

CORRESPONDENCE



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

December 19, 2018

Mr. Michael Pentony
Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Mike:

Today, my staff electronically sent a decision draft for Framework 30 to the Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP) to your staff in the Sustainable Fisheries Divisions at the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office. The Council has been working with your staff to identify ways to streamline rulemaking so that scallop fishery specifications can be in place closer to the start of the fishing year. Your staff has developed a more expedited process and we hope that the decision draft enclosed with this letter will enable you to complete and publish the proposed rule in a more expedited manner.

The Council took final action on Framework 30 on December 5, 2018. Since that meeting our staff has updated the document to include the information you requested for this expedited review. Specifically, the draft NEPA document the Council used to make final recommendations has been updated to include identification and rationale for the Council preferred alternatives, and an initial regulatory flexibility analysis has been drafted for Executive Order 12866 (Regulatory Impact Review).

In the coming weeks our staff will continue to update the Environmental Assessment for Framework 30 to the Scallop FMP for the pre-submission and formal submission process. The Council website will be updated with these documents as they are available. Please let me know if any questions come up.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Nies
Executive Director



This letter was sent to all
Advisory Panel Members.

New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116

John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

December 17, 2018

The New England Fishery Management Council is fortunate to have an active and engaged Scallop Advisory Panel (AP). A hallmark of this group has been strong and consistent attendance at all meetings by its membership.

As we head into 2019, I wanted to take the opportunity to remind you that your attendance at all AP meetings is required and expected. I recognize that running a fishing business is time consuming, and that schedules can be unpredictable. To that end, when you are unable to attend a meeting we ask that AP members provide adequate notification and reason. This gives my staff time to adjust previously made travel arrangements, and determine if there will be a quorum at the next meeting. Per our Council policy (attached), appointments may be re-examined based on poor attendance/lack of adequate notification.

We expect that 2019 will be another busy year for scallop management. I am sure the AP will continue to be a key reason for the success of that fishery.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Nies
Executive Director

Enclosure