

2025 Scallop Survey Short Report

Prepared by:

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2025 SURVEY BIOMASS ESTIMATES

CFF HABCAM V3 ESTIMATES

Size cutoff for estimates is 40mm, all estimates should use the 2025 Scallop RTA equation, except for NLS-S, which should use VIMS 16-23,25.

Region	Area	Abundance (mil.)	Biomass (mt)	SE	Avg. Weight (g)	Avg. Size (mm)	Avg. Density (#/m ²)	# Tows/Drops, HabCam images annotated
Georges Bank	CL1-Access							
	CL1-Sliver							
	CL1-South							
	CL2-North							
	CL2-South	67.27	1590.25	437.21	24.17	118.85	0.035	6051
	CL2-Ext	128.18	1880.34	517.90	14.91	96.75	0.097	2362
	NLS-North							
	NLS-South	6976.54	28208.76	7309.25	4.03	65.98	5.294	5706
	NLS-West							
	GSC							
	NF							
	SF	1008.23	7438.78	3136.27	7.29	74.36	0.281	7555
	GB Total							
Mid-Atlantic	BI	93.30	1748.52	480.57	18.66	92.74	0.152	1131
	LI	1731.15	32347.56	4407.59	16.01	88.21	0.171	16383
	NYB							
	MAB-Nearshore							
	HCS							

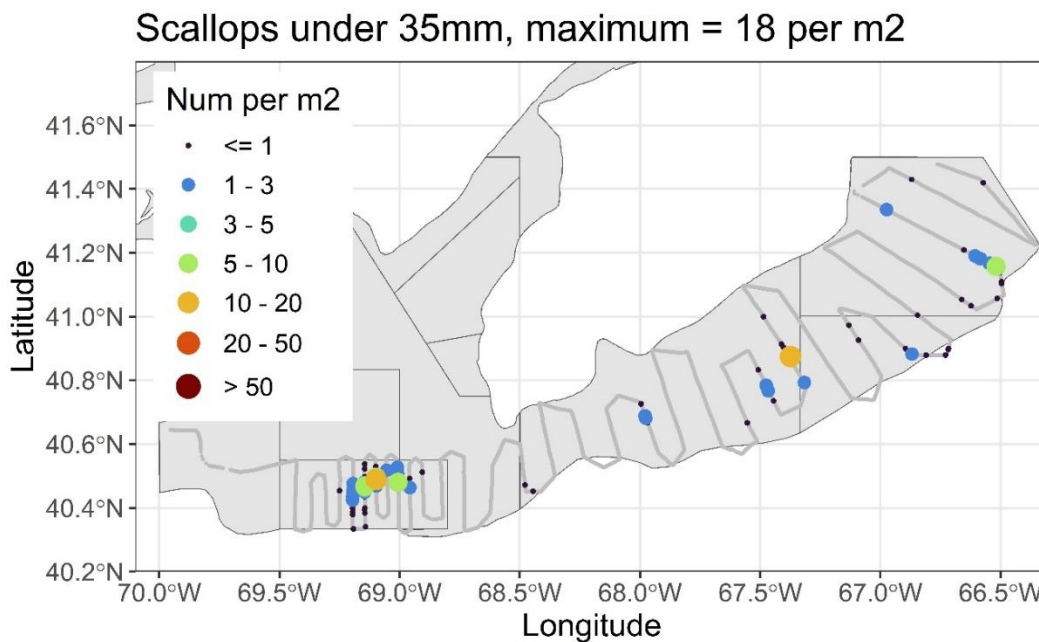
	ET	779.83	9219.85	1186.36	12.14	82.95	0.215	8904
	DMV	294.83	2577.10	1154.86	9.00	73.05	0.089	3279
	VIR							
	MA Total							

1.0 FIGURES OF SURVEY COVERAGE

1.1 Georges Bank (Leg 2)

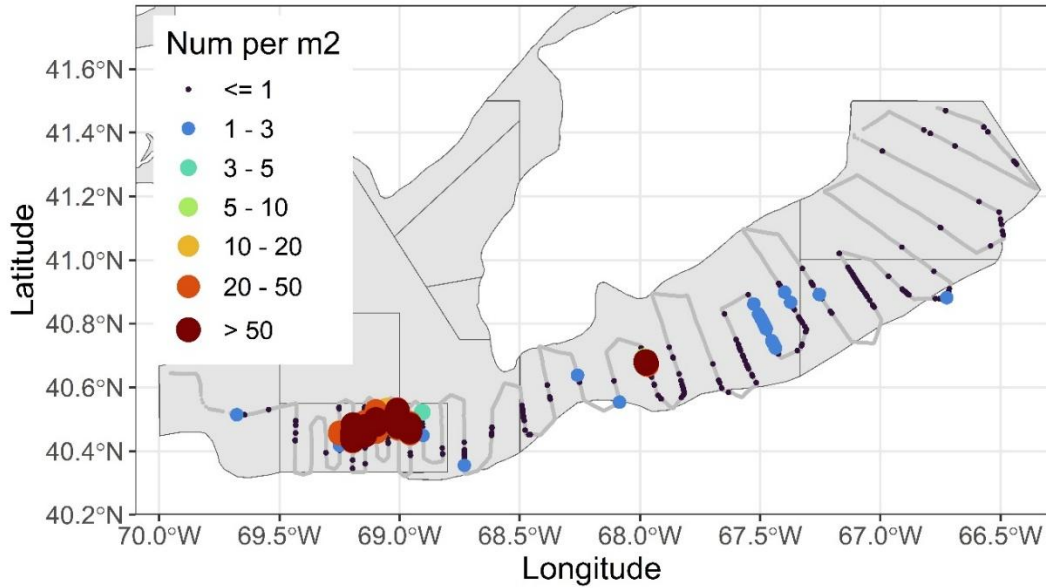
Our Georges Bank (GB) survey was conducted from May 28th to June 4th, 2025, covering nearly 700 nautical miles of continuous track lines in Closed Area 2 South (CA2-South), Closed Area 2 Extension (CA2-Ext), the Southern Flank (SF), and Nantucket Lightship South (NLS-S). The survey followed the large scallop recruitment first documented by CFF in 2023, which included both NLS-S and Nantucket Lightship North (NLS-N). Given the heavy fishing effort in Nantucket Lightship West (NLS-W) at the start of the 2025 fishing season, we chose to keep HabCam deployed and transected part of NLS-W to assess habitat conditions after the fishing derby subsided.

Pre-recruit scallops (<35 mm) were observed in patchy distributions throughout Leg 2, with small hotspots in NLS-S and along the border of the SF and CA2-Ext. These two areas also showed notable scallop densities across all size classes.



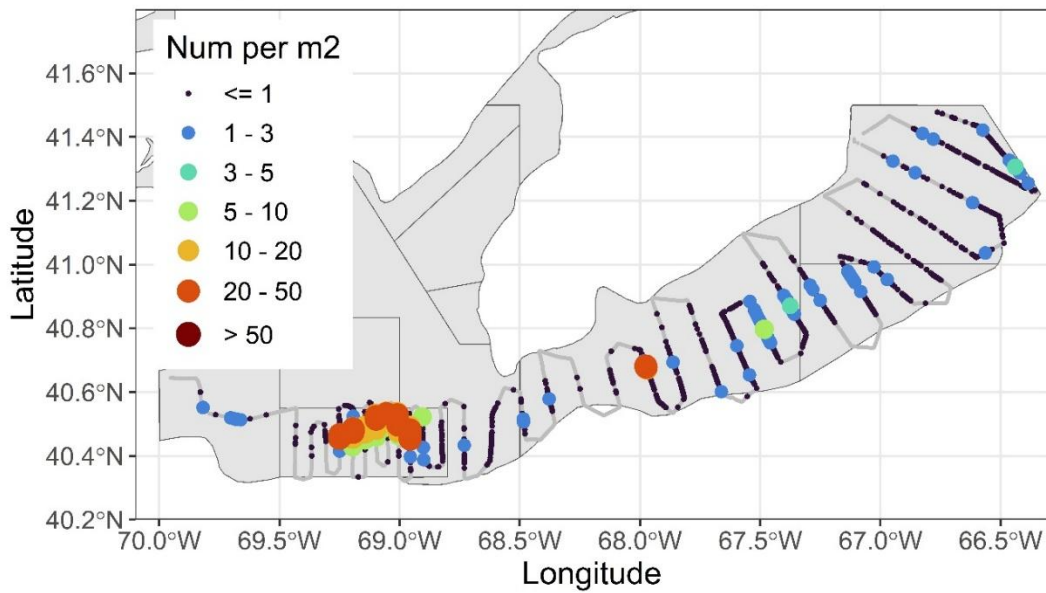
Recruit scallops (35–75 mm) were the most abundant size class observed during Leg 2, with the highest densities in NLS-S and extending into NLS-N, consistent with the large recruitment event first documented in 2023. A significant hotspot was also observed in the central portion of the SF, where scallops from multiple size classes were present.

Scallops 35-75mm, maximum = 160 per m2



Large adult scallops were the second most abundant size class noted during Leg 2. The greatest densities of large adult scallops (> 75 mm) were found in the NLS-S, with a second hotspot midway through the SF.

Scallops over 75mm, maximum = 39 per m2



1.2 Mid-Atlantic

1.2.1 Leg 1

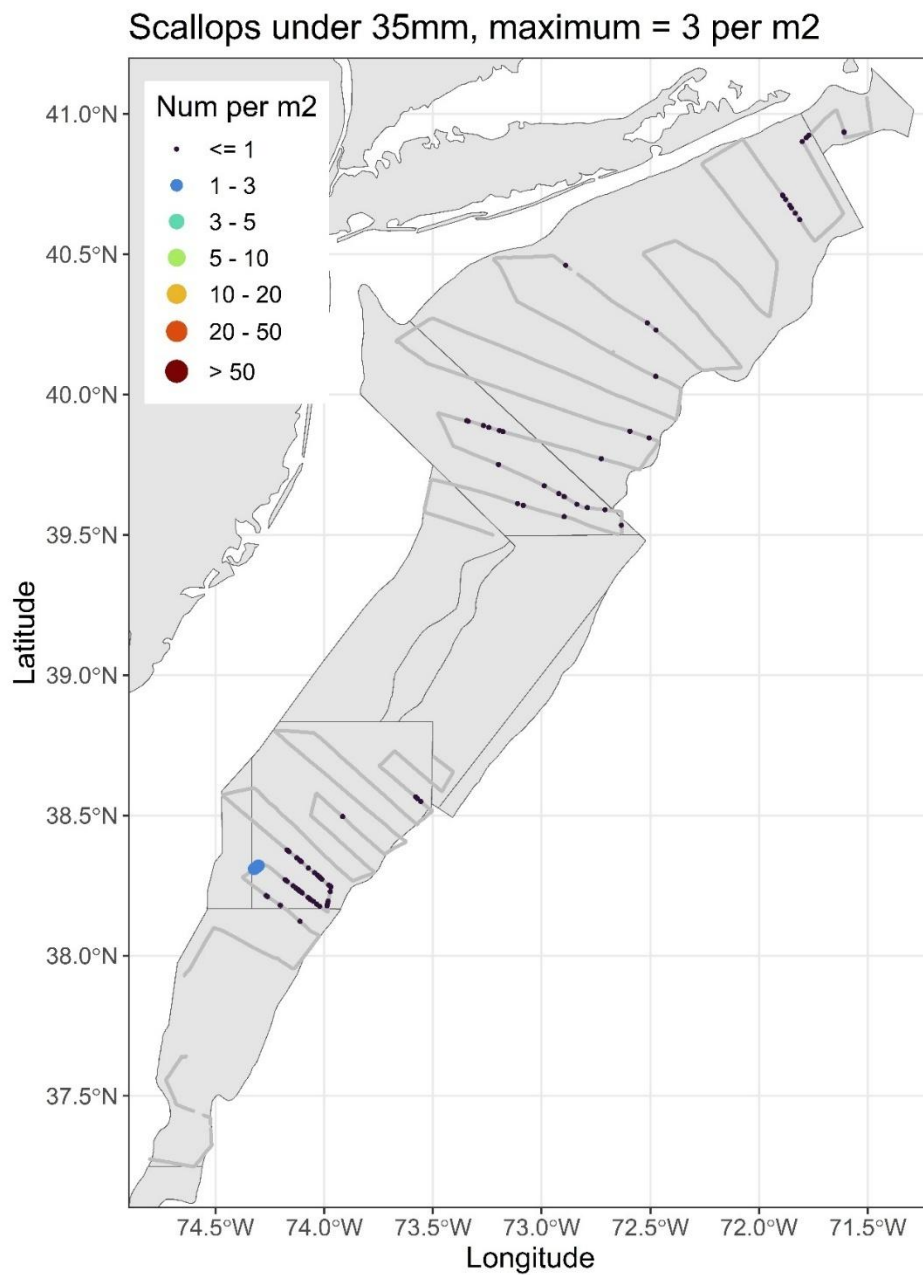
CFF completed two trips in the Mid-Atlantic Bight (MAB) during the 2025 survey season. Leg 1 took place from May 17th – 23rd, covering approximately 711 nautical miles across Block Island (BI), Long Island (LI), and the largest northern portion of New York Bight (NYB) down to the southern extent of the former NYB Closure area. The trip was cut short by about 60 nautical miles in the southernmost portion of the track due to a wire socket malfunction in the early hours of May 22. The wire separated from the socket resin, detaching the vehicle. We marked the last data location and initiated a retrieval mission using grappling hooks. The vessel successfully recovered the vehicle later that same day and returned to port. CFF at-sea staff tested the vehicle, confirmed only minimal damage, and began preparing equipment for the next trip during the steam back to port.

1.2.2 Leg 3

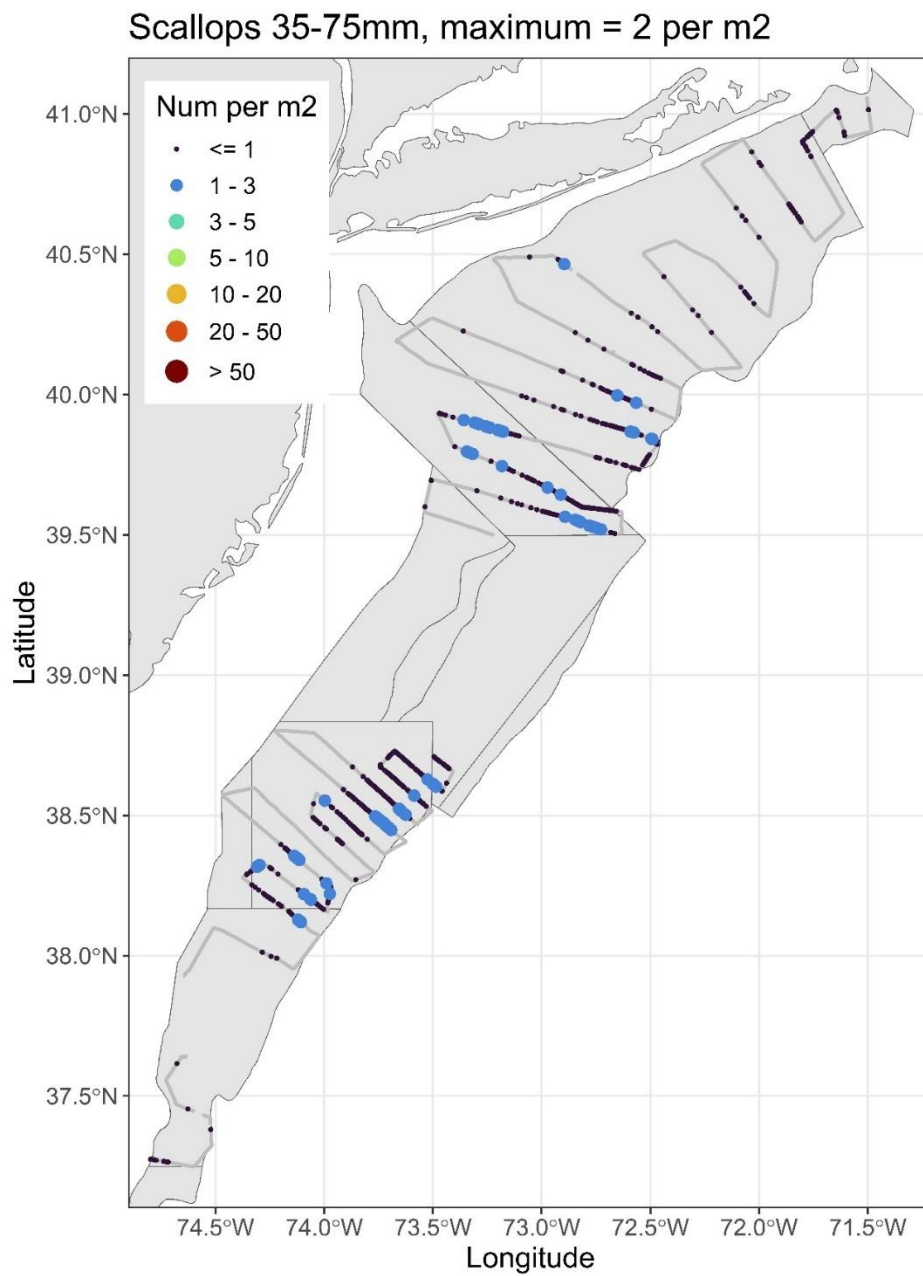
Following the conclusion of our planned survey season, CFF was contacted in July and asked to complete an additional late-season survey, which took place July 16th – 22nd, 2025. This request, made by the New England Fishery Management Council and NOAA's Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, aimed to cover Mid-Atlantic management areas originally slated for survey by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center after the loss of their vehicle. Target areas included Hudson Canyon (HCS), the Mid-Atlantic Bight Nearshore (MAB-Nearshore), a small section of the NYB, the Elephant Trunk (ET), and Delmarva (DMV). During this leg, we successfully surveyed DMV and ET, which was identified as a key recruitment area in the previous year's survey. However, we were unable to cover management areas between ET and the former NYB Closure area due to a network failure and the late timing of the trip. In addition, a gap remains in the DMV track line as we were forced to evacuate the area due to explosives testing in the area.

1.2.3 Scallop Density and Distribution

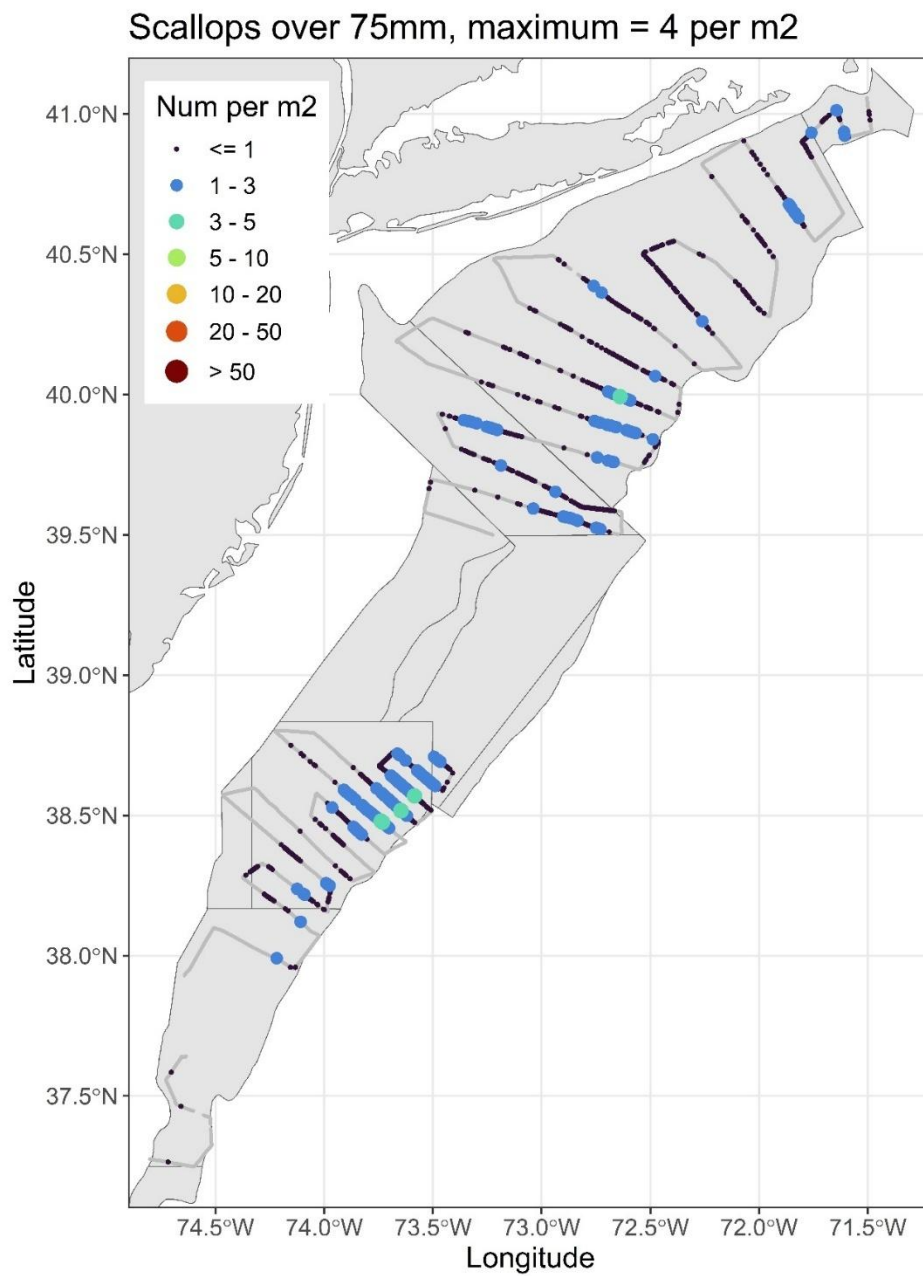
Pre-recruit scallops were sparsely distributed across the surveyed Mid-Atlantic areas, with the highest densities observed along the southern portion of the ET.



Recruit scallops were more abundant than pre-recruits across the Mid-Atlantic, though their distribution remained patchy. The highest densities were observed in southeastern LI, the NYB, and the eastern portion of the ET.



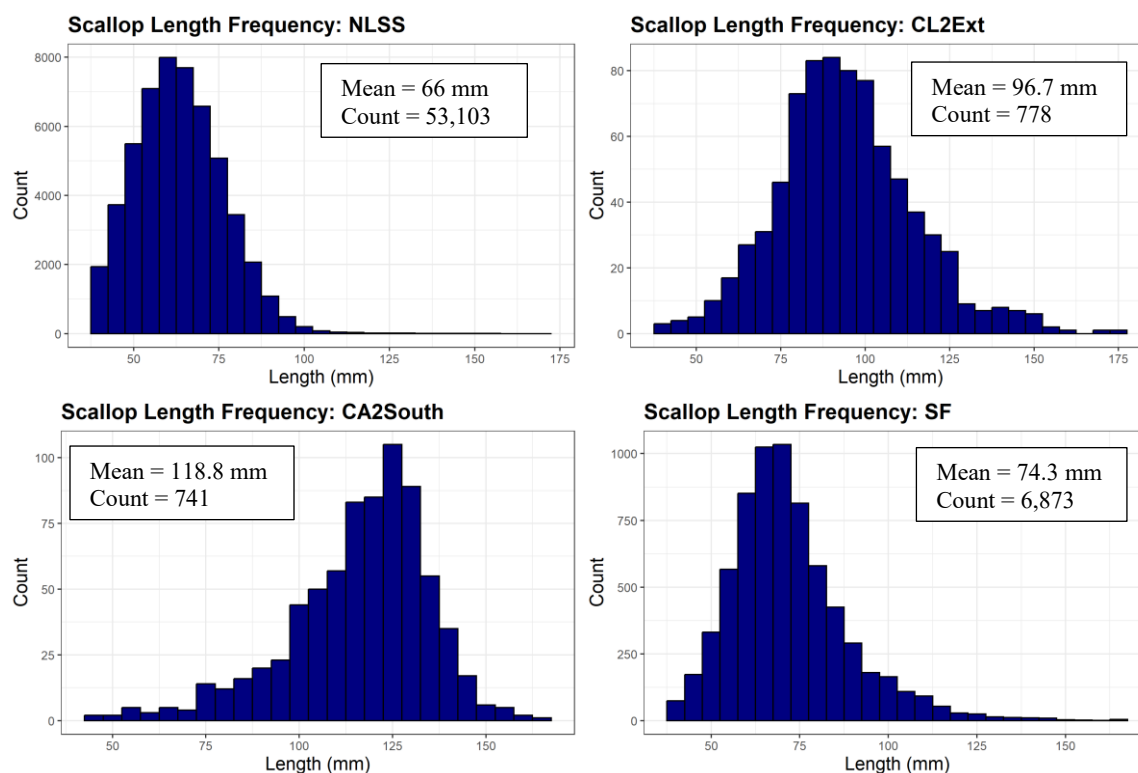
Large adult scallops were the most abundant size class in the Mid-Atlantic, with the highest abundance and densities observed in the southern ET and LI. Scallops of all size classes were sparse in DMV.



2.0 LENGTH FREQUENCY PLOTS BY SAMS AREA

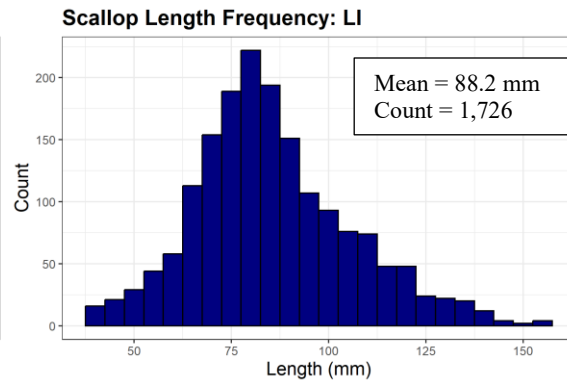
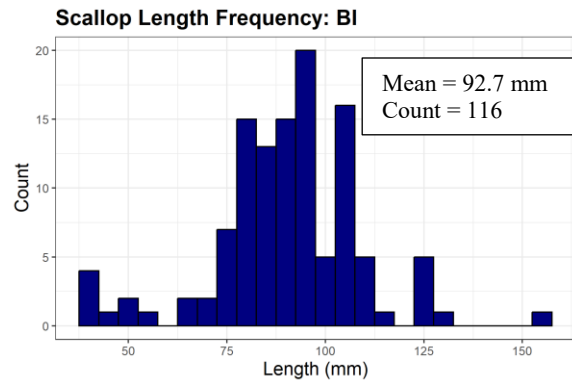
2.1 Georges Bank

Scallops included in the length-frequency plots are limited to individuals 40 mm and larger, consistent with those used in total biomass estimates. As in previous years, the largest numbers of scallops observed during the Georges Bank survey were in NLS-S, reflecting the strong settlement first documented by this survey in 2023. This area showed strong growth from 2024 (mean length 47 mm) and was dominated by recruit scallops, with smaller numbers of other size classes present. CL2 Extension and South were characterized primarily by large adult scallops, with only a small number of recruits. In contrast, the SF contained similar numbers of recruits and large adults, though their distributions differed notably; the recruits were concentrated in a single prominent hotspot located midway through the area.

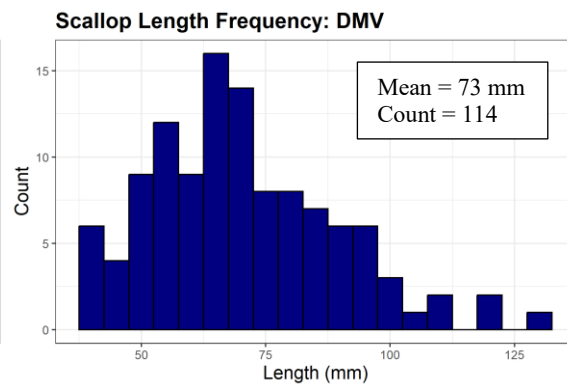
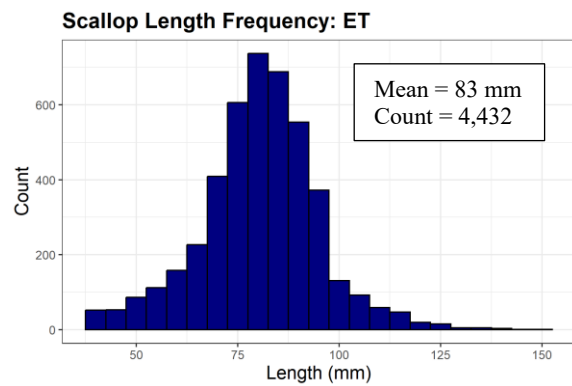


2.2 Mid-Atlantic

The majority of scallops annotated in the BI and LI during the Mid-Atlantic surveys consisted of large adult scallops > 75mm. As in previous years, we observed few scallops in BI. In LI we observed significantly more scallops, primarily large adult and some recruit scallops. Since the southern portions of the NYB was not surveyed by CFF, we did not include length frequency plots for this area.



Similar to BI, DMV had notably few scallops annotated, which were mainly recruit scallops with some larger adult scallops. The greatest number of scallops were annotated in the ET.



3.0 ADDITIONAL ANALYSES

3.1 Biomass sensitivity analysis for NLS-South

SAMS area	Biomass (mt) using VIMS-specific equation	Biomass (mt) using 2025 RTA SHMW equations	Biomass (mt) using SARC 65 equation for NLS-South-Deep (Peter Pan)
NLS-South	28208.76	36928.38	33113.17

The new 2025 Research Track Assessment (RTA) shell height-meat weight (SHMW) equation reduces estimated biomass on Georges Bank by 30 to over 40% compared to the SARC65 equation, indicating that the new Georges Bank equation may be problematic. In contrast, the difference between the two equations in the Mid-Atlantic is much smaller, with biomass estimates changing far less dramatically. For the NLS-S, the 2025 RTA equation is not specific for this SAMS area, while the SARC65 equation was specific for scallops in this area with unusual growth patterns (the “Peter Pan” scallops). Therefore, the relationship between biomass estimates based on the 2025 RTA and SARC65 equations cannot be compared to those for the rest of Georges Bank.

3.2 Biomass sensitivity analysis for other SAMS areas surveyed by CFF

SAMS area	Biomass (mt) using 2025 RTA SHMW equations	Biomass (mt) using SARC 65 equations	Percentage change between new 2025 and SARC 65 biomass estimates (2025-SARC65)/2025
CA2-South	1590.25	2276.559	-43.16%
CA2-Ext	1880.34	2490.916	-32.47%
SF	7438.78	9799.048	-31.73%
BI	1748.52	1660.52	5.03%
LI	32347.56	30272.26	6.42%
ET	9219.85	8500.69	7.80%
DMV	2577.10	2434.37	5.54%

4.0 EXPLOITABLE BIOMASS ESTIMATES FOR 2025 (CURRENT FY)

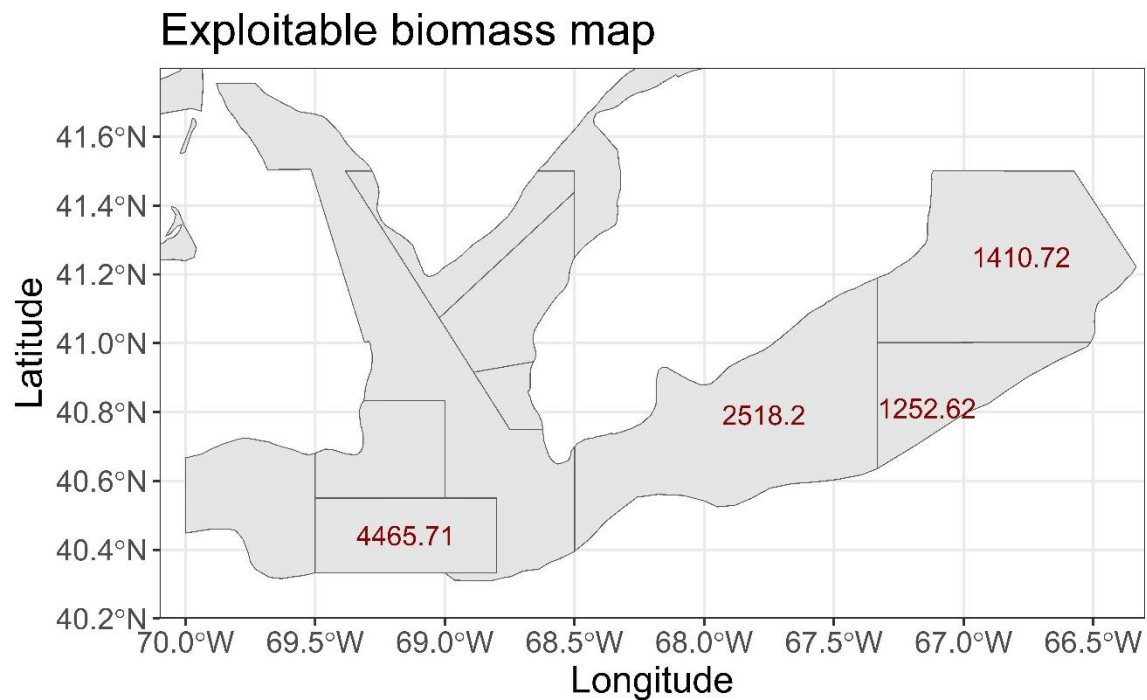
CFF HabCam v3					
Region	SAMS Area	Abundance (mil.)	Exp. Biomass (mt)	SE	Avg. Weight (g)
Georges Bank	CL1-Access				
	CL1-Sliver				
	CL1-South				
	CL2-North				
	CL2-South	43.03	1410.72	395.07	26.49
	CL2-Ext	762.68	1252.62	344.46	19.87
	NLS-North				
	NLS-South	213.02	4465.71	1122.73	7.27
	NLS-West				
	GSC				
	NF				
	SF	52.07	2518.20	653.94	13.91
GB Non-SAMS	Outer Cape Cod				
	EGB Non-SAMS				
	West of NLS-W				
Mid-Atlantic	Block Island	43.03	1088.84	339.32	24.25
	Long Island	762.68	21384.00	3724.09	24.49
	NYB				
	MAB Inshore				
	HCS				
	ET	213.02	3950.77	714.86	16.47
	DMV	52.07	905.17	573.98	17.14
	Virginia				

Exploitable biomass sensitivity analysis for NLS-South

SAMS area	Biomass (mt) using VIMS-specific equation	Biomass (mt) using 2025 RTA SHMW equations	Biomass (mt) using SARC 65 equation for NLS-South-Deep (Peter Pan)
NLS-South	4465.71	5738.71	5431.76

Exploitable biomass sensitivity analysis for other SAMS areas surveyed by CFF

SAMS area	Exploitable biomass (mt) using 2025 RTA SHMW equations	Exploitable biomass (mt) using SARC 65 equations	Percentage change between new 2025 and SARC 65 exploitable biomass estimates (2025-SARC65)/2025
CA2-South	1410.72	2003.15	-41.99%
CA2-Ext	1252.62	1661.35	-32.63%
SF	2518.20	3332.71	-32.35%
BI	1088.84	1016.076	6.68%
LI	21384.00	19666.10	8.03%
ET	3950.77	3583.24	9.30%
DMV	905.17	842.83	6.89%



Exploitable biomass map

