Scallop Survey Working Group November Meeting
Pre-Meeting Homework

At the November 17th SSWG meeting, we will continue discussions about developing a set of guiding principles for the overall scallop survey and survey coordination strategies. We will begin forming recommendations for new and alternative survey approaches and consider strategies for implementation of these approaches. We're asking that all SSWG members engage in these discussions and contribute ideas for consideration. In advance of the meeting, please consider the following questions and be prepared to share your ideas.

Please review this entire document and enter responses in the Homework Form

Survey Guiding Principles

1. Consider the current system and potential future needs:
    a. What survey data products are required to support scallop stock assessment (stock status)?
    b. What survey data products are required to support scallop management (specifications)?

2. Consider the following topics to develop a set of guiding principles for the scallop survey system:
    a. Survey coverage – priority areas, exploration areas, Gulf of Maine
    b. Types of samples – counts, length frequencies, meat and gonad weights, others
    c. Sampling intensity – broad scale and fine scale spatial sampling, survey annotation rate
    d. Sampling efficiency – high and low density areas, survey catch efficiency
    e. Time series
    f. Funding stability and long-term planning for survey groups

Survey Coordination

1. How can scallop surveys be better coordinated?

2. Consider the following items to develop a survey coordination strategy:
    a. RSA survey planning process
    b. NEFSC survey planning process
    c. Short and long-term planning
    d. Data collection and analysis standardization
    e. Implementation strategies
    f. Funding stability and long-term planning for survey groups

Sub-Group Work Session

The meeting will include a work session for sub-groups to be conducted through breakout rooms. **Please consider the following questions that will be discussed during the work session and rank your preference for breakout participation in order of interest from rank 1 (highest interest) to 3 (lowest interest) in the Homework Form.** We will do our best to accommodate everyone's interest levels, while also ensuring we can make progress on each topic. There will be additional opportunities to weigh in on these topics, and the full SSWG will consider all input from sub-groups prior to forming recommendations.

Data Topics

1. What data issues should be considered by the SSWG under TOR #2 (coordinated strategy for scallop surveys and opportunities and methods for implementation)?

2. What data issues would be better addressed by a different process (e.g., follow-on process to develop recommendations to NOAA; external contractor for software development; 3rd party data management)?

3. How should the SSWG define the terms "data" and "public" under TOR #2?
    a. For example, what are the data products from scallop surveys that are required to support science and management ("data") and who can access the data ("public")?

4. Should the SSWG consider recommendations about funding sources to support data storage and management (costs beyond the collection of data)?
    a. Does the sub-group have any recommendations for the full SSWG to consider?

5. Does the sub-group have additional comments/ideas about data coordination?

Wind Impacts

1. What are the strengths and weaknesses of current survey tools/methods related to the implementation of wind farms?
    a. Dredge, HabCam, drop camera
    b. Random stratified, transect, grid
    c. Survey platform (vessel type/size), data products, costs

2. What approaches to conduct scallop surveys in/around wind farms are feasible in the immediate future (1-5 years)?
    a. For example, are there advanced technologies that are currently available? What types of funding are available to support new/alternative technologies and approaches?

3. What longer-term approaches to survey in/around wind farms should be prioritized for research/development/implementation?

4. Should the SSWG consider making recommendations about an approach to review the scallop resource and survey footprints?
    a. Does the sub-group have any recommendations for the full SSWG to consider (review timing and frequency, review method, etc.)?

5. Does the sub-group have additional comments/ideas about survey coordination in relation to the potential impacts from wind farm development?

Assessment Needs

1. Does the current survey system provide all of the required data products to support the scallop stock assessment?

2. What new or different data products would be required to support an alternative stock assessment method?

3. Does the current survey system provide all of the required data products to support the scallop projection model?

4. What new or different data products would be required to support an alternative scallop projection approach?

5. Does the sub-group have recommendations about new or alternative approaches to ensure collection of all required data products to support science (assessment) and management (projections)?

6. Does the sub-group have additional comments/ideas about survey coordination in relation to future assessment needs?