

Table 1. 2027 Scallop Work Priorities

FMP(s)	Type	Description	Timeline
Scallop	Required	Complete and submit FW42	Complete Spring 2027
Scallop	Required	Complete 2027 Specifications Package	Complete Winter 2027
Scallop	Required	Set ABC/ACL for scallop stock with specifications for FY 2028 (FY 2029 default)	2027
Scallop	New	Framework to set management measures for FY 2028 Northern Edge access (TBD)	2027
Scallop	Ongoing	Scallop RSA Management (Share-Day, if needed 2028 RSA priorities)	Ongoing
Scallop	Ongoing	Scallop Stock Projection Methods	Summer 2027
Scallop	New	Develop white paper on improving scallop fishing practices, including a working definition of ‘high-grading’.	2027
Scallop	Ongoing	Scallop Strategic Plan Ongoing Work	Ongoing

Questions

- Full PDT involvement in developing white paper or more effective as a separate sub-group?
- Flexibility in timing/structure of a potential Northern Edge action to align with potential Habitat work.

Table 2. 2028 Scallop Work Priorities

FMP(s)	Type	Description	Timeline
Scallop	Required	Complete and submit (Northern Edge?) Framework Action • Timing TBD, dependent on Habitat	Complete early 2028
Scallop	Required	Set ABC/ACL for scallop stock with specifications for FY 2029 (FY 2030 default)	2028
Scallop	New	Framework to set management measures for FY 2029 • In-season, reactive management triggers.	2028
Scallop	Ongoing	Scallop RSA Management (Set 2-year priorities, Share-Day, Program Support)	Ongoing
Scallop	Ongoing	Implementation of Scallop Stock Project Methods	Ongoing
Scallop	New	Conduct Council-led workshops on improving scallop fishing practices	2028
Scallop	New	Coordinate review of Automated Detection technology for use in scallop surveys	2028
Scallop	Ongoing	Scallop Strategic Plan Ongoing Work	Ongoing

Questions

- Which group would be most suited for conducting a review of automated detection technology for management use? SSC may not be the right body.
- Are Council-led workshops to communicate findings of 2027 white paper the best approach? Better ways of disseminating the information?

Table 3. 2029 Scallop Work Priorities

FMP(s)	Type	Description	Timeline
Scallop	Required	Complete and submit (In-season adjustment) Framework Action	Complete early 2029
Scallop	Required	Set ABC/ACL for scallop stock with specifications for FY 2030 (FY 2031 default)	2029
Scallop	New	Framework to set management measures for FY 2030 • TBD (Scallop Enhancement Set-Aside?)	2029
Scallop	Ongoing	Scallop RSA Management (Share-Day, Program Support)	Ongoing
Scallop	Ongoing	Scallop Strategic Plan Ongoing Work	Ongoing
Scallop	New	?	

Questions

- Ideas for what may be management ready for 2029? Would a Framework to setup guidelines for scallop enhancement and/or a funding mechanism be viable?
- Additional ideas for scallop work priorities based on Strategic Plan and Committee input?
 - Evaluate use of NGOM control date to cap permits?
 - LAGC IFQ Program Review 2024-2028?
 - Alternative management of high-density areas?

June 3, 2026 - Scallop Committee Recommendations for Scallop 3-Year Work Plan

- Improve management capacity, flexibility, and responsiveness in a changing environment
 - Council to develop in-season management triggers
 - Continued Scallop RSA-funded work to develop real-time data collection, and the Scallop PDT to review this information to ensure it meets the standards for use in management.
 - Council to continue development of region-specific DAS allocations
 - Council to develop improved management protocols for high-density areas.
- Improve the reliability of annual projections
 - Council continued support for the development of new scallop stock projection methods.
 - RSA-funded work to increase survey effort in an access area at the end of the rotational cycle, and to develop a spring survey ahead of the fishing year.
 - Council to continue support for including environmental and oceanographic information in stock projections. Currently, Scallop PDT is working with NEFSC staff to develop oceanographic forecasting products for consideration during the specifications process.
 - Scallop PDT to review optimal survey timing in the context of reducing projection uncertainty.
- Expand opportunities in the NGOM fishery while maintaining conservative management
 - The Council should implement the NGOM control date to establish a fixed-pool of eligible permits.
 - The Council should continue development of sub-management areas in the NGOM.
- Improve rotational management performance and access area fishing opportunities
 - The Scallop PDT should develop in-season management triggers for opening and closing access areas.
 - The Scallop PDT should develop an alternative rotational management protocol for small, high-density access areas, such as the Nantucket Lightship – South.

- The Scallop fishery should continue engaging with the groundfish and offshore lobster fishery around concerns regarding scallop fishery access to the Northern Edge.
- Improve fishing practices to minimize incidental scallop mortality, bycatch, habitat impacts.
 - Council to develop a working definition of ‘high-grading’.
 - Continued Scallop RSA-funded and external research to develop an electronic monitoring program to help monitor for high-grading.
 - Continued education and outreach efforts around improving fishing practices, including industry-led efforts and Council-supported workshops.
- Maintain the economic viability of the scallop fleet
 - The Scallop PDT to explore and analyze the process and potential funding for a permit buyback program, as well as other ways to reduce fleet capacity.
 - The Council should engage the USDA Office of Seafood, including first finding a relevant contact.
- Maintain a dynamic Scallop Research Set-Aside program to fund scallop research and surveys
 - The Scallop PDT should evaluate the minimum viable Research Set-Aside required to fund annual resource surveys.
- Develop the necessary infrastructure to support a scallop enhancement program
 - The Council should continue to support external research around scallop enhancement
 - The Scallop PDT should collate survey information on the distribution and abundance of scallop predators.
- Improve scallop industry engagement at Scallop PDT, Advisory Panel, and Committee
 - Refer back to item to engage in Council-led workshops on improving fishing practices.
 - Council should continue engaging candidly with the fleet at the Maine Fishermen’s Forum and should look for other opportunities to engage with the fleet in other regions, such as at the Scallop RSA Share Day. Examples could include voluntary certification programs.