New England Fishery Management Council
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Daniel Salerno, *Chair* | Cate O'Keefe, PhD, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 30, 2026

TO: Scientific and Statistical Committee

FROM: Scallop Plan Development Team

SUBJECT: **Atlantic Sea Scallop OFLs and ABCs for FY 2027 and FY 2028 (default)**

This memorandum forwards information to support the development of overfishing limit (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) recommendations for Atlantic sea scallops for fishing years (FY) 2027 and FY 2028 (default). The Scallop Plan Development Team (PDT) met several times between July 29 and September 22, 2026 to develop this memo.

Overview

To develop OFL and ABC recommendations, the PDT reviewed survey information from the 2026 field season, relevant fishery and observer data, the 2025 Research Track Assessment (RTA) information and peer review report, and prior SSC and PDT reports. The PDT developed OFL and ABC recommendations developed using parameters from the 2025 Research Track assessment, consistent with methods specified in the fishery management plan (e.g., ABC control rule), with changes to: 1) scallop shell-height meat-weights (SHMW) relationships used to develop survey biomass estimates and 2) Scallop Area Management Simulator (SAMS) area boundaries and the resulting biomass used to develop the OFL and ABC recommendations.

Table 1. PDT recommended OFL and ABC for FY 2027 and FY 2028 (default).

Reference Points	Year	OFL (mt)	ABC (mt)	ABC (mt, discards excluded)
F_{OFL}=0.49 F_{ABC}=0.36	2027	21,418	16,668	13,152
	2028	22,137	17,279	13,520

Summary of Adjustments to the Methods used to develop OFL and ABC estimates:

Adjustments to the 2026 survey biomass estimates: To improve fit to the 2026 data, the PDT recommends additional modifications to the SHMW parameters developed through the 2025 RTA and revised for Framework 40, including the use of updated data through 2026.

- For the Mid-Atlantic, SHMW parameter estimates were updated with a revised equation developed by NEFSC staff and reviewed by the Scallop PDT on July 29, 2026. The main differences between this equation and that used for Framework 40 are the use of a mean year effect, an assumed Julian Day of 150, and a squared depth term. The revised equation was provided to the Scallop PDT, and biomass estimates using this equation were developed by the survey groups as a sensitivity to compare to the revised 2025 Atlantic Sea Scallop Research Track Assessment equation used in 2025 for FW40. After

reviewing the fit to the 2026 survey data, the PDT recommends use of the Hart 2026 equation for estimating scallop biomass in the Mid-Atlantic (Table 2).

- The PDT continues to recommend use of area-specific SHMW parameters based on dredge survey data from 2025 and 2026 for biomass calculations of the NLS-South. While biomass has increased substantially in this area, given the potential for different growth characteristics for the current cohort of scallops in this area relative to the very slow-growing 2012 cohort in this area, the PDT recommends utilizing biological data from the dredge survey from 2025-2026 to better inform SHMW relationships when projecting biomass. The PDT also notes that the difference in biomass estimates based on 2025 dredge data alone, versus the additional year of data, are very small (Table 3).
- As Gulf of Maine-specific SHMW relationships have not been developed nor reviewed as part of a stock assessment, the PDT continues to recommend use of SHMW parameter estimates from recent dredge surveys and supplemented with meat weight data collected to support the drop camera surveys for the remaining Gulf of Maine areas except for Platts Bank and Machias Seal Island, and include data from both Maine DMR and SMAST dredge surveys from 2016-2026 (Table 4). For these two areas, the PDT recommends using parameter estimates from only the dredge survey data.

Secondly, the PDT recommends including scallop biomass estimates from outer Cape Cod with that from the portion of Stellwagen Bank south of the Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) scallop management area (Figure 3). This area represents a small amount of additional biomass (225 mt, Table 6) but is surveyed annually by the RSA-funded SMAST drop camera survey, and has been as yet excluded from the scallop biomass used to develop the OFL and ABC. This area is also an important fishing ground for the Limited Access General Category IFQ scallop fleet.

Adjustments to projections for FY 2027 and FY 2028 (SAMS model): The PDT continues to recommend adjusted growth parameters for the Nantucket Lightship South area due to the slow growth rates of scallops in this area (Table 11). To account for observed spatial differences in natural mortality across the Mid-Atlantic, the PDT also continues to recommend area-specific natural mortality parameters developed in 2025 (Table 12).

Table 2. Comparison of biomass estimates from the 2026 Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) dredge survey using different shell height meat weight equations in the Mid-Atlantic SAMS areas. All values are for scallops greater than or equal to 40 mm in shell height.

SAMS Area	Total Biomass (mt)	
	Revised 2025 RTA Equation used in FW40	Hart 2026 Equation
VIR	3.75	4.15
DMV	274.64	292.11
ET	8,875.92	9,845.52
HCS	6,949.07	7,616.60
MAB_Nearshore	6.18	7.04
NYB	3,682.47	4,049.72
LI	4,116.72	4,547.84
BI	45.62	50.24

Table 3. Comparison of biomass estimates from the 2026 School for Marine Science and Technology (SMAST) drop camera survey using different shell height meat weight equations in the NLS-South. Stations were 1.5 nautical miles apart. The VIMS 2025 equation was compared with an updated VIMS 2025-2026 combined equation. All values are for scallops greater than or equal to 40 mm in shell height.

	VIMS 2025 equation	**VIMS 2025-2026 equation.**
	Nantucket Lightship South	
Average meat weight (g)	6.77	6.62
Biomass (mt)	32,550	31,826
Standard error	5,774	5,646
Exploitable average meat weight (g)	8.10	7.93
Exploitable biomass (mt)	7,000	6,851
Exploitable standard error	1,242	1,215

Table 4. Comparison of biomass estimates from the 2026 School for Marine Science and Technology (SMAST) drop camera survey using different shell height meat weight equations on Stellwagen Bank within the NGOM. Stations were 0.93 nautical miles apart. The ME DMR & SMAST 2016-2025 combined equation was compared with an updated ME DMR & SMAST 2016-2026 combined equation. All values are for scallops greater than or equal to 40 mm in shell height.

	Maine DMR & SMAST combined equation, 2016-2025	**Maine DMR & SMAST combined equation, 2016-2026**
	Stellwagen Bank - NGOM	
Average meat weight (g)	19.10	20.45
Biomass (mt)	237	253
Standard error	19	20
Exploitable average meat weight (g)	29.67	31.77
Exploitable biomass (mt)	130	140
Exploitable standard error	11	11

FY 2027 – FY 2028 OFL and ABC Calculations

The updated OFL and ABC are based on the combined reference points from the 2025 Research Track Assessment (F_{OFL}=0.49; F_{ABC}=0.36) (Table 4). Based on adjustments to the Scallop FMP through Amendment 21 and methods approved by the SSC in October 2021, scallops in the Gulf of Maine region (including the Northern Gulf of Maine management area) are included in the OFL and ABC estimates. In the absence of region-specific reference points and a stock assessment model for the Gulf of Maine, the OFL and ABC estimates for the Gulf of Maine were derived using the Georges Bank F_{MSY} estimates from the 2025 Research Track Assessment ($F_{GB\ OFL}$=0.36; $F_{GB\ ABC}$=0.29). The approach of using Georges Bank reference points as a proxy was recommended by the SSC in October 2021 and is explained in detail in the October 7, 2021, Scallop PDT memo to the SSC[1]. The Council concurred with the SSC's approach of including scallop biomass from the Gulf of Maine in the overall OFL and ABC.

The PDT's recommended OFL and ABC estimates for FY 2027 are very similar to the FY 2027 (default) projections that were recommended by the SSC last year. OFL and ABC estimates have been declining since 2019 (Figure 1). While estimated survey biomass slightly increased between 2025 and 2026, total scallop biomass remains near the lowest levels observed in over 25

[1] https://s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/1.3-211007-Memo-PDT-to-SSC-RE-ABC-OFL-2022-2023.pdf

years, in large part driven by below average recruitment in recent years (Figure 1). The biomass projection for 2027 is slightly higher than the estimate for FY 2026 due to the growth of a large set of scallops on Georges Bank in the southern Nantucket Lightship region. Based on FY 2027 projections, 70% of the total biomass for the stock is contained on Georges Bank, and 29.7% of the total biomass for the stock is contained within the NLS-S and NLS-Extension areas. 47% of the scallop resource is projected to exploitable (Table 5). The PDT cautions that if higher than expected natural, incidental, or discard mortality occurs, biomass estimates will be overestimated, especially for FY 2028.

Table 5. Status determination criteria and recent stock reference points for Atlantic sea scallop

	Definition in Scallop FMP		SARC 65 (2018)	2020 Management Track	2025 Research Track
OFL	F_{MSY}	Mid-Atlantic	$F_{MSY\ MA} = 0.73$	$F_{MSY\ MA} = 0.72$	$F_{MSY\ MA} = 1.56$
		Georges Bank	$F_{MSY\ GB} = 0.57$	$F_{MSY\ GB} = 0.46$	$F_{MSY\ GB} = 0.36$
		Combined Regional	$F_{MSY} = 0.64$	$F_{MSY} = 0.61$	$F_{MSY} = 0.49$
ABC=ACL	25% probability of exceeding the OFL		F=0.51	F = 0.45	F = 0.36
B_{MSY}	B_{TARGET}		116,766 mt	102,657 mt	93,282 mt
½ B_{MSY}	$B_{THRESHOLD}$		58,383 mt	51,329 mt	46,641 mt
MSY			46,531 mt	32,079 mt	28,402 mt
Overfished?	$B < B_{THRESHOLD}$		No	No	No
Overfishing?	$F < F_{THRESHOLD}=F_{MSY}$		No	No	No

Table 6. Estimated biomass (mt) and exploitable biomass (mt) for FY 2027.

	Biomass	Exploitable Biomass	Percent Exploitable
Georges Bank	65,347	25,178	38.5
Mid-Atlantic	22,786	14,410	63.2
Gulf of Maine	4,961	4,229	85.3%
Total	93,093	43,817	47.1%

Recruitment and Outlook

Recruitment continues to be average to below-average across both the Mid-Atlantic and Georges Bank. While scallop biomass is projected to increase between FY 2026 and 2027, the increases are driven by the continued growth of the five-year old scallops in the Nantucket Lightship region. High densities of pre-recruit scallops (< 35 mm shell size) were observed in eastern Closed Area II, and to a much lesser extent in the Great South Channel (Figure 8). In the Mid-Atlantic, continued growth of four-year old scallops were observed in the Elephant Trunk, Hudson Canyon South, and New York Bight regions, but little recruitment was observed. Scallop biomass in 2026 was estimated to be 77,717 mt, far lower than the recent peak biomass estimated in 2017 of 265,277 mt.

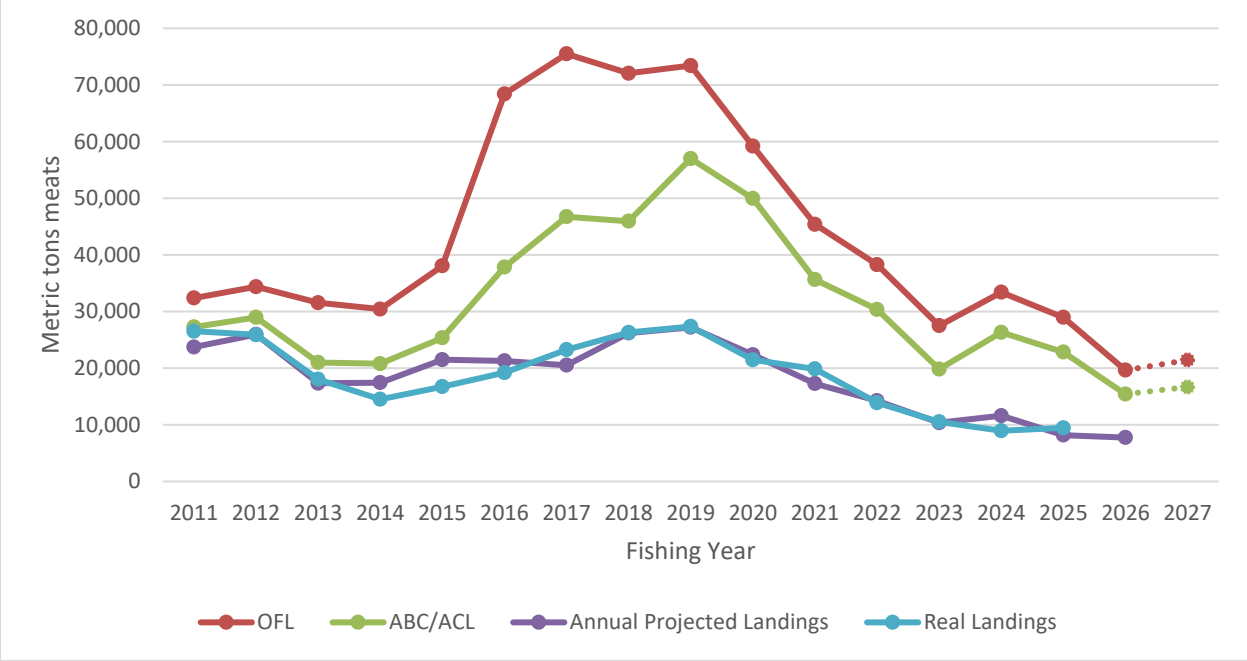
The Council is considering rotational access to an access area comprising of the NLS-South and NLS-North (Figure 4), with limited allocations of 9,000 – 15,000 lb., while maintaining closures

of NLS-Extension and Area II in FY 2027, to optimize yield and protect juvenile scallops. Access area fishing in the Mid-Atlantic region is not likely.

Scallop Rotational Management

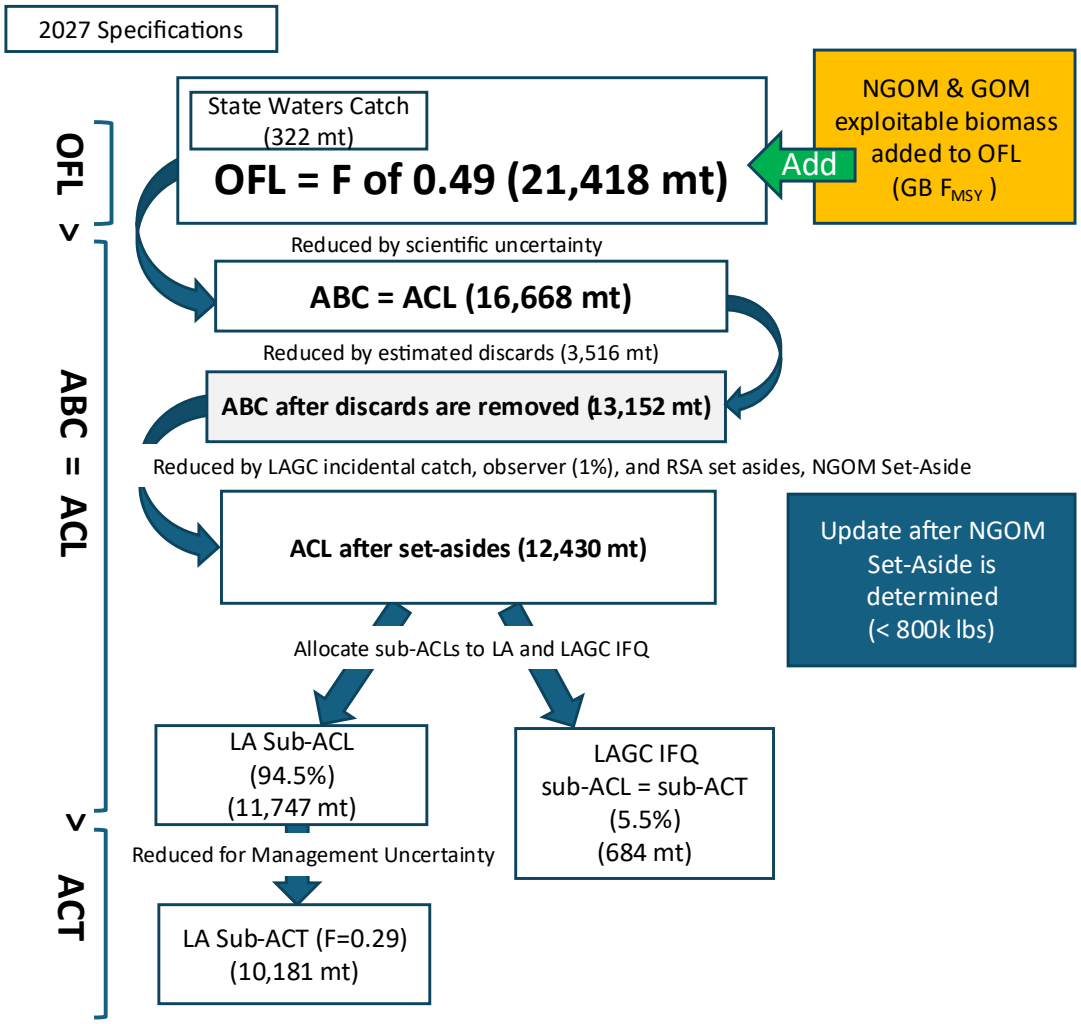
While the OFL and ABC establish bounds for resource removals, in recent years, scallop rotational management has resulted in realized harvests (and corresponding fishing mortality rates) below these legal limits, however discard rates and discard mortality are uncertain. Fishery allocations are based on an average F that is below the reference points for this fishery. For example, in FY 2026, the ABC is 12,757 mt (not including discards), whereas the fishery Annual Projected Landings (APL) is 7,747 mt. Based on initial discussions of rotational management alternatives for FY 2027 and 2028 (default) specifications, it is reasonable to expect that fishery removals in FY 2027 will continue to be below the OFL and ABC estimates recommended in this memo. The Council considers a range of additional issues and uncertainties as part of the annual rotational management process, such as the proportion of available biomass that the fishery is likely to target (effective biomass), discard rates and mortality, and projection model uncertainty.

Figure 1. Scallop fishery total landings (FY 2011-2025), OFL, ABC/ACL, and APL for Georges Bank and the Mid-Atlantic (FY 2011-2026), with PDT recommendation for FY 2027 OFL/ABC.[2]



[2] Estimates from 2022 forward include biomass from the Gulf of Maine.

Figure 2. Example Atlantic Sea scallop specifications based on the PDT's proposed OFL and ABC for FY 2027.



Responses to SSC Recommendations made in 2025:

In October 2025, the SSC recommended the OFL and ABC as developed by the PDT. The SSC made other comments and recommendations, which the PDT responds to here:

1. *"…The SSC made several recommendations for future research. The foremost was to reconsider the spatial structure of the stock, and specifically to research the possibility of managing Atlantic Sea Scallops as multiple stocks. Relatedly, the SSC also recommended the continued pursuit of GeoSAMS, and exploring options for spatially explicit management even if the stock structure is not reconsidered (e.g., setting catch and/or days-at-sea assignments separately for different regions). The SSC noted that the information presented on spatiotemporal changes in biological parameters such as growth and mortality justified these recommendations.*

PDT Response: Since these recommendations were made in 2025, the PDT is not aware of additional research to inform consideration of alternative scallop stock structure. However, the PDT notes that a current Council action, Scallop Framework 42, will consider measures to establish spatially explicit management of Scallop Days-at-Sea to better account for

regional differences. The Council approved a Scallop Strategic Plan in December 2025, which includes work items related to continued exploration of scallop stock structure and spatially explicit management.

2. *The SSC also recommended developing decision-support tools that might help the PDT accomplish finer-scale spatial or temporal (e.g., in-season) management. This recommendation followed the PDT's description of a need for tools that could help them explore more flexible approaches and to consider uncertainty and socioeconomic implications associated with alternative decisions".*

PDT Response: The PDT notes that several ongoing projects aim to develop decision-support tools to collect and process real-time data to support in-season management, as well as to better assess the bioeconomic impacts of management decisions and climate change. As above, the Scallop Strategic Plan approved in December 2025 includes work items related to the development of tools to support more finer spatial and temporal management.

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Appendix I: 2026 Scallop Survey Information

Table 7 – Final combined survey estimates for 2026 by SAMS areas, including values from the GOM and Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area.

Final Estimates. September 3, 2026

		Dredge				DropCam				Habcam				Mean				
Region	Subarea	Num	Bmsmt	SE	MeanWt	Num	Bmsmt	SE	MeanWt	Num	Bmsmt	SE	MeanWt	Num	Bmsmt	SE	MeanWt	CV
GB	CL1-Sliver	64	888	200	13.9	137	1634	213	11.9	185	2375	906	12.8	129	1632	317	12.7	0.19
GB	CL1-Access + South	8	92	38	11.5	59	1131	434	19.3	12	246	184	20.5	26	490	158	18.7	0.32
GB	CL2-North	89	2933	1071	33.0	165	4217	656	25.6	109	3633	74	33.3	121	3594	419	29.7	0.12
GB	CL2-Access	511	3366	464	6.6	360	1525	108	4.2	181	1091	132	6.0	351	1994	165	5.7	0.08
GB	CL2-Ext	73	931	106	12.8	115	1337	114	11.6	107	1549	157	14.5	98	1272	74	13.0	0.06
GB	SF	534	5017	650	9.4	724	7512	669	10.4	690	8450	367	12.2	649	6993	334	10.8	0.05
GB	NLS-North	37	835	51	22.5	58	1210	129	20.7	50	734	423	14.7	48	926	148	19.1	0.16
GB	NLS-South	361	2609	581	7.2	2328	15305	3154	6.6	2461	17799		7.2	1717	11904		6.9	
GB	NLS-Ext	421	3763	638	8.9	2481	16564	4718	6.7	1783	13213		7.4	1562	11180		7.2	0.00
GB	NLS-West	16	199	31	12.2	9	32	9	3.4	15	286	39	19.1	14	172	17	12.7	0.10
GB	NF	113	793	278	7.0	81	958	187	11.9	131	1762	79	13.5	190	875	462	4.6	0.53
GB	GSC	426	5657	320	13.3	340	3070	502	9.0	375	3821	1344	10.2	299	4364	200	14.6	0.05
GB	**TOTAL**	**2654**	**27082**	**1663**	**10.2**	**6857**	**54494**	**5801**	**7.9**	**6099**	**54959**	**1741**	**9.0**	**5074**	**43765**	**788**	**8.6**	**0.02**
MAB	Block Island	4	50	4	14.0					34	410	24	11.1	19	230	12	12.2	0.05
MAB	Long Island	285	4548	241	16.0					322	7033	84	21.2	303	5791	128	19.1	0.02
MAB	New York Bight	300	4050	405	13.5					305	4823	49	14.3	302	4437	204	14.7	0.05
MAB	MAB_Nearshore	1	7	1	6.0					0	1	1	4.8	1	4	1	6.9	0.20
MAB	Hudson Canyon South	438	7617	588	17.4					604	10808	254	16.9	521	9213	320	17.7	0.03
MAB	Elephant Trunk	466	9846	794	21.1					450	8599	104	17.1	458	9223	400	20.1	0.04
MAB	Delmarva	34	292	89	8.5					14	97	11	5.8	24	195	45	8.0	0.23
MAB	Virginia	1	4	1	2.8									1	4	1	2.8	0.24
MAB	**TOTAL**	**1529**	**26414**	**1098**	**17.3**					**1729**	**31771**	**292**	**18.4**	**1630**	**29094**	**568**	**17.9**	**0.02**
GOM Open	Stellwagen South - AOI	24	268	78	11.0	72	428	18	6.0					48	348	40	7.2	0.11
GOM Open	Stellwagen South - Outside AOI	2	53	31	34.4									2	53	31	34.4	0.57
GOM	North Cape Cod					7	137	20	19.1					7	137	20	19.0	0.15
GOM	South Cape Cod					13	88	11	6.8					13	88	11	6.8	0.13
GOM Open	Stellwagen South - Total	26	321	84	12.4	92	653	29	7.1					**70**	**626**	**55**	**9.0**	**0.09**
NGOM	WGOM Closure					80	3177	264	39.9					80	3177	264	39.9	0.08
NGOM	Stellwagen Bank - AOI	5	159	29	29.6	12	253	20	20.4					9	206	18	23.2	0.09
NGOM	Stellwagen Bank - Outside AOI	11	399	154	37.6									11	399	154	37.6	0.39
NGOM	Jeffreys Ledge - AOI	8	253	103	30.7	6	110	10	19.2					7	181	52	25.9	0.28
NGOM	Jeffreys Ledge - Outside AOI	2	83	43	34.9									2	83	43	34.9	0.53
NGOM	Platts Bank	1	52	33	35.6	5	66	13	13.8					3	59	18	18.9	0.30
NGOM	Ipswich Bay - Outside AOI	0	4	4	26.3									0	4	4	26.3	1.00
NGOM	Ipswich Bay - AOI	5	123	42	22.9	7	121	13	17.9					6	122	22	20.1	0.18
NGOM	Machias Seal Island	17	307	87	18.1									17	307	87	18.1	0.28
NGOM	**TOTAL**	**51**	**1380**	**218**	**27.3**	**109**	**3728**	**266**	**34.1**					**118**	**4232**	**172**	**35.9**	**0.04**
NGOM	**TOTAL - Open**	**51**	**1380**	**218**	**27.3**	**30**	**551**	**29**	**18.5**					**55**	**1361**	**369**	**24.7**	**0.27**
TOTAL	**TOTAL**	**4233**	**54876**	**2005**	**13.0**	**6966**	**58222**	**5807**	**8.4**	**7828**	**86730**	**1765**	**11.1**	**6892**	**77717**	**988**	**11.3**	**0.01**

Figure 3. 2026 Gulf of Maine SAMS areas.

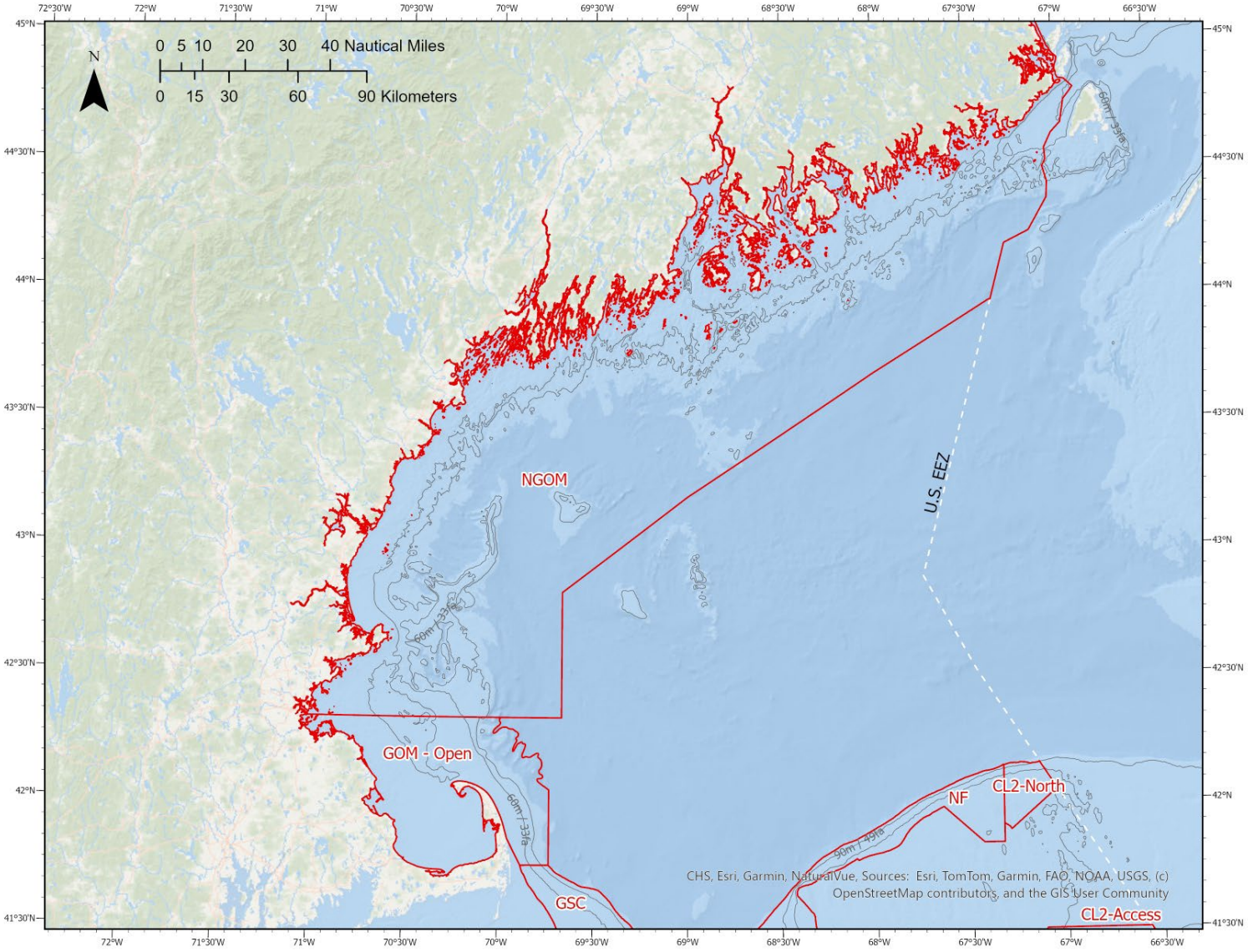


Figure 4. 2026 Georges Bank SAMS areas

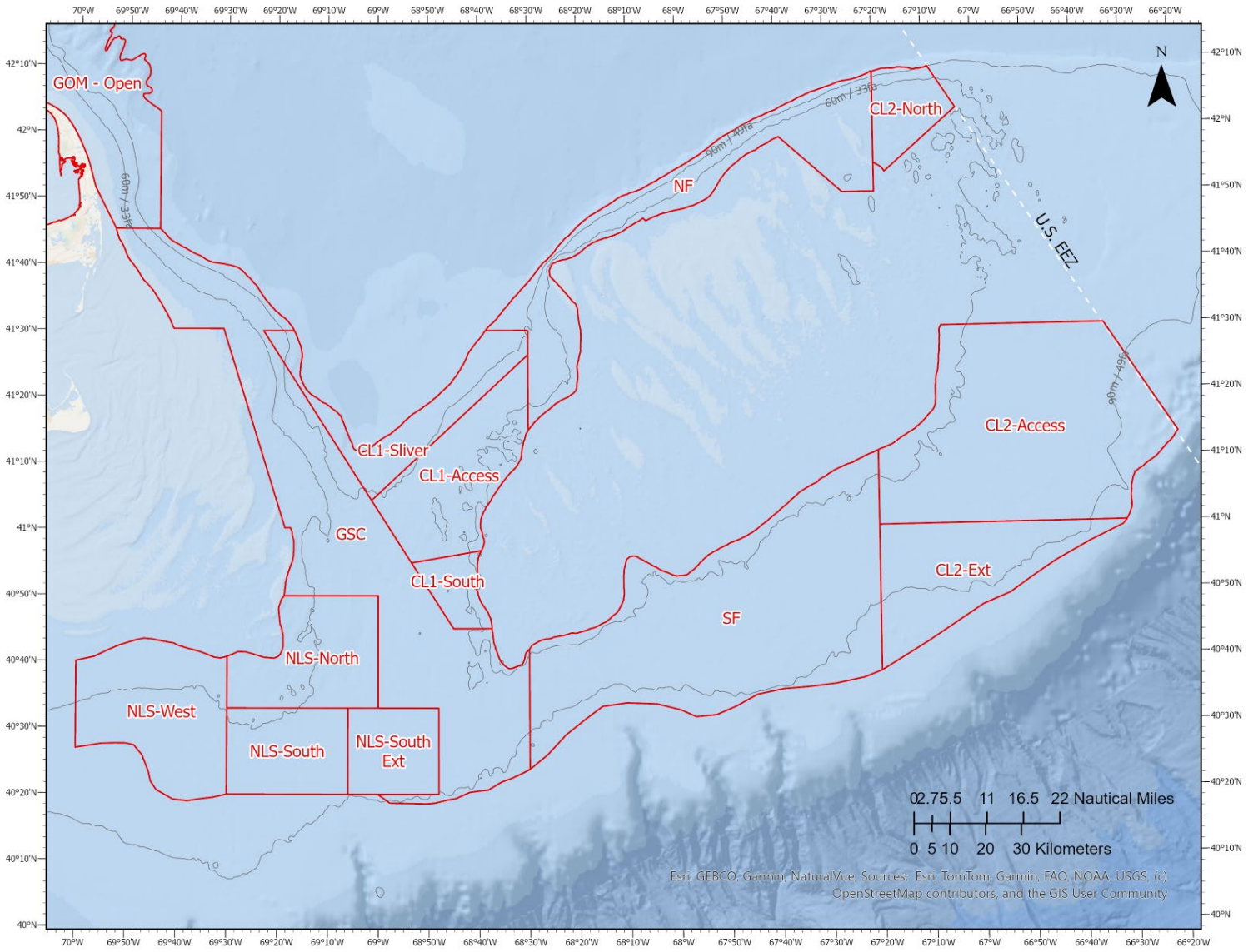


Figure 5. 2026 Mid-Atlantic SAMS areas

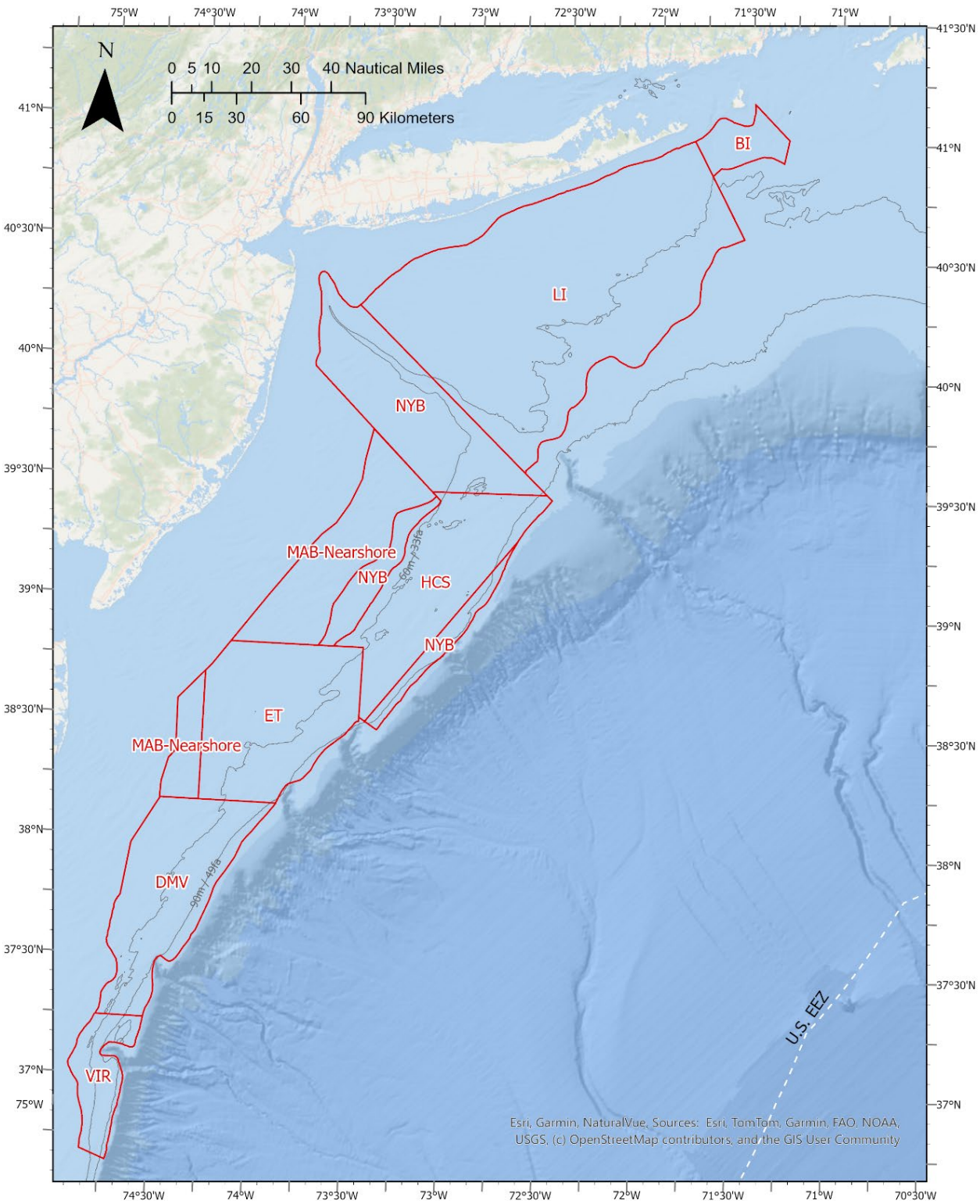


Figure 6. 2026 Scallop Survey Coverage for the Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank, and the Mid-Atlantic.

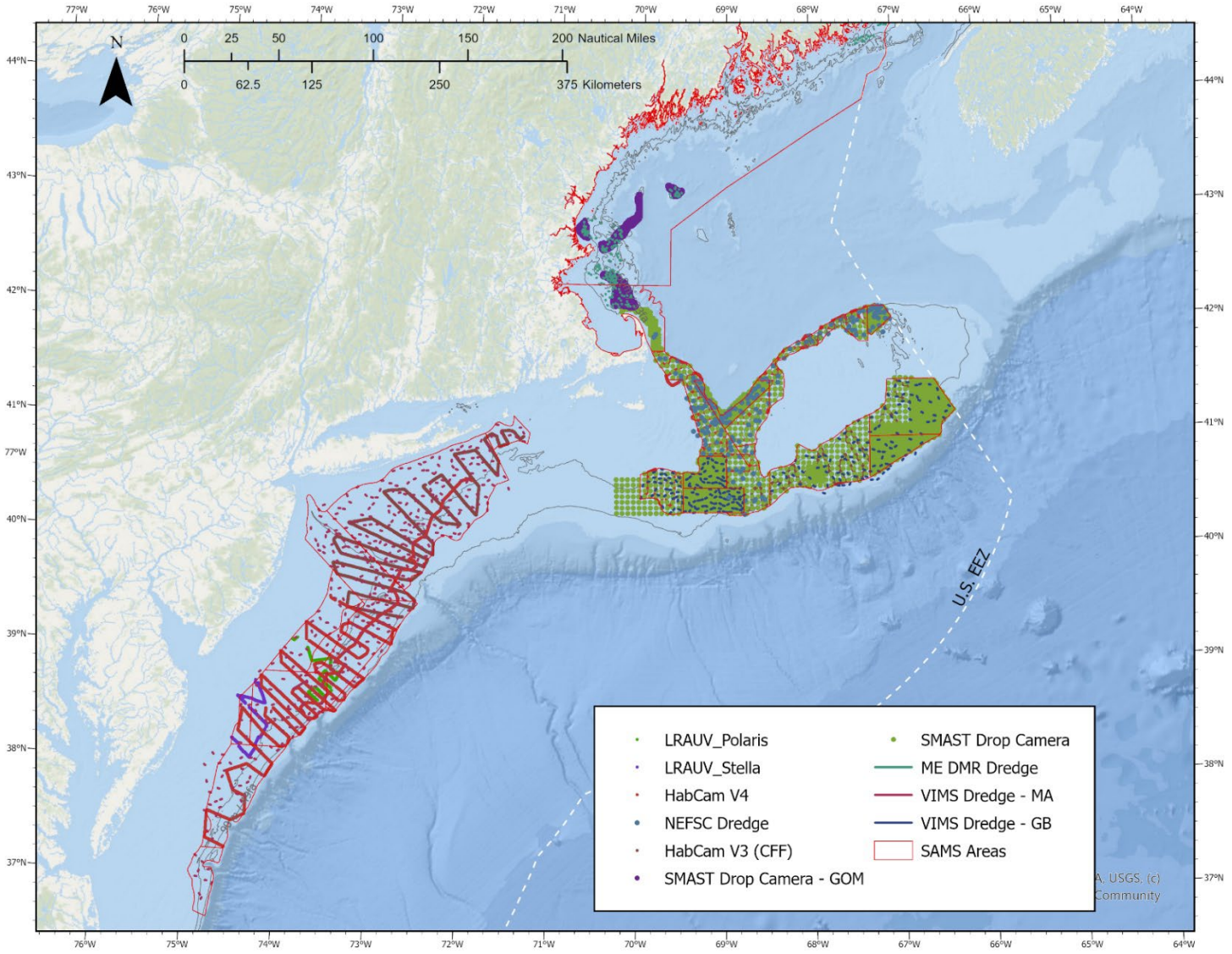


Figure 7. 2026 Scallop RSA survey coverage for the Gulf of Maine by the SMAST drop camera relative to the Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area (dotted black line), Western Gulf of Maine Closure

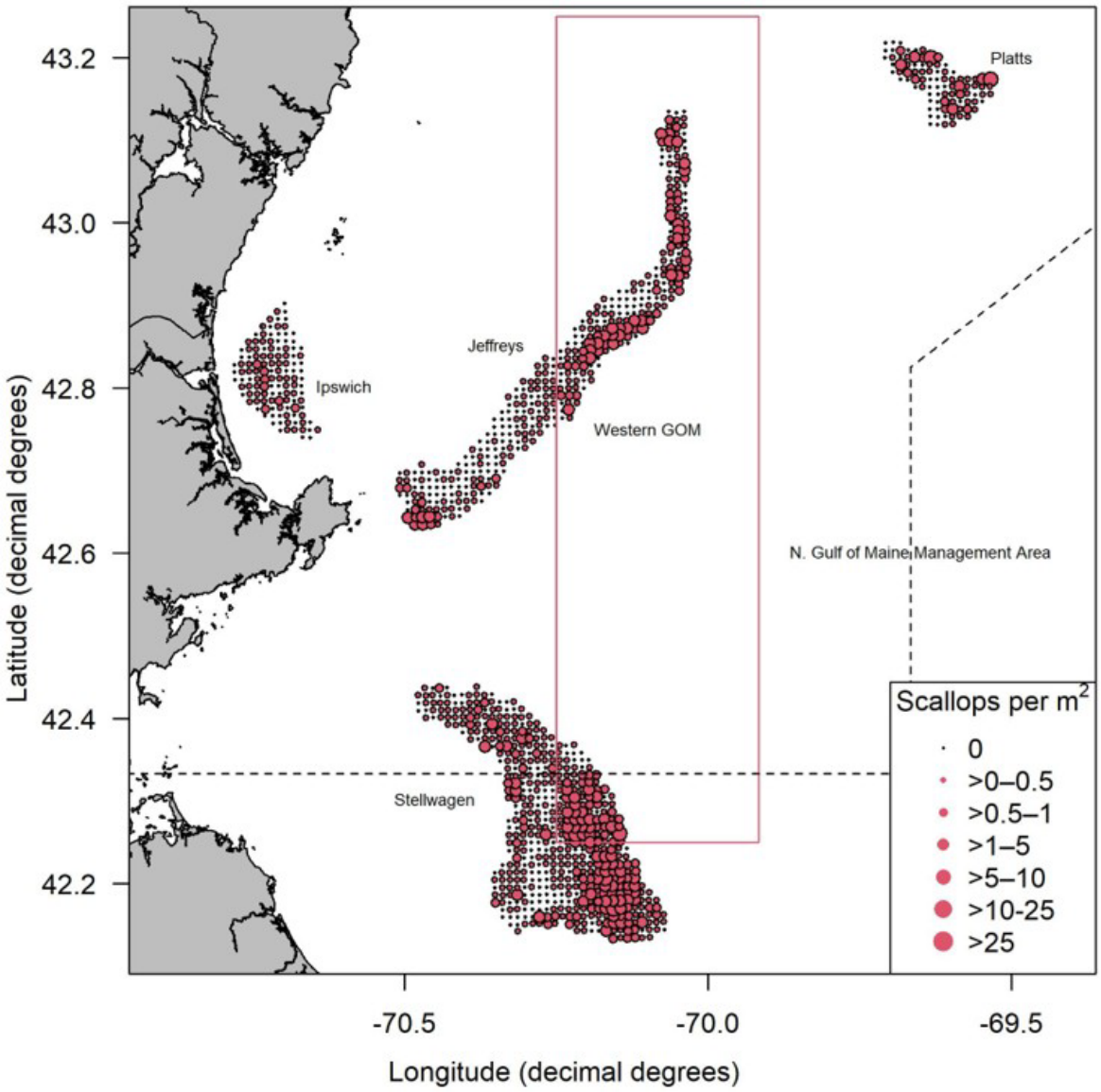
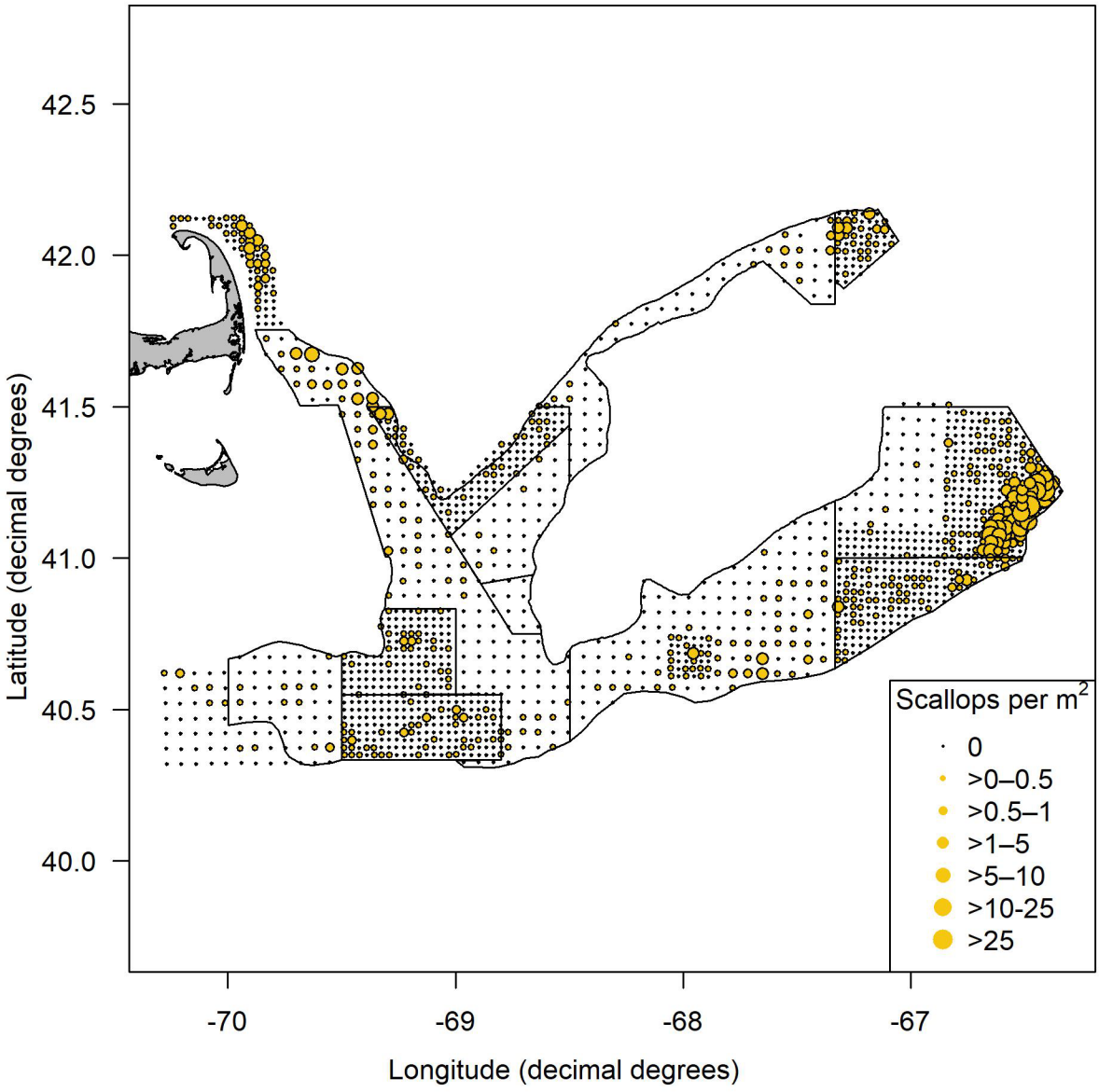


Figure 8. Mean pre-recruit scallop density (scallops less than 35 mm shell height per m^2) at each station from the 2026 School for Marine Science and Technology Drop Camera Survey on Georges Bank.



Appendix II: 2026 Projections for 2027 – Outputs and Assumptions

2027 Projections for Georges Bank and the Mid-Atlantic:

1. Several changes were made to the model configuration from Framework 40. The NLS-Extension area was separated from the NLS-South area along the 69.1W boundary, and the Stellwagen South area was expanded south to include the region off of Cape Cod that was previously not included in the SAMS model. Lastly, the area within Ipswich Bay was combined in the NGOM-Other area, while Jeffreys Ledge was considered separately. There are currently 8 areas in MA, 13 in GB, and 5 in the Gulf of Maine.
2. Initialized using the average (mean) of available 2026 survey data.
3. Growth assumptions from the 2020 Management Track assessment were used. For the Nantucket Lightship – South area, the growth parameters for the Nantucket Lightship – West were used. In the GOM, growth was set to match GB estimates from the most recent period.

Table 8. Projected biomass and exploitable biomass for 2027 for Georges Bank and Mid-Atlantic SAMS area and the Gulf of Maine. Catch at F_{ABC} excludes discards.

SAMS/Region	Biomass (mt)	Exploitable (mt)	ABC (GB/MA F=0.36; GOM F=0.29) (mt)
HCS	6292	4369	1173
VIR	10	0	0
ET	7067	4280	1046
DMV	212	60	19
NYB	3913	2317	782
LI + BI	5184	3383	1089
MAB-Inshore	108	1	5
MAB TOTAL	**22786**	**14410**	**4115**
CA1-N	1796	807	267
CA1-Mid	554	299	80
CA2-N	3833	2936	687
CA2-S	12538	1041	375
CA2-Ext	2798	1000	261
NLS-W	197	115	32
NLS-N	944	606	163
NLS-S	14092	5837	2138
NLS-Ext	13540	5028	1927
GSC	5287	2976	836
NF	1605	505	194
SF	8162	4028	1202
GB TOTAL	**65347**	**25178**	**8161**
GOM-Open	480	346	82
Stell-NGOM	794	463	132
Jeffreys	270	227	50
NGOM-Other	492	419	92
GOM-Closed	3177	2774	521
GOM TOTAL	**4961**	**4229**	**876**

Table 9. Comparison of the meat weight and growth parameters used in recent SAMS configurations for GB and MA.

	Meat weight	Growth
2015	SARC 59	SARC 59
2016	SARC 59, with changes to SH-MW parameters using VIMS 2016 data (NLS-S, NLS-NA, NLS-ext)	SARC 59, with reductions to growth in NLS
2017	SARC 50, with changes to SH-MW parameters in NLS using VIMS 2016 & 2017 data (NLS-S, NLS-NA).	SARC 59, with reductions to growth in NLS-S deep (>70m) based on observed growth between 2016 and 2017. Change ET-Flex L infinity to 110 mm based on observed growth in 2016 and 2017.
2018	SARC 65, with changes to SH-MW parameters in the NLS using VIMS 2016 – 2018 data	SARC 65, with reduction in L_∞ in NLS-W to 119mm. SARC 65 set the L_∞ of scallops in the NLS-S-deep at 110 mm.
2019	SARC 65, with changes to SH-MW parameters in the NLS using VIMS 2016 – 2019 data	SARC 65, with reduction in L_∞ in NLS-W to 119mm. SARC 65 set the L_∞ of scallops in the NLS-S-deep at 110 mm.
2020	SARC 65, with changes to SH-MW parameters in the NLS using VIMS 2016 – 2020 data (NLS-S, NLS-N, NLS-W)	SARC 65, scaled to the growth expectations from the 2020 management track assessment for all areas except NLS-South and CAII-SW.
2021	SARC 65, with changes to SH-MW parameters in the NLS-South using VIMS 2016 – 2021 data NGOM-Stellwagen-AOI using ME DMR/UMAINE 2021 SH-MW (w/ covariates)	SARC 65, scaled to the growth expectations from the 2020 management track assessment for all areas except NLS-South and CAII-SW.
2022	SARC 65, with changes to SH-MW parameters in the NLS-South using VIMS 2016 – 2022 data. Changes to NYB-closure using 2015-2022 data. Stellwagen Region using ME DMR/UMAINE 2021 SH-MW (w/ covariates). Other areas using Hart 2020 SHMW curves.	SARC 65, scaled to the growth expectations from the 2020 management track assessment for all areas except NLS-South and CAII-SW. GB growth applied to areas of the GOM.
2023	SARC 65, with changes to SH-MW parameters in the NLS-South using VIMS 2016 – 2023 data. Changes to NYB-closure using 2015-2023 data. DMR & SMAST (2016-2023) SH-MW for all GOM areas.	SARC 65, scaled to the growth expectations from the 2020 management track assessment for all areas except NLS-South and CAII-SW. GB growth applied to areas of the GOM.
2024	SARC 65, with changes to SH-MW parameters in the NLS-South using VIMS 2016 – 2023 data. DMR & SMAST (2016-2024) SH-MW for all GOM areas, except for Platts Bank and Machias Seal Island, which used the DMR SH-MW (2016-2024) parameters.	SARC 65, scaled to the growth expectations from the 2020 management track assessment for all areas except NLS-South and CAII-S. GB growth applied to areas of the GOM.

2025	2025 research track assessment, with changes to SH-MW parameters for Georges Bank (adjusted year effect to 2023, area-specific fixed-effects), NLS-South (VIMS 2025), and Mid-Atlantic (adjusted year effect to time-series mean). DMR & SMAST (2016-2025) SH-MW for all GOM areas, except for Platts Bank and Machias Seal Island, which used the DMR SH-MW (2016-2025) parameters.	SARC 65, scaled to the growth expectations from the 2020 management track assessment for all areas except NLS-South. GB growth applied to areas of the GOM.
2026	2025 research track assessment, with changes to SH-MW parameters for the Mid-Atlantic, NLS-South (VIMS 2025-2026). DMR & SMAST (2016-2026) SH-MW for all GOM areas, except for Platts Bank and Machias Seal Island, which used the DMR SH-MW (2016-2026) parameters.	SARC 65, scaled to the growth expectations from the 2020 management track assessment for all areas except NLS-South. GB growth applied to areas of the GOM.

Table 10. 2026 Survey Data Treatments by SAMS areas for GB, MA, NGOM, and GOM.

GB	***SHMW equation, Dredge Efficiency***	***Treatment, notes***
CL1-Access (M)	2025 research track assessment (adjusted 2023 year effect, area-specific covariate)	Survey mean
CL1-Sliver (N)	2025 research track assessment (adjusted 2023 year effect, area-specific covariate)	Survey mean
CL1-South	2025 research track assessment (adjusted 2023 year effect, area-specific covariate)	Survey mean
CL2-North	2025 research track assessment (adjusted 2023 year effect, area-specific covariate)	Survey mean
CL2-S	2025 research track assessment (adjusted 2023 year effect, area-specific covariate)	Survey mean
CL2-Ext	2025 research track assessment (adjusted 2023 year effect, area-specific covariate)	Survey mean
NLS-North	2025 research track assessment (adjusted 2023 year effect, area-specific covariate)	Survey mean
NLS-South (including NLS-Ext)	VIMS 2025-2026	Survey mean
NLS-West	2025 research track assessment (adjusted 2023 year effect, area-specific covariate)	Survey mean
NF	2025 research track assessment (adjusted 2023 year effect, area-specific covariate)	Survey mean
GSC	2025 research track assessment (adjusted 2023 year effect, area-specific covariate)	Survey mean

SF	2025 research track assessment (adjusted 2023 year effect, area-specific covariate)	Survey mean
Mid-Atlantic		
BI	2025 research track assessment (adjusted mean year effect)	Survey mean
LI	2025 research track assessment (adjusted mean year effect)	Survey mean
NYB	2025 research track assessment (adjusted mean year effect)	Survey mean
NYB-Closure	2025 research track assessment (adjusted mean year effect)	Survey mean
MAB-Nearshore	2025 research track assessment (adjusted mean year effect)	Survey mean
HCS	2025 research track assessment (adjusted mean year effect)	VIMS Dredge Data (no other survey data)
ET	2025 research track assessment (adjusted mean year effect)	Survey mean
DMV	2025 research track assessment (adjusted mean year effect)	VIMS Dredge Data (no other survey data)
VIR	2025 research track assessment (adjusted mean year effect)	VIMS Dredge Data (no other survey data)
Gulf of Maine		
NGOM - Stellwagen	DMR & SMAST (2016-2026) SH-MW	Survey mean, GB Open Selectivity
Jeffreys	DMR & SMAST (2016-2026) SH-MW	Survey mean, GB Open Selectivity
NGOM Other	DMR & SMAST (2016-2026) SH-MW, except for Platts Bank and Machias Seal Island, which use DMR (2016-2026)	Survey mean for Jeffreys Ledge and Platts Bank, DMR dredge data for Machias Seal Island.
GOM Closed	DMR & SMAST (2016-2026) SH-MW	SMAST Drop Camera only, inside WGOM closed area on Stellwagen and Jeffreys.
GOM Open	DMR & SMAST (2016-2026) SH-MW	Survey mean on Stellwagen Bank, and SMAST drop camera only in North and South Cape Cod.

Table 11. Description of the SH-MW changes in Nantucket Lightship and New York Bight Closure SAMS areas from 2016 to 2026.

SAMS area	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
NLS-N	SARC 59	SARC 50	VIMS 2016-2018 Combined	VIMS 2016-2019 Combined	VIMS 2016-2020 Combined	SARC 65				2025 research track assessment (adjusted)	
NLS-S 'Shallow' (>70m)	SARC 59	SARC 50	VIMS 2016-2018 Combined (South Shallow only	VIMS 2016-2019 Combined	VIMS 2016-2020 Combined (Merged into one SAMS area in 2020)	VIMS 2016-2021 Combined (Merged into one SAMS area in 2020)	VIMS 2016-2022	VIMS 2016-2023	VIMS 2016-2023	VIMS 2025	VIMS 2025-2026
NLS-S 'Deep' (<70m)	VIMS 2016	VIMS 2016/2017 Combined (NLS S)	VIMS 2016-2018 Combined (Deep only)	VIMS 2016-2019 Combined							
NLS-Ext	VIMS 2016	SARC 50	SARC 65	N/A (part of GSC)	N/A (part of GSC)	N/A (part of GSC)	N/A	N/A			VIMS 2025-2026
NLS-W	VIMS 2016	VIMS 2016/2017 Combined (NLS W)	VIMS 2016-2018 Combined (West only)	VIMS 2016-2019 Combined	VIMS 2016-2020 Combined	SARC 65	SARC 65	SARC 65	SARC 65	2025 research track assessment (adjusted)	2025 research track assessment (adjusted)
NYB-Closure	N/A						VIMS 2015-2022	VIMS 2015-2023	N/A	2025 research track assessment (adjusted)	N/A

Table 12. Growth parameters by SAMS area used for 2027 projections

Subarea	Years	L_∞	K
GSC	12-16	135.7	0.397
NF	12-16	134.3	0.397
SF	12-16	123.9	0.397
CAI	12-16	134.5	0.397
CAII	12-16	132.3	0.397
CAII-S	12-16	146.9	0.397
NLS	12-16	136.1	0.397
NLS-S	15-16	119.1	0.487
DMV	08-12	130.5	0.547
ET	08-12	131.9	0.547
HCS	08-12	123.9	0.547
NYB	08-12	134.6	0.547
LI	08-12	133.5	0.547
Inshore	08-12	140.8	0.547

Table 13. Natural mortality parameters by SAMS area used for 2027 projections

Region	Subarea	M
Gulf of Maine	NGOM - Stellwagen	0.27
Gulf of Maine	Jeffreys Ledge	0.27
Gulf of Maine	NGOM Other	0.27
Gulf of Maine	GOM Closed	0.27
Gulf of Maine	Stellwagen South	0.27
Georges Bank	GSC	0.27
Georges Bank	NF	0.27
Georges Bank	SF	0.27
Georges Bank	CAI-Sliver	0.27
Georges Bank	CAI-Access	0.27
Georges Bank	CAII-Access	0.27
Georges Bank	CAII-Ext	0.27
Georges Bank	NLS-N	0.27
Georges Bank	NLS-W	0.27
Georges Bank	NLS-S	0.27
Georges Bank	NLS-Ext	0.27
Mid-Atlantic	DMV	0.95
Mid-Atlantic	ET	0.5
Mid-Atlantic	VIR	6
Mid-Atlantic	HCS	0.4
Mid-Atlantic	NYB	0.4
Mid-Atlantic	LI	0.4
Mid-Atlantic	MAB Inshore	0.8