

**Motions**  
**Scallop Advisory Panel Meeting**  
**November 19, 2025**  
**Webinar**

*The meeting began at 9:00 am*

**1. MOTION (ELSNER/FULCHER)**

Recommend that the Committee adopt in Section 4.1, Alternative 4.1.2, updated OFL and ABC for FY 2026 and FY 2027, as the preferred alternative.

**Rationale:** This option updates the OFL and ABC based upon the best available science. This is a pro forma update that the Scallop FMP does every year.

**MOTION #1 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY CONSENT**

**2. MOTION (ELSNER/FULCHER)**

Recommend that the Committee add an alternative to Framework 40 in Section 4.2.1, Set NGOM TAL at  $F=0.25$ , with set-asides to support research, monitoring, and a directed LAGC fishery. Set NGOM TAL at  $F=0.25$  using all areas in the NGOM (Stellwagen Bank, Ipswich Bay, Jeffreys Ledge, Platts Bank, and Machias Seal Island), and select as the preferred alternative.

**Rationale:** This alternative would set a single fishing mortality rate for the entire NGOM, and would set the NGOM TAL at a higher F rate than Alternative 2.

**MOTION #2 CARRIED 9-2 WITH NO ABSTENTIONS**

	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse
<b>Scallop AP</b>				
James Gutowski – Chair				
Derek Eilertsen	X			
Paul Vafides	X			
<del>Ben Martens</del>				
<del>Kristan Porter</del>				
Brent Fulcher	X			
Thomas Coley		X		
Wes Brighton		X		
Ed Mullis	X			
Kirby Aarsheim	X			
Charles Quinn	X			
<del>Cassie Larsen</del>				
<del>Michael Marchetti</del>				
Jay Elsner	X			
Chris Merl	X			

Brady Lybarger	X			
<b>Total Vote</b>	9	2	0	

### 3. MOTION (AARSHEIM/MULLIS)

Recommend that the Committee add to Framework 40 in Section 4.3, Alternative 9, 38 Days-at-Sea, and select as the preferred alternative. This includes:

- 38 DAS for Full-time Limited Access vessels (Open area F=0.384)
- Part-time Limited Access would be set at 15.2 DAS
- Closures of the Nantucket Lightship (North and South only) and Area II, consistent with Section 4.3, Alternatives 2 – 4.

**Rationale:** With no access area trip allocation, 38 DAS will allow the fleet to spread out their effort across an expanded open bottom (Elephant Trunk and Area I open), while still representing a reasonable open bottom fishing mortality rate within the range of what the Council has considered in previous years.

### MOTION #3 CARRIED 6-5 WITH NO ABSTENTIONS

	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse
<b>Scallop AP</b>				
James Gutowski – Chair				
<del>Michael Marchetti</del>				
Jay Elsner		X		
Paul Vafides		X		
<del>Kristan Porter</del>				
Ed Mullis	X			
Brady Lybarger		X		
Wes Brighton		X		
<del>Ben Martens</del>				
Kirby Aarsheim	X			
Charles Quinn	X			
<del>Cassie Larsen</del>				
Thomas Coley	X			
Derek Eilertsen	X			
Chris Merl		X		
Brent Fulcher	X			
<b>Total Vote</b>	6	5	0	

#### 4. MOTION (LYBARGER/FULCHER)

Recommend that the Committee adopt in Section 4.4, Alternative 2 (4.4.2)  
Update LAGC IFQ Access Area Trip Allocations, Distribute LAGC IFQ Access  
Area Allocation to available access area(s).

**Rationale:** This alternative would be consistent with LAGC IFQ Access Area allocations in recent years.

#### MOTION #4 CARRIED 10-1 WITH NO ABSTENTIONS

	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse
<b>Scallop AP</b>				
James Gutowski – Chair				
Chris Merl		X		
Kirby Aarsheim	X			
Brady Lybarger	X			
Wes Brighton	X			
Charles Quinn	X			
Thomas Coley	X			
Kristan Porter				
Ed Mullis	X			
Derek Eilertsen	X			
Brent Fulcher	X			
Paul Vafides	X			
<del>Michael Marchetti</del>				
Jay Elsner	X			
<del>Cassie Larsen</del>				
Ben Martens				
<b>Total Vote</b>	10	1	0	

#### 5. MOTION (LYBARGER/MULLIS)

Recommend that the Council move the following Framework 40 alternatives to Considered but Rejected:

##### Section 4.2.1

- Alternative 2
- Alternative 3

**Rationale:** The AP does not support the severe reduction in the NGOM TAL under Alternative 2, nor is there sufficient time to analyze or implement the split in the NGOM area defined under Alternative 3.

#### MOTION #5 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY CONSENT

## 6. MOTION (FULCHER/MULLIS)

Recommend that the Council move the following Framework 40 alternatives to Considered but Rejected:

### Section 4.3

- Alternative 2
- Alternative 5
- Alternative 6
- Alternative 7
- Alternative 8

**Rationale:** The PDT did not support alternatives that included access area trip allocations (Alternative 5 – 8), and the AP does not support Alternative 2 due to the limited DAS allocation. Removing these alternatives would streamline the range of alternatives in Section 4.3 in Framework 40.

**MOTION #6 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY CONSENT**

## 7. MOTION (MULLIS/FULCHER)

Move that the AP recommend to accept the Scallop Long-Term Strategic Plan as complete and satisfying the 2025 work priority.

**Rationale:** The AP is supportive of the Scallop Long-Term Strategic Plan, and particularly in highlighting the importance of continued discussion of Limited Access leasing and the development of a scallop access area in the Northern Edge.

**MOTION #7 FAILED 4-5 WITH ONE ABSTENTION**

	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse
<b>Scallop AP</b>				
James Gutowski – Chair				
Derek Eilertsen				
Paul Vafides		X		
Ben Martens				
Kristan Porter				
Brent Fulcher	X			
Thomas Coley		X		
Wes Brighton		X		
Ed Mullis	X			
Kirby Aarsheim	X			
Charles Quinn	X			
Cassie Larsen				

<del>Michael Marchetti</del>				
Jay Elsner		X		
Chris Merl		X		
Brady Lybarger			X	
<b>Total Vote</b>	4	5	1	

#### 8. MOTION (MERL/LYBARGER)

Move that the AP recommend to accept the Scallop Long-Term Strategic Plan as complete and satisfying the 2025 work priority.

**Rationale:** The AP is supportive of the Scallop Long-Term Strategic Plan, and highlights the importance of the Strategy to develop a scallop access area on the Northern Edge.

**MOTION #8 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY CONSENT**

*The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:50pm*

**Motions**  
**Scallop Committee Meeting**  
**November 20, 2025**  
**Webinar**

*The meeting began at 9:00 am.*

**1. MOTION (HANSEN/SMITH)**

Move that the Committee adopt in Section 4.1, Alternative 4.1.2, updated OFL and ABC for FY 2026 and FY 2027, as the preferred alternative.

**Rationale:** This option updates the OFL and ABC based upon the best available science. This is a pro forma update that the Scallop FMP does every year.

**MOTION #1 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY CONSENT**

**2. MOTION (SMITH/ZOBEL)**

Move that the Committee adopt in Section 4.2.1, Alternative 2, Set NGOM TAL at  $F=0.25$ , with set-asides to support research, monitoring, and a directed LAGC fishery. Set NGOM TAL at  $F=0.25$  using Stellwagen Bank only as the preferred alternative (FY 2026 NGOM TAL = 255,047 lb).

**Rationale:** This motion is an attempt to balance harvest for the 2026 and subsequent fishing years to ensure continued sustainable fishing. The exploitable biomass on Stellwagen is an older cohort of animals that can withstand a harvest rate of  $F=0.25$ . However, including exploitable biomass from additional surveyed areas in the NGOM TAL would result in effort on Stellwagen exceeding the maximum effort set in A21 due to the concentration of fishing effort that occurs annually on Stellwagen Bank. This preferred option preserves the exploitable biomass in all other areas of NGOM for future harvesting, when Stellwagen will be in recovery.

**MOTION #2 FAILED FOR LACK OF SUPPORT**

### 3. MOTION (SMITH/ZOBEL)

Move that the Committee add an alternative in Section 4.2.1, Set NGOM TAL at  $F=0.25$  using Stellwagen Bank and  $F=0.15$  to Ipswich Bay, with set-asides to support research, monitoring, and a directed LAGC fishery. Set NGOM TAL and adopt as the preferred alternative (FY 2026 NGOM TAL = 294,047 lb).

**Rationale:** This motion is an attempt to balance harvest for the 2026 and subsequent fishing years to ensure continued sustainable fishing, as well as the economic impact of a reduced NGOM set-aside. The exploitable biomass on Stellwagen is an older cohort of animals that can withstand a harvest rate of  $F=0.25$ . There is still exploitable biomass in Ipswich Bay that is likely to be fished. However, including exploitable biomass from additional northern surveyed areas in the NGOM TAL would result in effort on Stellwagen exceeding the maximum effort set in A21 due to the concentration of fishing effort that occurs annually on Stellwagen Bank. This preferred option preserves the exploitable biomass in all other areas of NGOM for future harvesting, when Stellwagen will be in recovery.

#### MOTION #3 FAILED 3-5 WITH NO ABSTENTIONS

	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse
Scallop Committee				
Melanie Griffin, MA (Chair)				
Renee Zobel, NH	X			
Travis Ford, GARFO		X		
Jake Wiscott, MAFMC		X		
Eric Hansen, MA		X		
Michelle Duval, MAFMC	X			
Ted Platz, RI		X		
<del>Matt Gates, CT</del>				
John Pappalardo, MA		X		
<del>Togue Brawn, ME</del>				
Melissa Smith, ME	X			
TOTAL VOTE	3	5	0	

#### 4. MOTION (PAPPALARDO/HANSEN)

Move that the Committee add an alternative in Section 4.2.1, Set NGOM TAL at F=0.18 using all NGOM area, with set-asides to support research, monitoring, and a directed LAGC fishery, and adopt as the preferred alternative (FY 2026 NGOM TAL = 417,642 lb).

##### **Rationale:**

##### **MOTION #4 CARRIED 6-2 WITH NO ABSTENTIONS**

	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse
Scallop Committee				
Melanie Griffin, MA (Chair)				
Melissa Smith, ME		X		
Travis Ford, GARFO	X			
Jake Wiscott, MAFMC	X			
Eric Hansen, MA	X			
Michelle Duval, MAFMC	X			
Ted Platz, RI	X			
<del>Matt Gates, CT</del>				
John Pappalardo, MA	X			
<del>Togue Brawn, ME</del>				
Renee Zobel, NH		X		
TOTAL VOTE	6	2	0	

#### 5. MOTION (SMITH/PAPPALARDO)

Recommend that the Council move the following Framework 40 alternatives to Considered but Rejected:

Section 4.2.1

- Alternative 3

**Rationale:** The PDT did not support the completion of Section 4.2.1, Alternative 3 without having discussion and support from federal colleagues to resolve lingering questions.

##### **MOTION #5 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY CONSENT**



## **6. MOTION (HANSEN/)**

Move that the Committee add to Framework 40 in Section 4.3, Alternative 9, 38 Days-at-Sea, and select as the preferred alternative. This includes:

- 38 DAS for Full-time Limited Access vessels (Open area  $F=0.384$ )
- Part-time Limited Access would be set at 15.2 DAS
- Closures of the Nantucket Lightship (North and South only) and Area II, consistent with Section 4.3, Alternatives 2 – 4.

**Rationale:** With no access area trip allocation, 38 DAS will allow the fleet to spread out their effort across an expanded open bottom (Elephant Trunk and Area I open), while still representing a reasonable open bottom fishing mortality rate within the range of what the Council has considered in previous years.

**MOTION #6 FAILED FOR LACK OF A SECOND**

## **7. MOTION (HANSEN/)**

Move that the Committee add to Framework 40 in Section 4.3, Alternative 4, 36 Days-at-Sea, and select as the preferred alternative. This includes:

- 36 DAS for Full-time Limited Access vessels (Open area  $F=0.36$ )
- Part-time Limited Access would be set at 14.4 DAS
- Closures of the Nantucket Lightship (North and South only) and Area II, consistent with Section 4.3, Alternatives 2 – 3.

**Rationale:** With no access area trip allocation, 36 DAS will allow the fleet to spread out their effort across an expanded open bottom (Elephant Trunk and Area I open), while still representing a reasonable open bottom fishing mortality rate within the range of what the Council has considered in previous years.

**MOTION #7 FAILED FOR LACK OF A SECOND**

## **8. MOTION (HANSEN/WISCOTT)**

Move that the Committee select as their preferred alternative in Framework 40, Section 4.3, Alternative 3, 34 Days-at-Sea. This includes:

- 34 DAS for Full-time Limited Access vessels (Open area F=0.336)
- Part-time Limited Access would be set at 13.6 DAS
- Closures of the Nantucket Lightship (North and South only) and Area II, consistent with Section 4.3, Alternatives 2 and 4.

**Rationale:** With no access area trip allocation, 34 DAS will allow the fleet to spread out their effort across an expanded open bottom (Elephant Trunk and Area I open), while still representing a reasonable open bottom fishing mortality rate within the range of what the Council has considered in previous years.

**MOTION #8 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY CONSENT**

## **9. MOTION (SMITH/PAPPALARDO)**

Recommend that the Council move the following Framework 40 alternatives to Considered but Rejected:

Section 4.3

- Alternative 2
- Alternative 5
- Alternative 6
- Alternative 7
- Alternative 8

**Rationale:** The PDT did not support Section 4.3 alternatives 5-8 that included access area trip allocations. Removing these alternatives that have been deemed unviable would streamline the Framework and improve the potential to achieve an April 1, 2026 implementation date.

**MOTION #9 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY CONSENT**

## **10. MOTION (HANSEN/PLATZ)**

Move that for Alternatives 2 – 4 in Section 4.3, the 60-day carryover period for FY 2025 would begin on April 1, 2026, assuming publication of the Framework 40 final rule.

**Rationale:** This would allow vessels to continue finishing any remaining FY 2025 access area trips to Area I without needing to pause fishing until May 15th, and allow open bottom fishing in Area I earlier in the year following the 60-day carryover period. Scallop yields in CA1 did not appear to benefit from a delayed opening in FY2025.

**MOTION #10 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY CONSENT**

#### **11. MOTION (PAPPALARDO/HANSEN)**

Move that the Committee adopt in Section 4.4, Alternative 2 (4.4.2) Update LAGC IFQ Access Area Trip Allocations, Distribute LAGC IFQ Access Area Allocation to available access area(s), as the preferred alternative.

**Rationale:** This alternative would be consistent with LAGC IFQ Access Area allocations in recent years.

**MOTION #11 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY CONSENT**

#### **12. MOTION (DUVAL/HANSEN)**

Move that the Committee accept the Scallop Long-Term Strategic Plan as complete and satisfying the 2025 work priority.

**Rationale:** The Committee is supportive of the Scallop Long-Term Strategic Plan as a guiding document to support discussion of annual work priorities.

**MOTION #12 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY CONSENT**

*The meeting ended at 12:20 PM*