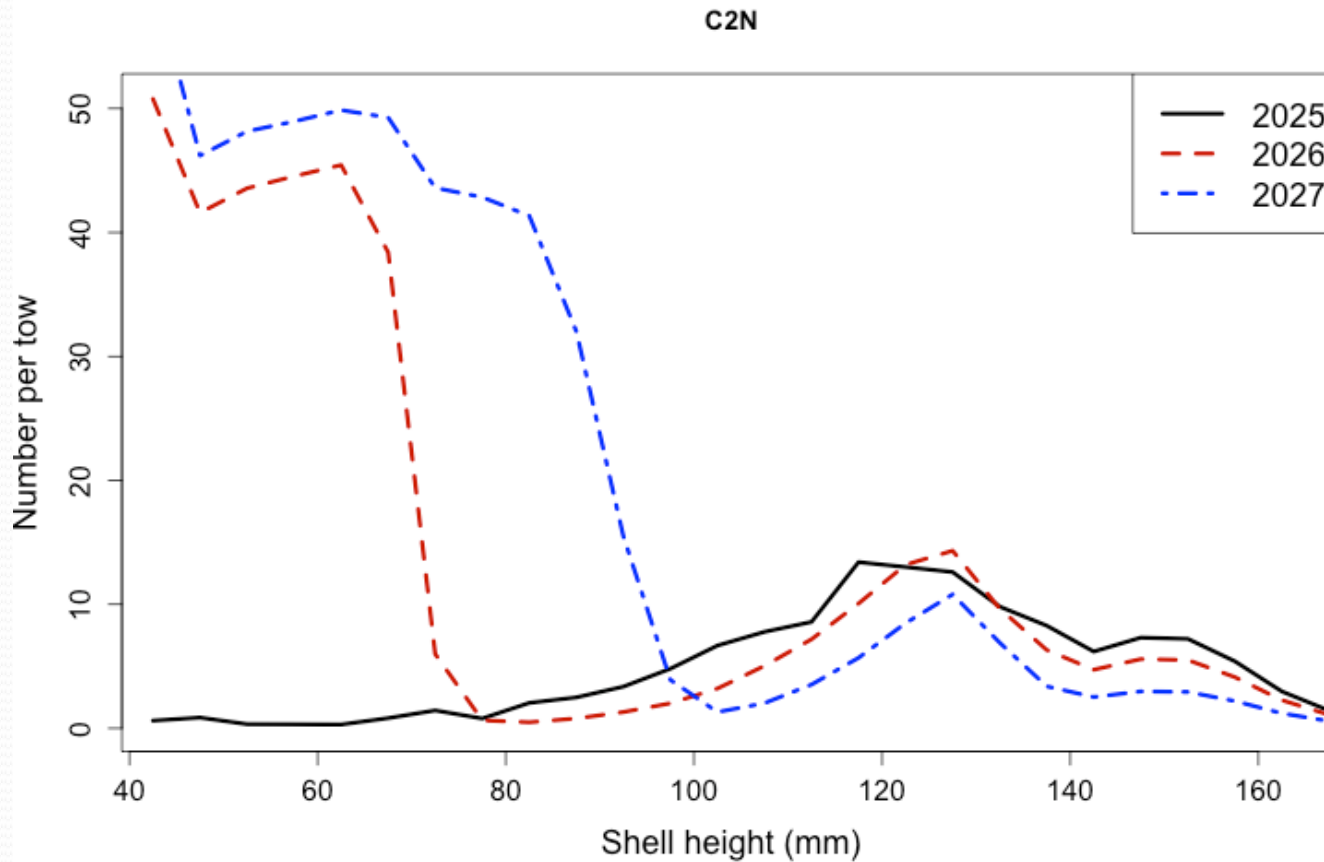
C2S



C2ext



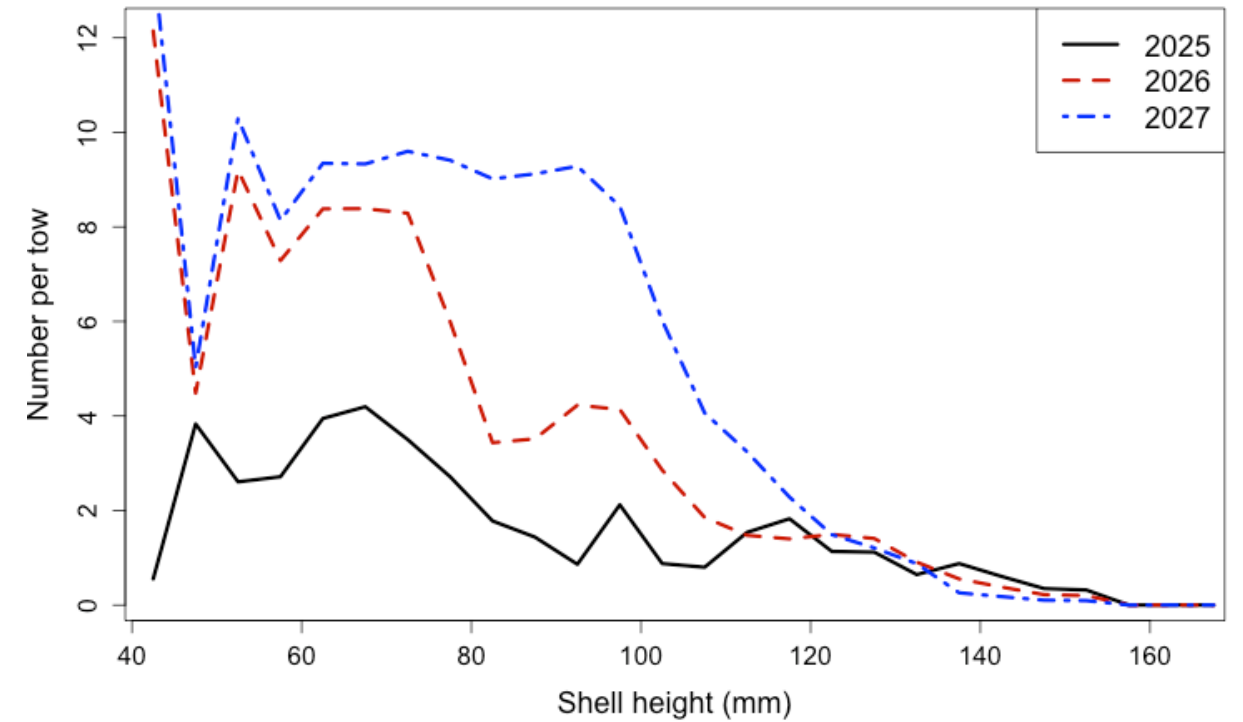
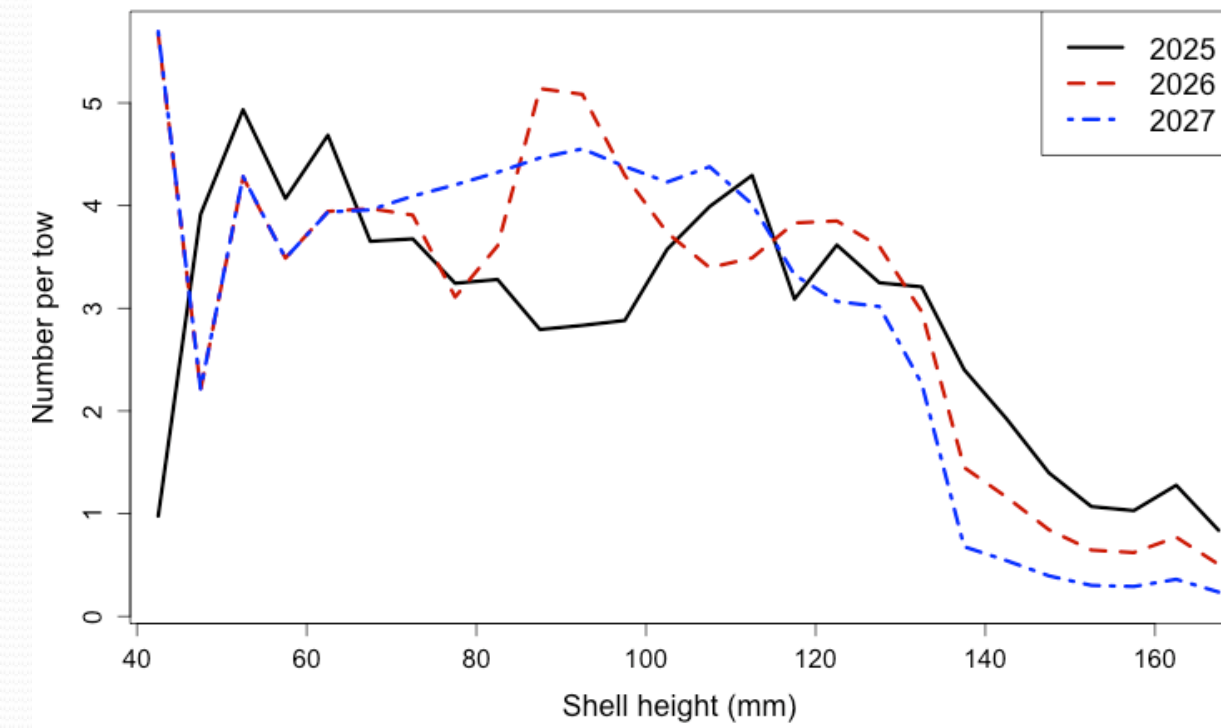
Closed Area II – North (HAPC)



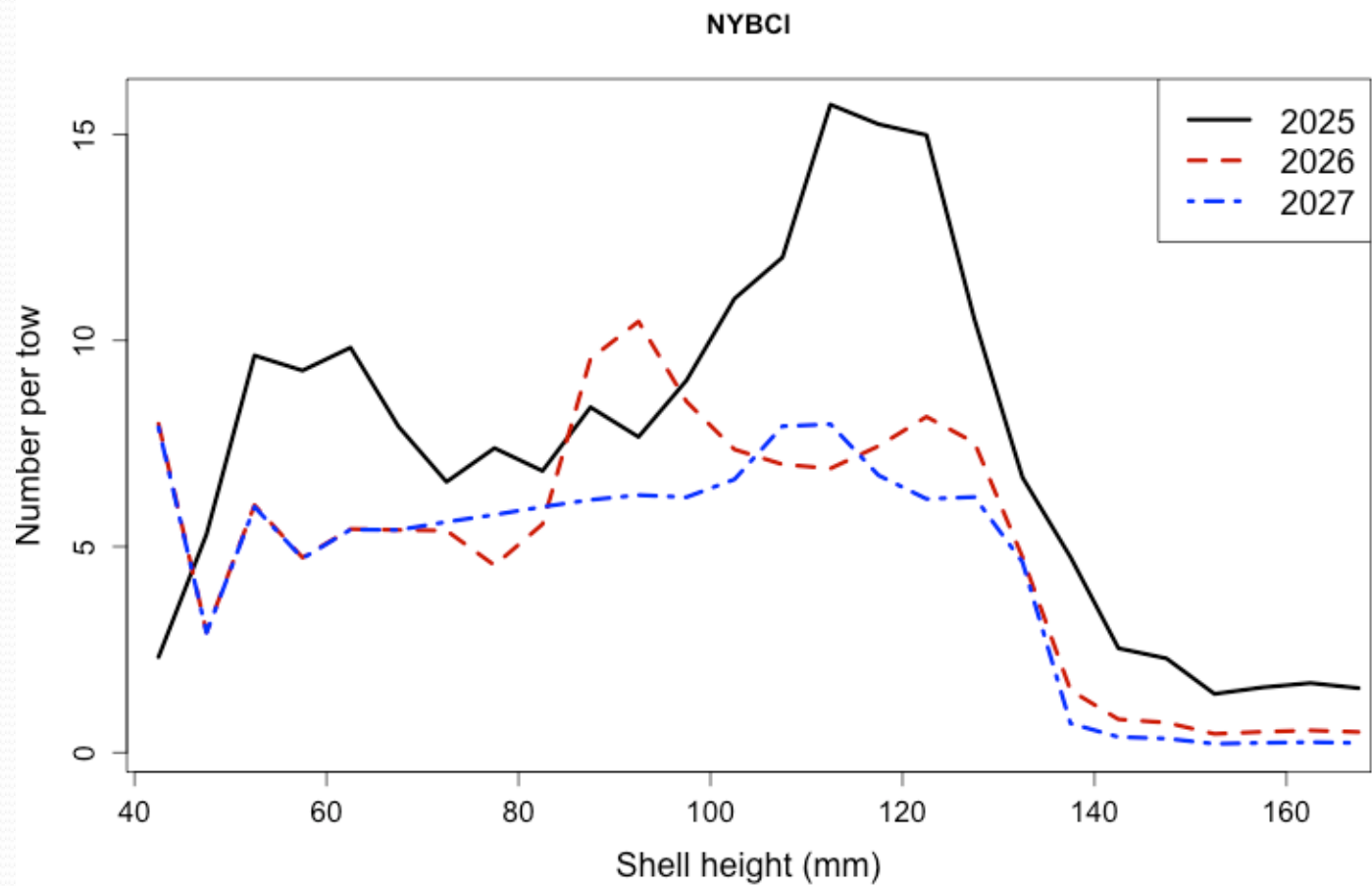
LI + BI and NYB

LI+BI

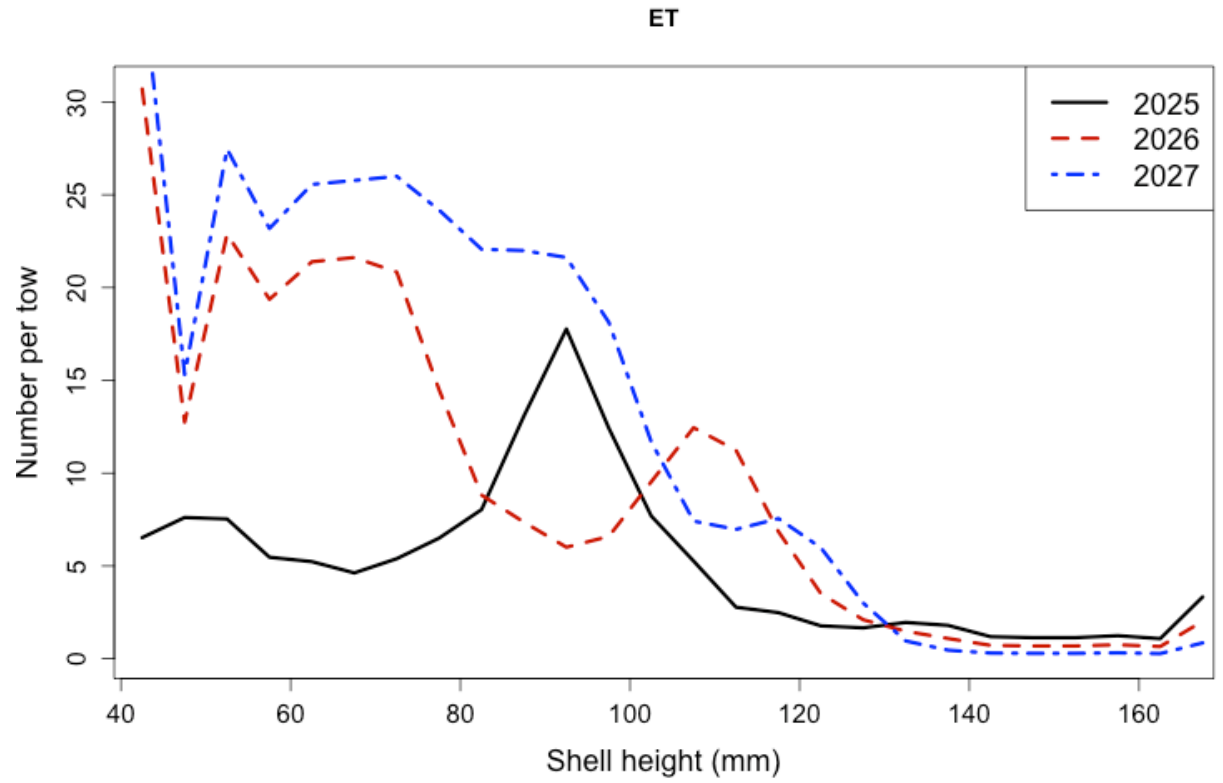
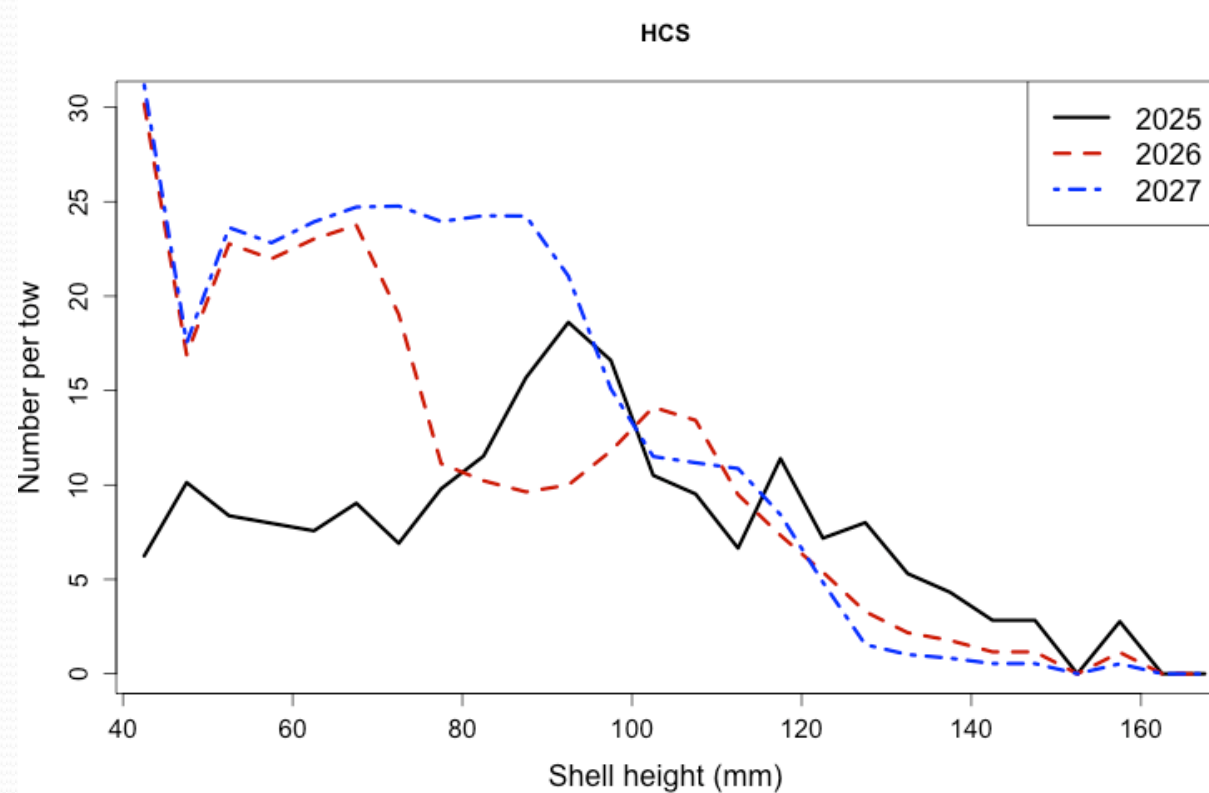
NYB



NYB Closure

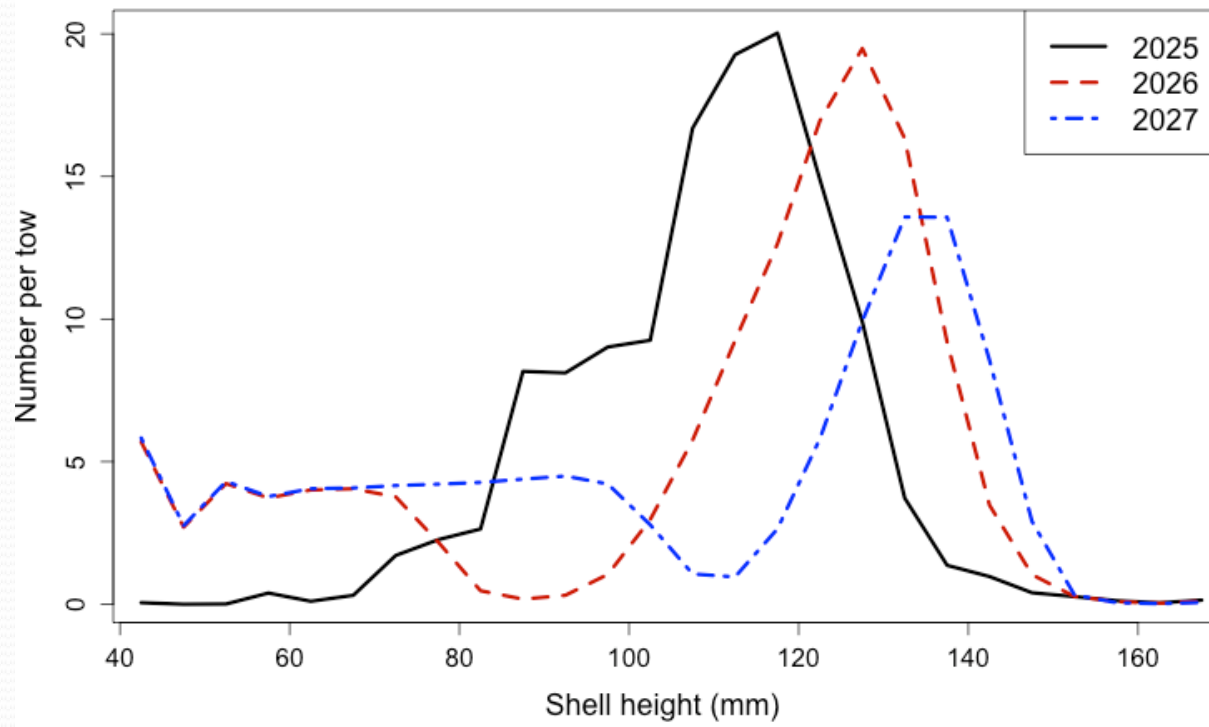


Elephant Trunk + Hudson Canyon South

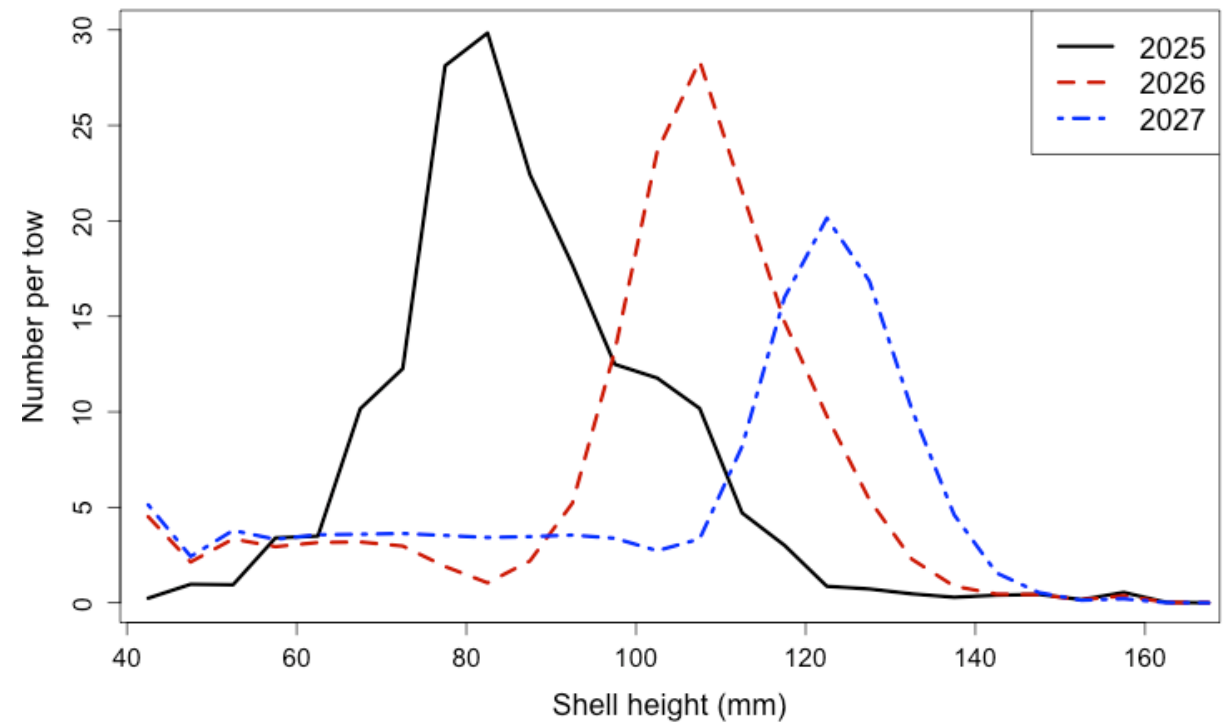


Stellwagen Bank

StellGOM



StellS



NGOM - Other

