

**Motions
Scallop Advisory Panel Meeting
September 12, 2025
Webinar**

The meeting began at 9:00 a.m.

Framework 40:

MOTION 1: FULCHER/MULLIS

Recommend that the Committee moves to task the PDT to develop a rotational management option for consideration: (2 runs)

Run 1:

- Set FT LA trip limit at: 12,000 lb
- Allocate 1 trip to Area I
- DAS
 - 16 DAS west of 72 30
 - 12 DAS east of 72 30

Treatment of other SAMS areas

- Closed: NLS-S, NLS-N, CAII
- Open Bottom: ET, HCS, NYB

Run 2:

- Set FT LA trip limit at: 12,000 lb
- Allocate 1 trip to Area I
- DAS
 - 16 DAS west of 72 30
 - 12 DAS east of 72 30

Treatment of other SAMS areas

- Closed: NLS-S, NLS-N, CAII, ET
- Open Bottom: HCS, NYB

Rationale: Runs to consider range of DAS options as well as effect of allocating DAS separately between the Mid-Atlantic and Georges Bank, divided by the 72° 30' W line. Runs would consider access to Area I with 1x 12,000 lb trip.

MOTION #1 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY CONSENT

MOTION 2: MERL/MARTENS

Recommend that the Committee moves to task the PDT to develop a rotational management option for consideration: (2 runs)

Run 3:

- CAI available only for LAGC IFQ access area trips
- DAS at 24

Treatment of other SAMS areas

- Closed: NLS-S, NLS-N, CAII
- Open Bottom: ET, HCS, NYB

Run 4:

- No Limited Access rotational fishing
- DAS at 24

Treatment of other SAMS areas

- Closed: NLS-S, NLS-N, CAII
- Open Bottom: CAI, ET, HCS, NYB

Rationale: Runs to analyze access to Area I only for the LAGC IFQ component.

	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse
Scallop AP				
James Gutowski – Chair				
Thomas Coley				
Jay Elsner				
Derek Eilertsen		X		
Brent Fulcher		X		
Cassie Canastra		X		
Brady Lybarger		X		
Wes Brighton		X		
Michael Marchetti	X			
Ben Martens	X			
Kirby Aarsheim		X		
Chris Merl	X			
Ed Mullis		X		
Kristan Porter	X			
Charles Quinn		X		
Paul Vafides			X	
Total Vote	4	8	1	

MOTION #2 FAILED 4-8 WITH ONE ABSTENTION

MOTION 3: LYBARGER/FULCHER

Recommend that the Committee moves to task the PDT to develop a rotational management option for consideration: (2 runs)

Run 3:

- No Limited Access rotational fishing opportunity
- DAS
 - 20, 24, 28

Treatment of other SAMS areas

- Closed: NLS-S, NLS-N, CAII, NYB-Closure, ET
- Open Bottom: HCS, CAI

Run 4:

- No Limited Access rotational fishing opportunity
- DAS
 - 20, 24, 28

Treatment of other SAMS areas

- Closed: NLS-S, NLS-N, CAII
- Open Bottom: HCS, ET, CAI, NYB

Rationale: Runs consider range of DAS options for analysis as well as the effect of closing an area in the NYB region to protect small scallops, and open ET to allow more area for open bottom fishing.

MOTION #3 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY CONSENT

MOTION 4: AARSHEIM/MERL

Recommend that the Committee moves to task the PDT to develop a rotational management option for consideration: (1 run)

Run 5:

- No Limited Access rotational fishing opportunity
- DAS
 - 30, 34, 38

Treatment of other SAMS areas

- Closed: NLS-S, NLS-N, CAII
- Open Bottom: HCS, CAI, NYB, ET

Rationale: Allows additional flexibility to the LA component, allocating DAS equivalent to approximately 3 full FT LA trips.

	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse
Scallop AP				
James Gutowski – Chair				
Ben Martens		X		
Kirby Aarsheim	X			
Chris Merl		X		
Ed Mullis	X			
Thomas Coley				
Kristan Porter		X		
Charles Quinn				
Paul Vafides		X		
Jay Elsner				
Derek Eilertsen	X			
Brent Fulcher	X			
Cassie Canastra	X			
Brady Lybarger		X		
Wes Brighton		X		
Michael Marchetti		X		
Total Vote	5	7	0	

MOTION #4 FAILED 5-7 WITH NO ABSTENTIONS.

MOTION 5: MARCHETTI/MERL

Recommend that the Committee moves to task the PDT to develop a rotational management option for consideration: (1 runs)

Run 5:

- No Limited Access rotational fishing opportunity
- DAS
 - 18, 22, 26

Treatment of other SAMS areas

- Closed: NLS-S, NLS-N, CAII
- Open Bottom: HCS, ET, CAI, NYB

Rationale: Motion reflects the need to reduce fishing effort in the open bottom to conserve the resource.

	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse
Scallop AP				
James Gutowski – Chair				
Michael Marchetti	X			
Jay Elsner				
Paul Vafides	X			
Kristan Porter	X			
Ed Mullis	X			
Brady Lybarger	X			
Wes Brighton	X			
Ben Martens	X			
Kirby Aarsheim		X		
Charles Quinn				
Cassie Canastra	X			
Thomas Coley				
Derek Eilertsen	X			
Chris Merl	X			
Brent Fulcher		X		
Total Vote	10	2	0	

MOTION #5 CARRIED 10-2-0

MOTION 6: PORTER/FULCHER

Recommend that the Committee task the PDT to analyze a TAL for the NGOM at $F=0.22$ and $F.25$ of Stellwagen only and to analyze a TAL at $F.18$ of all areas in NGOM excluding Stellwagen.

Rationale: One year class of scallops, continue with a conservative F .

MOTION #6 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY CONSENT.

MOTION 7: MARTENS/MERL

Recommend that the Committee task the PDT to analyze a TAL for the NGOM at $F=0.18$ and $F.25$ of all areas in NGOM.

Rationale: Analysis would consider biomass from all areas of the NGOM at a lower fishing mortality rate.

MOTION #7 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY CONSENT.

MOTION 8: VAFIDES/FULCHER

Recommend that the Committee moves to task the PDT to develop a rotational management option for consideration: (1 run)

Run 6:

- No Limited Access rotational fishing opportunity
- DAS
 - 20, 24, 28

Treatment of other SAMS areas

- Closed: NLS-S, CAII
- Open Bottom: HCS, CAI, NLS-N, ET, NYB

Rationale: Recruitment event is largely contained within the NLS-S, and allowing access to the NLS-N would expand area available for fishing on a DAS.

MOTION #8 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY CONSENT

MOTION 9: FULCHER/MARCHETTI

Recommend that the Committee recommend that the Council send a letter to NOAA Headquarters urging the immediate publication of the 2026 Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

Rationale: Without the 2026 NOFO, the RSA grant cycle would not move forward, negatively effecting scallop research and resource surveys that are critical to the management of the fishery.

MOTION #9 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY CONSENT.

The meeting ended at 4:31pm.

**Motions
Scallop Committee Meeting
September 15, 2025
Webinar**

The meeting began at 9:00 a.m.

Framework 40:

MOTION 1: HANSEN/BRAWN

Task the PDT to analyze ET, HCS, NYB, LI and refine an area to protect recent scallop settlement.

Rationale: The current areas were designed to protect a different cohort and the survivability of the larger scallops currently protected is uncertain.

MOTION 1 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY CONSENT

MOTION 2: PLATZ/PAPPALARDO

Task the PDT to analyze the NF and SF to better ascertain size distribution and biomass density distinctions between the two areas to refine an area to protect scallop settlement.

Rationale: The NF has a higher density of pre-recruited animals relative to the SF, which 2025 surveys suggest hold a greater proportion of fully-recruited scallops.

MOTION 2 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY CONSENT

MOTION 3: HANSEN/GATES

Task the PDT to perform a SAMS run including one, 12,000 lb. trip to Scallop Access Area 1 for the LA fleet, and the corresponding historical percentages to the LAGC and part-time fleet.

Rationale: There is enough biomass currently in this area to support harvest and delaying would jeopardize survival due to the heightened presence of starfish and other predators.

MOTION 3 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY CONSENT

MOTION 4: HANSEN/PAPPALARDO

Task the PDT to perform SAMS runs including 18, 24, 30, and 36 DAS with NLSS, NLSN, and Access Area 2 closed. (all other areas open, no AA trips)

Additional runs with same above data: (individually and combined)

Newly defined closure to protect small scallops in the Mid Atlantic (closed)

Rationale: With no Access Area trips allocated and an uncertain concentration of scallops in CA2, a larger target for DAS is justified.

1	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse
Scallop Committee				
Melanie Griffin, MA (Chair)				
Michelle Duval, MAFMC		X		
John Pappalardo, MA	X			
Togue Brawn, ME		X		
Jake Wiscott, MAFMC		X		
Melissa Smith, ME			X	
Travis Ford, GARFO	X			
Renee Zobel, NH		X		
Matt Gates, CT	X			
Ted Platz, RI	X			
Eric Hansen, MA	X			
TOTAL VOTE	5	4	1	

MOTION 4 CARRIED 5-3 WITH ONE ABSTENTION

MOTION 5: HANSEN/PAPPALARDO

Task the PDT to calculate DAS separately for GB and Mid Atlantic using the current turtle chain demarcation of 71 Degrees West longitude. The open bottom fishing mortality rates in each region would be analyzed at the regional F_{ABC} from the 2025 Research Track Assessment.

Rationale: Georges Bank has been the focus of harvest for the last few years and would benefit from a break. The waters in the mid Atlantic have recently been cooler and surveys have shown an increase in abundance.

MOTION 5 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY CONSENT

MOTION 6: SMITH/PAPPALARDO

	NGOM 1	NGOM 2
F rate for NGOM TAL	F=0.20, F=0.25	F=0.18
Areas to be used	Stellwagen only	All NGOM excluding Stellwagen

Rationale: Scallops on Stellwagen are approaching 8 years old and need to be harvested. Having separate runs would set NGOM up for specific area management, but also still allow flexibility to retain a single TAL approach. After reviewing the 2025 season, it appears that realized F on Stellwagen exceeded the maximum F=0.25, so this tasking is to identify how to correct previous decisions to ensure a balanced approach to harvesting.

MOTION 6 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY CONSENT**Scallop RSA:****MOTION 7: HANSEN/SMITH**

Recommend that the Council send a letter to NOAA Headquarters urging the immediate publication of the 2026 Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

Rationale: Without the 2026 NOFO, the RSA grant cycle would not move forward, negatively effecting scallop research and resource surveys that are critical to the management of the fishery

MOTION 7 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY CONSENT WITH ONE ABSTENTION

The meeting ended at approximately 2:20pm.