

	Objective	Evaluation Criteria
1	Improve management capacity, flexibility, and responsiveness in a changing environment	1. Did the Council Consider real-time or industry-collected data to support decision-making? 2. Time taken to develop, submit, and implement a management action.
2	Improve the reliability of annual projections of scallop biomass	1. How accurate and precise were recent projections of biomass and abundance compared to observed survey results? 2. Have all projection methods, including PDT-recommended adjustments, been fully documented?

	and abundance	
3	Expand opportunities in the Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) fishery while maintaining conservative management approaches	1. Evaluate number of active NGOM-permitted vessels and vessels active in the NGOM relative to FY 2022/Amendment 21 2. Evaluate length of NGOM season relative to FY 2022/Amendment 21
4	Improve rotational management performance and access area fishing opportunities	1. Is scallop biomass within rotational closures accumulating over time? 2. What proportion of vessels were unable to harvest their full access area allocation in a given area? 3. What is access area LPUE relative to recent years? 4. Do observed discard size-frequencies and/or trip lengths indicate a declining size-selectivity curve in access areas? 5. Do trends in the market grades/size-structure of landings from rotational areas indicate growth overfishing?

5	Improve fishing practices to minimize incidental scallop mortality, bycatch, and impacts on habitat and protected resources	1. Has the scallop fishery exceeded the sub-ACL for any of the four flatfish stocks? 2. Is there a declining trend in catch of other known bycatch species such as monkfish and skates? 3. Is there evidence of elevated incidental mortality in areas?
6	Maintain the economic viability of the scallop fleet	1. Is average annual net revenue per vessel stable or increasing? Consider by permit type. 2. Is producer surplus stable or increasing? Consider by permit type.
7	Maintain a dynamic Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) program to fund scallop research and resource surveys	1. Were at least 8 projects able to be funded? Of funded projects, how many were non-survey awards? What is the trend in the proportion of RSA set-aside awarded to survey proposals? 2. What proportion of LA, LAGC IFQ, and LAGC NGOM vessels completed at least 1 RSA compensation trip? Is there evidence of inequity in access to RSA pounds? 3. Is the RSA set-aside more than 5% of the Annual Projected Landings?

8	Develop the regulatory, management, and funding infrastructure to support a scallop enhancement program	1. Was Scallop enhancement an annual work priority? 2. Has a Scallop Enhancement Working Group been formed? 3. Have measures been developed to support long-term funding for Scallop Enhancement work (e.g. Enhancement Set-Aside)? 4. Were Scallop Enhancement projects funded through the RSA/Enhancement set-aside this year?
9	Improve scallop industry engagement at meetings of the Council's Scallop Plan Development Team, Advisory Panel, and Committee	1. What is the trend in meeting attendance and public comments from scallop fishermen or industry representatives at Scallop Advisory Panel and Committee meetings? Consider recurring meetings by topic (e.g. late August PDT review of survey data).

Strategy

Increase the capacity for and use of real-time data collection and monitoring in management, including industry-collected data, VTRs, auction data, LPUE, and other data sources.

Develop a Management Strategy Evaluation model based on an understanding of scallop population dynamics, biological and oceanographic conditions, and fishery behaviors to inform Best Management Practices, including addressing ocean use conflict (e.g., offshore wind farms) changing resource distribution (e.g., related to climate change), and allocation scenarios (e.g., consolidated fishing fleets).

Separate management of the Mid-Atlantic and Georges Bank resources, with individual OFL/ABCs and DAS separately allocated.

Streamline the annual specifications setting process to increase capacity for addressing other fishery management challenges.

Develop tools within the Scallop FMP to allow for in-season management

Revise the Limited Access DAS carryover provision to reduce uncertainty in open-bottom harvest.

Disperse fishing effort in high-density areas to reduce incidental mortality and vessel crowding.

Evaluate Scallop Area Management Simulator (SAMS) model performance and associated uncertainty.

Continue development of next generation projection model to allow for more flexible and precise projections.

Establish a small-scale survey of access areas each year to provide additional data on the resource prior to the start of the fishing year on April 1.

Increase survey effort at the end of an area's rotational cycle to reduce projection uncertainty

Maintain the length of the NGOM season.

Encourage greater dispersion of scallop fishing effort within the NGOM management area to areas other than Stellwagen Bank.

Maintain opportunities for NGOM-permitted vessels while allowing orderly access to the NGOM scallop resource by the LAGC and LA components

Improve stability of harvest from access areas.

Reconsider development of an access area on the Northern Edge

Improve scallop industry compliance around best fishing practices through outreach and education efforts.

Increase size selectivity using gear modifications to reduce catch of juvenile scallops.

Increase use of other gear modifications.

Regulate best fishing practices, such as restrictions on high-grading, deck-loading, and excessive tow-times, and monitoring using deck cameras as part of an electronic monitoring (EM) program.

Reduce bycatch and habitat impacts from scallop dredging.

Develop lower-cost tools, potentially including an EM program, to meet the industry's observer requirement and collect biological and discard data.

Allow for consolidation of the Limited Access fleet.

Expand the RSA set-aside for Gulf of Maine-focused research projects and surveys.

Expand industry participation in RSA research and compensation fishing

Ensure equity between scallop industry partners with access to RSA compensation pounds and those without, while maintaining sufficient support for RSA-funded surveys and research.

Form a working group to identify appropriate areas for spat collection and settlement, develop best practices, and identify regulatory hurdles.

Create a separate set-aside as a long-term source of funding for scallop enhancement projects

Increase outreach to members of the scallop industry that are not represented on or are unaware of the Scallop Advisory Panel.