

# CORRESPONDENCE



Mr. Thomas A. Nies  
Executive Director  
New England Fishery Management Council  
50 Water St., Mill 2  
Newburyport, MA 01950

November 24, 2021

Dear Mr. Nies,

The Scallopers Campaign strongly supports the 2022 priority recommendation made by both the Scallop AP and Scallop Committee “to initiate scoping for the development of a limited access (LA) vessel DAS and access area trip leasing program”.

Scoping is the well understood process that the Council uses when considering amending a management plan. More importantly, **scoping provides information the Council needs before considering whether to develop an amendment, which may include a leasing program.** Scoping is simply the first formal step to develop any possible action and inform the Council on the breadth of issues it may want to consider.

At your recent Executive Committee meeting, some confusion was expressed regarding the Scallop AP and Committee motions on priorities for 2022. However, the Scallop Committee meeting summary dated October 27, 2021 and prepared by Council staff is quite clear:

*Ultimately the Committee moved forward with the AP recommendation for ranked priorities (see Motion 14 below). For the limited access days at sea and access area leasing item (#3 on the list), there was clarification that the Committee was voting to do scoping (following a notice of intent and development of a scoping document), and not listening sessions.*

For the third consecutive year, the LA scallop fleet has supported the Council moving forward with the development of a leasing program for the LA scallop fishery. Additionally, for the second consecutive year, the Council’s scallop committee has recommended the Council engage in this issue. This year, both the Scallop AP and Committee recommended the Council initiate scoping of a leasing program in 2022.

The fleet supports this priority. Two years ago, the Scallopers Campaign secured verbal commitments from 70% of the LA fleet in support of the Council moving forward with the development of a leasing program. The Scallopers Campaign also conducted an [industry survey](#) to gather operational information from owners, information the AP, Committee, and Council previously lacked.

This year, the Scallopers Campaign commissioned an [external economic assessment](#) to examine the potential impacts of a leasing program. That study revealed significant efficiency, economic, and environmental benefits. Additionally, this year, the Scallopers Campaign provided the Council with [signed, written letters](#) representing 234 vessels—67% of the LA scallop fleet—in support of the Council

initiating scoping on a leasing program. You and I are long tenured in this arena and understand that this level of commitment and demonstration of support are remarkable.

During the recent Ex Comm meeting, there was discussion over whether the Scallop Committee recommended scoping or listening sessions, notwithstanding the Council staff summary noted above. Unlike scoping, which requires the issuance of an NOI prior to scoping meetings, the term 'listening sessions' is nebulous and unclearly defined. Clearly, the multi-year support for a leasing program within the Scallop AP and Committee demonstrates a direct call for the Council to take up this issue. At best, listening sessions will delay a substantive discussion of how to construct a balanced approach to a leasing option in the fishery by one more year.

As always, we appreciate your concern about matching staff time with priorities and understand that scoping of a leasing program would only be initiated after other required work is completed, sometime during the spring of 2022. On this point we can all agree: conducting listening sessions one year before conducting scoping the following year will fritter away precious staff hours on a task the industry is not asking for.

Disappointingly, the third 2022 scallop priority endorsed by the Ex Comm reads, "Conduct scoping or listening sessions on a LA DAS and AA trips leasing program to assess the need for a leasing program and whether to move forward with developing an amendment." This priority is a substitution for what the AP and Committee recommended and is contrary to the letter *and* spirit of their motions. It is also contrary to the explicit request for scoping included in the industry letters provided to the Council representing over [two-thirds of the LA fleet](#).

The AP and Committee have made a clear and unified recommendation to the Council to initiate scoping for the development of a limited access vessel DAS and access area trip leasing program, and we urge the Council to clearly prioritize scoping this issue using the Council's well established scoping process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey R. Pike". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Jeffrey R. Pike  
Scallopers Campaign



November 18, 2021

Thomas A. Nies  
 Executive Director  
 New England Fishery Management Council  
 50 Water Street Mill 2  
 Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Tom:

We recently completed the groundfish year-end accounting for the 2020 fishing year, and the final report is attached to this letter. In fishing year 2020, catch exceeded the total annual catch limit (ACL) of one stock, northern windowpane flounder.

The groundfish year-end accounting took longer than normal to complete this year. We needed to conduct additional review of the preliminary commercial and recreational catch estimates to ensure we are providing the most accurate calculations of catch for the 2020 fishing year and that any implemented accountability measures are justified. This year was particularly challenging, but we are working to find ways to eliminate delays, or substantially reduce them in unavoidable cases, in future years.

*Northern Windowpane Flounder*

In fishing year 2020, northern windowpane flounder catch slightly exceeded the total ACL of 55 mt, but did not exceed the ABC of 59 mt. Total catch was 58.97 mt, which exceeded the ACL by 4 mt, or 7.2 percent. Table 1 summarizes the overage and provides a breakdown of catch by fishery component.

Table 1: Fishing year 2020 northern windowpane flounder catch limits and catch (mt) and catch as a percent of catch limit.

	Components with ACLs and sub-ACLs: With Accountability Measures (AM)				Sub-components: No AMs	
	ABC	Overall ACL	Groundfish Fishery	Scallop Fishery	State Waters	Other
Catch Limit	59	55	38	12	1	5
Catch	58.97	58.97	10.2	34.8	0.1	13.9
Catch as a Percent of Catch Limit	99.9%	107.2%	26.9%	290.0%	6%	277.5%

Because the ACL overage is not greater than the management uncertainty buffer (i.e., catch did not exceed the ABC), a northern windowpane flounder AM for the groundfish fishery is not required. However, because the total ACL was exceeded and the scallop fishery exceeded its sub-ACL for northern windowpane by more than 50 percent, we are required to apply the scallop



fishery AM. Scallop vessels fishing in the Georges Bank AM Area must fish with scallop dredge gear with no more than 5 rows of rings in the apron. Maximum hanging ratio for a net cannot exceed 1.5 meshes per 1 ring overall. Vessels may not fish for scallops with trawl gear. Because the scallop sub-ACL overage is greater than 20 percent, the AM will be in effect for the full 2022 fishing year for the scallop fishery, from April 1, 2022, through March 31, 2023. We will send a notice to all scallop permit holders following this letter and, provided Framework Adjustment 34 to the Atlantic Scallop Fishery Management Plan is approved, we will also include a description of this AM in the bulletin for that action.

*Recreational Catch*

Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan specified that additional sub-ACLs may be considered if recreational catch is greater than 5 percent of total catch. As a result, we evaluate recreational catch relative to total catch each year during year-end accounting. Recreational catch of Georges Bank cod, Gulf of Maine winter flounder, and pollock was greater than 5 percent of the total catch in fishing year 2020 (see Table 2). Georges Bank cod recreational catch has generally been increasing (in tonnage and relative to total catch) in recent years, and the Council is considering this as part of its work in Framework 63. Conversely, while recreational catch of Gulf of Maine winter flounder is still over 5 percent of the total catch, it has been declining in recent years. Pollock recreational catch has fluctuated, both in tonnage and relative to total catch, while overall catch relative to the ACL remains low.

Table 2: Fishing year 2020 recreational catch, total catch, and recreational catch as a percentage of total catch.

Stock	Total Catch (mt)	Recreational Catch (mt)	Recreational Catch as a Percentage of Total Catch
Georges Bank cod	731.2	294.4	40%
Gulf of Maine winter flounder	110.8	10.3	9%
Pollock	5,626.6	1,686.1	30%

If you have any questions on the report, please contact Peter Christopher, Groundfish Team Supervisor, at (978) 281-9288.

Sincerely,

Michael Pentony  
Regional Administrator

cc: Dr. Jon Hare, Science and Research Director, Northeast Fisheries Science Center

Enclosure

# Northeast Multispecies Fishery

## Final Year-End Results for Fishing Year 2020

- Tables 1 through 5: Total groundfish caught, landed, and discard estimates
- Table 6: Estimated state water catch.
- Tables 7-9: Other sub-component catch detail
- Table 10: FY 2018 through FY 2020 GOM cod and haddock recreational catch evaluation
- Table 11: Sector carryover
- Tables 12 through 17: U.S./Canada stocks catch evaluation

Note: to maintain consistency with stock assessments and catch limits, GOM and GB cod, GOM haddock, and pollock recreational catch estimates provided in this report are based on the Fishing Effort Survey (FES), while GOM and SNE winter flounder recreational catch estimates are back calibrated from the FES to the Coastal Household Telephone Survey (CHTS) metrics.

In this report: a table cell value of "0" or "0.0" indicates a non-zero value in the cell. "-" is displayed for values exactly equal to zero. Blanks are shown when there are no values. "NA" is displayed when no value is applicable or available.

NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office



**Table 1: FY 2020 Northeast Multispecies Percent of Annual Catch Limit Caught (%)**

Stock	Components with ACLs and sub-ACLs: With Accountability Measures (AMs)								Sub-components: No AMs	
	Total	Groundfish Fishery	Sector	Common Pool	Recreational	Midwater Trawl Herring Fishery	Scallop Fishery	Small Mesh Fisheries	State Water	Other
	A to H	A+B+C	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
GB Cod	59.3	39.6	40.5	10.6					776.1	111.6
GOM Cod	81.5	87.3	83.2	36.4	95.3				31.4	29.9
GB Haddock	5.2	5.3	5.4	0.0		0.4			NA	1.9
GOM Haddock	28.6	28.8	34.2	11.9	19.4	0.0			79.5	9.8
GB Yellowtail Flounder	8.3	6.7	6.9	-			7.9	82.2	NA	NA
SNE Yellowtail Flounder	15.6	6.2	6.9	2.9			31.1		NA	39.8
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	31.2	27.5	27.8	21.2					56.8	58.4
Plaice	21.0	20.4	20.7	10.4					32.5	57.9
Witch Flounder	66.8	68.2	70.0	4.0					41.1	55.3
GB Winter Flounder	56.6	55.5	57.8	-					NA	83.6
GOM Winter Flounder	25.6	20.8	20.3	30.0					33.3	69.4
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	33.4	19.2	20.5	9.1					28.7	96.7
Redfish	59.2	59.8	60.5	0.3					3.4	1.6
White Hake	90.2	90.2	91.3	1.1					4.1	174.9
Pollock	21.5	16.4	16.6	0.5					114.6	39.2
Northern Windowpane	107.2	26.9	NA	NA			290.0		6.0	277.5
Southern Windowpane	81.5	51.2	NA	NA			60.2		51.8	107.9
Ocean Pout	46.2	21.9	NA	NA					43.3	129.0
Halibut	64.6	67.5	NA	NA					60.9	27.7
Wolffish	1.3	1.2	NA	NA					2.0	4.9

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office  
November 15, 2021, run date of September 15, 2021

These data are the best available to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Data sources for this report include: (1) Vessels via VMS; (2) Vessels via vessel logbook reports; (3) Dealers via Dealer Electronic reporting; (4) Observers and at-sea monitors via the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program. Differences with previous reports are due to corrections made to the database.



**Table 2: FY 2020 Northeast Multispecies Annual Catch Limits (mt)**

Stock	Components with ACLs and sub-ACLs: With Accountability Measures (AMs)								Sub-components: No AMs	
	Total ACL	Groundfish	Sector	Common Pool	Recreational	Midwater Trawl Herring Fishery	Scallop Fishery <sup>2</sup>	Small Mesh Fisheries	State Water	Other
	A to H	A+B+C	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
GB Cod	1,234	1,073	1,041	31					19	142
GOM Cod	523	468	267	9	193				48	7
GB Haddock	124,969	121,864	119,409	2,454		2,447			-	658
GOM Haddock	18,580	18,267	11,754	303	6,210	183			65	65
GB Yellowtail Flounder	116	95.4	92.0	3.4			18.6	2.2	NA	-
SNE Yellowtail Flounder	21	15	12	3			2		-	4
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	787	688	656	32					58	41
Plaice	3,000	2,937	2,859	78					32	32
Witch Flounder	1,414	1,310	1,275	35					44	59
GB Winter Flounder	545	522	502	21					NA	22
GOM Winter Flounder	432	287	272	14					139	7
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	699	539	475	63					36	124
Redfish	11,351	11,231	11,085	147					60	60
White Hake	2,041	2,019	1,995	24					11	11
Pollock	26,184	23,989	23,752	236					1,098	1,098
Northern Windowpane	55	38	NA	38			12		1	5
Southern Windowpane	412	48	NA	48			143		26	196
Ocean Pout	120	92	NA	92					1	27
Halibut	102	77	NA	77					21	4
Wolffish	84	82	NA	82					1	1

Values in metric tons of live weight

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office  
November 15, 2021

**Table 3: FY 2020 Northeast Multispecies Total Catch (mt)**

Stock	Total Catch	Groundfish Fishery	Sector	Common Pool	Recreational	Midwater Trawl Herring Fishery	Scallop Fishery <sup>1</sup>	Small Mesh Fisheries	State Water	Other
	A to H	A+B+C	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
GB Cod	731.2	425.3	421.9	3.3					147.5	158.5
GOM Cod	426.2	409.0	221.8	3.2	184.0				15.1	2.1
GB Haddock	6513.3	6489.4	6488.7	0.6		10.0			1.3	12.6
GOM Haddock	5320.5	5262.4	4023.9	36.2	1202.3	0.1			51.7	6.4
GB Yellowtail Flounder	9.7	6.4	6.4	-			1.5	1.8	-	0.0
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	3.3	1.0	0.9	0.1			0.6		0.1	1.6
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	245.8	188.9	182.2	6.7					33.0	24.0
Plaice	629.3	600.4	592.3	8.1					10.4	18.5
Witch Flounder	944.9	894.2	892.7	1.4					18.1	32.7
GB Winter Flounder	308.3	289.9	289.9	-					-	18.4
GOM Winter Flounder	110.8	59.6	55.3	4.3					46.3	4.9
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	233.4	103.2	97.4	5.8					10.3	119.9
Redfish	6715.1	6712.1	6711.6	0.5					2.0	0.9
White Hake	1840.3	1820.6	1820.3	0.3					0.5	19.2
Pollock	5626.6	3937.2	3936.1	1.1					1258.7	430.8
Northern Windowpane	58.97	10.2	10.2	0.0			34.8		0.1	13.9
Southern Windowpane	335.6	24.6	22.3	2.3			86.0		13.5	211.5
Ocean Pout	55.4	20.1	20.0	0.2					0.4	34.8
Halibut	65.8	51.9	49.4	2.6					12.8	1.1
Wolffish	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.0					0.0	0.0

<sup>1</sup>Based on scallop fishing year April 2020 through March 2021

Values in metric tons of live weight

Sector and common pool include estimate of missing dealer reports

Any value for a non-allocated species may include landings of that stock or misreporting of species and/or stock area. These are northern windowpane, southern windowpane, ocean pout, halibut, and wolffish.

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

November 15, 2021, run date of September 15, 2021

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**Table 4: FY 2020 Northeast Multispecies Landings (mt)**

Stock	Total Landings	Groundfish Fishery	Sector	Common Pool	Recreational	Midwater Trawl Herring Fishery	Scallop Fishery	Small Mesh Fisheries	State Water	Other
	A to H	A+B+C	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
GB Cod	700.8	417.4	414.3	3.1					145.2	138.1
GOM Cod	274.7	258.4	214.3	2.5	41.5				15.0	1.4
GB Haddock	6421.5	6409.3	6408.7	0.6		10.0			0.0	2.2
GOM Haddock	4976.3	4923.7	3973.8	36.1	913.7	0.1			51.1	1.5
GB Yellowtail Flounder	5.2	5.2	5.2	-				-	-	-
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.1				-	0.1	0.1
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	192.3	157.2	150.8	6.4					32.7	2.3
Plaice	566.7	554.6	546.6	8.0					9.5	2.6
Witch Flounder	873.8	855.8	854.4	1.4					17.4	0.7
GB Winter Flounder	289.5	289.0	289.0	-					-	0.5
GOM Winter Flounder	103.3	56.2	51.8	4.3					46.0	1.1
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	115.1	101.0	95.3	5.7					9.7	4.4
Redfish	6677.5	6676.1	6675.6	0.5					1.4	0.1
White Hake	1806.1	1804.8	1804.5	0.3					0.2	1.1
Pollock	4695.3	3850.0	3848.9	1.0					701.5	143.8
Northern Windowpane	-	-	-	-					-	-
Southern Windowpane	9.9	0.0	-	0.0					9.8	0.1
Ocean Pout	-	-	-	-					-	-
Halibut	46.6	33.4	30.8	2.6					12.5	0.8
Wolffish	-	-	-	-					-	-

Values in metric tons of live weight

Sector and common pool include estimate of missing dealer reports

Any value for a non-allocated species may include landings of that stock or misreporting of species and/or stock area. These are northern windowpane, southern windowpane, ocean pout, halibut, and wolffish.

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

November 15, 2021, run date of September 15, 2021

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**Table 5: FY 2020 Northeast Multispecies Estimated Discards (mt)**

Stock	Total Discards	Groundfish Fishery	Sector	Common Pool	Recreational	Midwater Trawl Herring Fishery	Scallop Fishery	Small Mesh Fisheries	State Water	Other
	A to H	A+B+C	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
GB Cod	30.5	7.8	7.6	0.2					2.3	20.4
GOM Cod	151.5	150.7	7.5	0.7	142.4				0.1	0.7
GB Haddock	91.8	80.1	80.1	0.0		-			1.3	10.4
GOM Haddock	344.2	338.7	50.1	0.1	288.5	-			0.6	4.9
GB Yellowtail Flounder	4.5	1.2	1.2	-			1.5	1.8	-	0.0
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	2.3	0.1	0.1	0.0			0.6		0.0	1.5
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	53.6	31.7	31.4	0.3					0.2	21.6
Plaice	62.6	45.8	45.7	0.1					0.9	15.9
Witch Flounder	71.1	38.4	38.3	0.1					0.7	32.0
GB Winter Flounder	18.8	0.9	0.9	-					-	17.8
GOM Winter Flounder	7.5	3.5	3.4	0.0					0.3	3.7
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	118.3	2.2	2.0	0.1					0.6	115.5
Redfish	37.6	36.1	36.1	0.0					0.6	0.9
White Hake	34.2	15.8	15.8	-					0.3	18.1
Pollock	931.4	87.2	87.2	0.0					557.2	287.0
Northern Windowpane	59.0	10.2	10.2	0.0			34.8		0.1	13.9
Southern Windowpane	325.8	24.6	22.3	2.3			86.0		3.7	211.5
Ocean Pout	55.4	20.1	20.0	0.2					0.4	34.8
Halibut	19.2	18.6	18.6	0.0					0.3	0.3
Wolffish	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.0					0.0	0.0

Values in metric tons of live weight

Sector and common pool include estimate of missing dealer reports

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

November 15, 2021, run date of September 15, 2021

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**Table 6: FY 2020 Northeast Multispecies Estimated State Water Sub-Component Catch Detail (mt)**

Stock	Total			Commercial			Recreational		
	Catch	Landings	Discard	Total Catch	Landings <sup>1</sup>	Discard <sup>1</sup>	Total Catch	Landings	Discard
	A+B+C+D	A+C	B+D	A+B	A	B	C+D	C	D
GB Cod	147.5	145.2	2.3	5.7	5.6	0.1	141.8	139.6	2.1
GOM Cod	15.1	15.0	0.1	15.1	15.0	0.1	_*	_*	_*
GB Haddock	1.3	0.0	1.3	1.3	0.0	1.3			
GOM Haddock	51.7	51.1	0.6	51.7	51.1	0.6	_*	_*	_*
GB Yellowtail Flounder	-	-	-	-	-	-			
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0			
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	33.0	32.7	0.2	33.0	32.7	0.2			
Plaice	10.4	9.5	0.9	10.4	9.5	0.9			
Witch Flounder	18.1	17.4	0.7	18.1	17.4	0.7			
GB Winter Flounder	-	-	-	-	-	-			
GOM Winter Flounder	46.3	46.0	0.3	36.4	36.4	0.0	9.9	9.6	0.3
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	10.3	9.7	0.6	8.5	8.5	0.1	1.8	1.3	0.5
Redfish	2.0	1.4	0.6	2.0	1.4	0.6			
White Hake	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.3			
Pollock	1258.7	701.5	557.2	2.2	0.3	1.9	1,256.4	701.1	555.3
Northern Windowpane	0.1	-	0.1	0.1	-	0.1			
Southern Windowpane	13.5	9.8	3.7	13.5	9.8	3.7			
Ocean Pout	0.4	-	0.4	0.4	-	0.4			
Halibut	12.8	12.5	0.3	12.8	12.5	0.3			
Wolffish	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	-	0.0			

\*Recreational catch of GOM cod and haddock in state waters is attributed to the recreational sub-ACL (see Tables 1 - 5), and so is not included above.

<sup>1</sup>January through April 2021 commercial catches are estimated.

State discard rate estimates based on discard rates on federal trips

Values in metric tons of live weight

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

November 15, 2021, run date of November 2, 2021

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**Table 7: FY 2020 Northeast Multispecies Other Sub-Component Catch Detail (mt)**

Stock	Total	SCALLOP <sup>1</sup>	FLUKE	HAGFISH	HERRING	LOBSTER/ CRAB <sup>2</sup>	MACKEREL	MENHADEN	MONKFISH	REDCRAB	RESEARCH
GB Cod	158.5	3.2	0.1	-	0.0	0.3	0.0	-	0.1	-	0.5
GOM Cod	2.1	0.3	-	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	-	-	1.1
GB Haddock	12.6	4.6	0.3	-	0.0*	-	0.1	-	0.0	-	2.2
GOM Haddock	6.4	-	0.0	-	0.9*	-	0.0	-	-	-	1.1
GB Yellowtail Flounder	0.0	-*	-	-	-*	-	-	-	-	-	-
SNE Yellowtail Flounder	1.6	-*	0.2	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	24.0	8.8	0.0	-	1.0	-	-	-	0.0	-	2.2
American Plaice	18.5	8.2	0.2	-	0.1	-	0.2	-	0.0	-	1.8
Witch Flounder	32.7	15.2	1.3	0.0	0.1	-	0.3	-	0.0	0.0	0.4
GB Winter Flounder	18.4	18.4	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
GOM Winter Flounder	4.9	3.2	0.0	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	0.0
SNE Winter Flounder	119.9	34.6	6.3	-	0.4	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.1	-	0.1
Redfish	0.9	0.0	0.1	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	-	-	0.0
White Hake	19.2	1.5	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.4	-	0.0	0.0	0.8
Pollock	430.8	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.1
Northern Windowpane	13.9	-*	0.0	-	0.3	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	-
Southern Windowpane	211.5	-*	44.6	-	0.5	-	1.9	0.0	0.4	-	0.0
Ocean Pout	34.8	2.5	0.2	-	0.3	-	0.7	-	0.0	-	0.0
Halibut	1.1	0.3	-	-	-	0.5	-	-	0.0	-	0.0
Wolffish	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	-

Values in metric tons of live weight

<sup>1</sup>Based on scallop fishing year April 2020 through March 2021

<sup>2</sup>Landings only. Discard estimates not applicable. Lobster/crab discards were not attributed to the ACL, consistent with the most recent assessments for these stocks used to set the respective quotas.

\*Some or all catch attributed to separate sub-ACL as shown in Tables 1 through 5, and so is not included above.

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office  
November 15, 2021, run date of Oct. 27, 2021

These criteria are used by the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) to categorize trips to attribute groundfish catch for groundfish ACL accounting. By necessity these rules cannot capture the full complexity of categorizing every trip taken by vessels fishing in the Northeast. Further analysis should be completed to definitively attribute groundfish catch to an FMP for management purposes.

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**Table 7: FY 2020 Northeast Multispecies Other Sub-Component Catch Detail (mt)**

Stock	Total	SCUP	SHRIMP	SQUID	SQUID/ WHITING	SURFCLAM	WHELK/ CONCH	WHITING	UNCATEGORIZED	RECREATIONAL
GB Cod	158.5	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.1	0.0	-	0.0	0.7	152.6
GOM Cod	2.1	-	-	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	0.6	.*
GB Haddock	12.6	0.2	0.0	4.2	0.4	0.1	-	0.0	0.5	
GOM Haddock	6.4	-	-	-	1.0	0.8	0.0	-	2.5	.*
GB Yellowtail Flounder	0.0	-	.*	0.0*	0.0	-	-	-	0.0*	
SNE Yellowtail Flounder	1.6	0.1	0.0	1.0	0.1	0.0	-	0.0	0.2	
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	24.0	-	-	1.3	8.4	0.9	-	-	1.3	
American Plaice	18.5	0.2	0.0	6.0	0.7	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.9	
Witch Flounder	32.7	0.7	0.1	11.4	1.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	1.5	
GB Winter Flounder	18.4	-	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	0.0	
GOM Winter Flounder	4.9	-	-	-	0.1	0.1	0.0	-	0.9	0.4
SNE Winter Flounder	119.9	3.3	0.4	57.2	4.8	2.4	-	0.1	7.0	1.6
Redfish	0.9	-	0.0	0.6	0.1	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	
White Hake	19.2	0.1	0.1	13.2	1.3	0.5	0.0	0.0	1.0	
Pollock	430.8	-	0.0	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	429.7
Northern Windowpane	13.9	-	-	7.7	5.1	0.3	-	-	0.5	
Southern Windowpane	211.5	26.2	0.5	93.3	7.0	5.9	-	0.1	31.2	
Ocean Pout	34.8	0.1	0.2	25.5	2.5	0.9	-	0.0	1.9	
Halibut	1.1	-	-	0.1	0.1	-	0.0	-	0.1	
Wolffish	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	-	-	0.0	

Values in metric tons of live weight

\*Some or all catch attributed to separate sub-ACL as shown in Tables 1 through 5, and so is not included above.

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office  
November 15, 2021, run date of Oct. 27, 2021

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**Table 8: FY 2020 Northeast Multispecies Other Sub-Component Landings Detail (mt)**

Stock	Total	SCALLOP <sup>1</sup>	FLUKE	HAGFISH	HERRING	LOBSTER/ CRAB	MACKEREL	MENHADEN	MONKFISH	REDCRAB	RESEARCH
GB Cod	138.1	-	0.1	-	-	0.3	-	-	0.0	-	0.5
GOM Cod	1.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.1
GB Haddock	2.2	-	-	-	-*	-	-	-	-	-	2.2
GOM Haddock	1.5	-	-	-	-*	-	-	-	-	-	1.1
GB Yellowtail Flounder	-	-*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SNE Yellowtail Flounder	0.1	-*	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	2.3	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	2.2
American Plaice	2.6	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	1.8
Witch Flounder	0.7	0.2	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4
GB Winter Flounder	0.5	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GOM Winter Flounder	1.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0
SNE Winter Flounder	4.4	0.5	0.8	-	-	0.0	-	-	0.0	-	0.1
Redfish	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0
White Hake	1.1	-	0.0	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	0.8
Pollock	143.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1
Northern Windowpane	-	-*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Southern Windowpane	0.1	-*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ocean Pout	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Halibut	0.8	-	-	-	-	0.5	-	-	0.0	-	0.0
Wolffish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Values in metric tons of live weight

<sup>1</sup>Based on scallop fishing year April 2020 through March 2021

\*Some or all catch attributed to separate sub-ACL as shown in Tables 1 through 5, and so is not included above.

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

November 15, 2021, run date of Oct. 27, 2021

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**Table 8: FY 2020 Northeast Multispecies Other Sub-Component Landings Detail (mt)**

Stock	Total	SCUP	SHRIMP	SQUID	SQUID/ WHITING	SURFCLAM	WHELK/ CONCH	WHITING	UNCATEGORIZED	RECREATIONAL
GB Cod	138.1	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	0.4	136.9
GOM Cod	1.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.3	.*
GB Haddock	2.2	0.0	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	
GOM Haddock	1.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4	.*
GB Yellowtail Flounder	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
SNE Yellowtail Flounder	0.1	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	2.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	
American Plaice	2.6	0.2	-	0.1	0.1	-	-	-	0.5	
Witch Flounder	0.7	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	
GB Winter Flounder	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
GOM Winter Flounder	1.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.7	0.4
SNE Winter Flounder	4.4	0.1	-	0.2	0.2	-	-	0.0	0.9	1.6
Redfish	0.1	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	0.0	
White Hake	1.1	0.0	-	0.1	0.0	-	-	-	0.1	
Pollock	143.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	143.6
Northern Windowpane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Southern Windowpane	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	
Ocean Pout	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Halibut	0.8	-	-	0.1	0.1	-	-	-	0.1	
Wolffish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Values in metric tons of live weight

\*Some or all catch attributed to separate sub-ACL as shown in Tables 1 through 5, and so is not included above.

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office  
November 15, 2021, run date of Oct. 27, 2021

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**Table 9: FY 2020 Northeast Multispecies Other Sub-Component Estimated Discards Detail (mt)**

Stock	Total	SCALLOP <sup>1</sup>	FLUKE	HAGFISH	HERRING	LOBSTER/ CRAB <sup>2</sup>	MACKEREL	MENHADEN	MONKFISH	REDCRAB	RESEARCH
GB Cod	20.4	3.2	0.0	-	0.0	NA	0.0	-	0.1	-	0.0
GOM Cod	0.7	0.3	-	-	0.0	NA	0.0	-	-	-	-
GB Haddock	10.4	4.6	0.3	-	0.0*	NA	0.1	-	0.0	-	0.0
GOM Haddock	4.9	-	0.0	-	.9*	NA	0.0	-	-	-	-
GB Yellowtail Flounder	0.0	-*	-	-	-*	NA	-	-	-	-	-
SNE Yellowtail Flounder	1.5	-*	0.2	-	0.0	NA	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	21.6	8.8	0.0	-	1.0	NA	-	-	0.0	-	-
American Plaice	15.9	8.2	0.1	-	0.1	NA	0.2	-	0.0	-	0.0
Witch Flounder	32.0	15.0	1.3	0.0	0.1	NA	0.3	-	0.0	0.0	0.0
GB Winter Flounder	17.8	17.8	-	-	0.0	NA	-	-	-	-	-
GOM Winter Flounder	3.7	3.2	0.0	-	0.1	NA	-	-	-	-	-
SNE Winter Flounder	115.5	34.1	5.5	-	0.4	NA	1.6	0.0	0.1	-	0.0
Redfish	0.9	0.0	0.1	-	0.0	NA	0.0	-	-	-	0.0
White Hake	18.1	1.5	0.2	0.0	0.1	NA	0.4	-	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pollock	287.0	-	0.0	-	0.0	NA	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0
Northern Windowpane	13.9	-*	0.0	-	0.3	NA	0.0	-	0.0	-	-
Southern Windowpane	211.5	-*	44.6	-	0.5	NA	1.9	0.0	0.4	-	0.0
Ocean Pout	34.8	2.5	0.2	-	0.3	NA	0.7	-	0.0	-	0.0
Halibut	0.3	0.3	-	-	-	NA	-	-	-	-	-
Wolffish	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	-	NA	0.0	-	-	-	-

Values in metric tons of live weight

<sup>1</sup>Based on scallop fishing year April 2020 through March 2021

<sup>2</sup>Discard estimates not applicable. Lobster/crab discards were not attributed to the ACL, consistent with the most recent assessments for these stocks used to set the respective quotas.

\*Some or all catch attributed to separate sub-ACL as shown in Tables 1 through 5, and so is not included above.

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

November 15, 2021, run date of Oct. 27, 2021

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**Table 9: FY 2020 Northeast Multispecies Other Sub-Component Estimated Discards Detail (mt)**

Stock	Total	SCUP	SHRIMP	SQUID	SQUID/ WHITING	SURFCLAM	WHELK/ CONCH	WHITING	UNCATEGORIZED	RECREATIONAL
GB Cod	20.4	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.1	0.0	-	0.0	0.3	15.8
GOM Cod	0.7	-	-	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	0.3	-*
GB Haddock	10.4	0.2	0.0	4.2	0.4	0.1	-	0.0	0.5	
GOM Haddock	4.9	-	-	-	1.0	0.8	0.0	-	2.1	-*
GB Yellowtail Flounder	0.0	-	-	0.0*	0.0*	-	-	-	0.0*	
SNE Yellowtail Flounder	1.5	0.1	0.0	0.9	0.1	0.0	-	0.0	0.2	
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	21.6	-	-	1.3	8.4	0.9	-	-	1.2	
American Plaice	15.9	0.1	0.0	5.9	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4	
Witch Flounder	32.0	0.7	0.1	11.4	1.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	1.5	
GB Winter Flounder	17.8	-	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	0.0	
GOM Winter Flounder	3.7	-	-	-	0.1	0.1	0.0	-	0.2	0.0
SNE Winter Flounder	115.5	3.2	0.4	57.0	4.6	2.4	-	0.1	6.1	0.0
Redfish	0.9	-	0.0	0.6	0.1	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	
White Hake	18.1	0.1	0.1	13.1	1.3	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.9	
Pollock	287.0	-	0.0	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	286.1
Northern Windowpane	13.9	-	-	7.7	5.1	0.3	-	-	0.5	
Southern Windowpane	211.5	26.2	0.5	93.3	7.0	5.9	-	0.1	31.2	
Ocean Pout	34.8	0.1	0.2	25.5	2.5	0.9	-	0.0	1.9	
Halibut	0.3	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	
Wolffish	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	-	-	0.0	

Values in metric tons of live weight

\*Some or all catch attributed to separate sub-ACL as shown in Tables 1 through 5, and so is not included above.

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

November 15, 2021, run date of Oct. 27, 2021

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**Table 10: FY 2018 - 2020 GOM Cod and Haddock Recreational Catch Evaluation  
(mt)**

Stock	Fishing Year	Recreational Catch				
		Catch	Landings	Discard	Recreational sub-ACL	Percent of Catch Limit Taken
		A + B	A	B		
GOM Cod	2018	146.9	4.3	142.6	220	66.8
	2019	79.8	23.3	56.5	220	36.3
	2020	184.0	41.5	142.4	193	95.3
	<b>Average</b>	<b>136.9</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>113.8</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>64.9</b>
GOM Haddock	2018	595.0	423.9	171.1	3,358	17.7
	2019	423.2	301.6	121.6	3,194	13.3
	2020	1,202.3	913.7	288.5	6,210	19.4
	<b>Average</b>	<b>740.2</b>	<b>546.4</b>	<b>193.8</b>	<b>4,254</b>	<b>17.4</b>

Recreational estimates based on Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) data.

FY 2020 GOM cod and GOM haddock recreational catch estimates are based on the Fishing Effort Survey (FES). FY 2018 & FY 2019 GOM cod and GOM haddock estimates are back calibrated from the FES to the Coastal Household Telephone Survey (CHTS) metrics.

Values in metric tons of live weight

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office  
November 15, 2021

These data are the best available to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

**Table 11: FY 2020 Northeast Multispecies Sector Carryover (mt)**

Stock**	FY 2020 Available Annual Catch Entitlement (ACE)				Available Carryover from FY 2020 to FY 2021	
	FY 2020 Initial ACE	FY 2019 Carryover	FY 2020 Total ACE	Total ACE as a Percent of Initial ACE	<i>de minimis</i>	Maximum
	A	B	C = A + B	C / A	D	E
GB Cod	1,040	57	1,097	105.5	10	58
GOM Cod	267	29	296	110.9	3	25
GB Haddock	119,317	6,598	125,915	105.5	741	4,149
GOM Haddock	11,754	1,116	12,870	109.5	99	951
GB Yellowtail Flounder	92.0	NA*	92.0	100.0	NA*	NA*
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	12	1	13	108.0	0	1
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	656	36	692	105.5	6	36
Plaice	2,859	155	3,014	105.4	26	141
Witch Flounder	1,275	65	1,339	105.1	13	69
GB Winter Flounder	502	16	518	103.2	5	17
GOM Winter Flounder	272	15	287	105.5	3	15
SNE Winter Flounder	475	28	503	105.9	2	15
Redfish	11,084	591	11,675	105.3	94	509
White Hake	1,995	106	2,101	105.3	18	106
Pollock	23,751	1,263	25,014	105.3	180	976

This table shows sector carryover as has been calculated since fishing year 2013, in accordance with the regulations at 50 CFR 648.87(b)(1)(i)(C) as of August 30, 2021.

\*Carryover of GB yellowtail flounder is not allowed because this stock is jointly managed with Canada.

\*\*There is no carryover for non-allocated stocks: Northern windowpane flounder, southern windowpane flounder, ocean pout, halibut, and wolffish.

These data are the best available to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Data sources for this report include: (1) Vessels via VMS; (2) Vessels via vessel logbook reports; (3) Dealers via Dealer Electronic reporting; (4) Observers and at-sea monitors via the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program. Differences with previous reports are due to corrections made to the database.

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

Run Date: August 30, 2021

**Table 12: FY 2020 End of Year Accounting of Transboundary U.S./Canada Stocks -  
Percentage of U.S. TACs Caught (%)**

Stock	% of U.S. TAC	Percent of Each Fishery Component U.S. TAC Caught								
		Groundfish	Sector	Common Pool	Recreational	Herring Fishery	Scallop Fishery	Small Mesh Fisheries	State Water	Other
	A to H	A+B+C	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Eastern GB Cod	30.3	30.3	31.2	0.0					NA	NA
Eastern GB Haddock	3.5	3.5	3.5	0.0		NA			NA	NA
GB Yellowtail Flounder	8.1	6.7	6.9	0.0			7.9	82.2	NA	NA

Values in percent live weight (%)

Includes estimate of missing dealer reports

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office  
August 12, 2020

Any value for a non-allocated species may be due to landings of that stock; misreporting of species and/or stock area; and/or estimated landings (in lieu of missing reports) based on vessel histories.

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**Table 13: FY 2020 End of Year Accounting of Transboundary U.S./Canada Stocks - U.S. TACs (mt)**

Stock	U.S. TAC	Fishery Component TAC								
		Groundfish	Sector	Common Pool	Recreational	Herring Fishery	Scallop Fishery <sup>1</sup>	Small-Mesh Fisheries	State Water	Other
	A to H	A+B+C	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Eastern GB Cod	189	188.5	183.0	5.5						
Eastern GB Haddock	16,200	16,200	15,874	326						
GB Yellowtail Flounder	120.0	95.4	92.0	3.4			18.6	2.2		-

<sup>1</sup>The Georges Bank yellowtail flounder sub-ACL for the scallops fishery was reduced by 15.2 mt, and the groundfish sub-ACL was increased by the same amount, by a mid-year transfer from the scallops fishery to the groundfish fishery.

Values in live weight

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office  
September 2, 2020

Any value for a non-allocated species may be due to landings of that stock; misreporting of species and/or stock area; and/or estimated landings (in lieu of missing reports) based on vessel histories.

These data are the best available to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Data sources for this report include: (1) Vessels via VMS; (2) Vessels via vessel logbook reports; (3) Dealers via Dealer Electronic reporting. Differences with previous reports are due to corrections made to the database.

**Table 14: FY 2020 End of Year Accounting of Transboundary U.S./Canada Stocks - U.S. Catch (mt)**

Stock	U.S. Catch by Fishery Component									
	U.S. Catch	Groundfish	Sector	Common Pool	Recreational	Herring Fishery	Scallop Fishery	Small Mesh Fisheries	State Water	Other
	A to H	A+B+C	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Eastern GB Cod	57.1	57.0	57.0	-					-	0.0
Eastern GB Haddock	564.4	562.8	562.8	-		1.4			-	0.1
GB Yellowtail Flounder	9.7	6.4	6.4	-			1.5	1.8	-	0.0

Values in live weight  
Includes estimate of missing dealer reports  
August 12, 2020

**Table 15: FY 2020 End of Year Transboundary U.S./Canada Vessels, Trips, DAS Used, and Observers**

Area <sup>1</sup>	Number of Vessels		Number of Trips		DAS Used		Number of Observed Trips	
	Sector	Common Pool	Sector	Common Pool	Sector	Common Pool	Sector	Common Pool
Eastern U.S./Canada Area	36	0	188	0	1,078	0	27	0
Western U.S./Canada Area	53	0	538	0	2,867	0	82	0
Total	55	0	564	0	2,951	0	83	0

<sup>1</sup>Area based on area fished. Totals don't sum due to multi-area trips  
Data display "NA" due to data confidentiality.

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office  
August 12, 2020

Any value for a non-allocated species may be due to landings of that stock; misreporting of species and/or stock area; and/or estimated landings (in lieu of missing reports) based on vessel histories.

These data are the best available to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Data sources for this report include: (1) Vessels via VMS; (2) Vessels via vessel logbook reports; (3) Dealers via Dealer Electronic reporting. Differences with previous reports are due to corrections made to the database.



**Table 16: FY 2020 End of Year Accounting of Transboundary U.S./Canada Stocks - U.S. Landings (mt)**

Stock	U.S. Catch by Fishery Component									
	U.S. Landings	Groundfish	Sector	Common Pool	Recreational	Herring Fishery	Scallop Fishery	Small Mesh Fisheries	State Water	Other
	A to H	A+B+C	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Eastern GB Cod	53.7	53.7	53.7	-					-	-
Eastern GB Haddock	543.5	542.1	542.1	-		1.4			-	-
GB Yellowtail Flounder	5.2	5.2	5.2	-			-	-	-	-

Values in live weight

Includes estimate of missing dealer reports

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office  
August 12, 2020

Any value for a non-allocated species may be due to landings of that stock; misreporting of species and/or stock area; and/or estimated landings (in lieu of missing reports) based on vessel histories.

These data are the best available to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Data sources for this report include: (1) Vessels via VMS; (2) Vessels via vessel logbook reports; (3) Dealers via Dealer Electronic reporting. Differences with previous reports are due to corrections made to the database.

**Table 17: FY 2020 End of Year Accounting of Transboundary U.S./Canada Stocks - U.S. Discards (mt)**

Stock	U.S. Discards	U.S. Catch by Fishery Component								
		Groundfish	Sector	Common Pool	Recreational	Herring Fishery	Scallop Fishery	Small Mesh Fisheries	State Water	Other
	A to H	A+B+C	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Eastern GB Cod	3.4	3.4	3.4	-					-	0.0
Eastern GB Haddock	20.8	20.8	20.8	-		-			-	0.1
GB Yellowtail Flounder	4.5	1.2	1.2	-			1.5	1.8	-	0.0

Values in live weight

Includes estimate of missing dealer reports

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office  
August 12, 2020

Any value for a non-allocated species may be due to landings of that stock; misreporting of species and/or stock area; and/or estimated landings (in lieu of missing reports) based on vessel histories.

These data are the best available to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Data sources for this report include: (1) Vessels via VMS; (2) Vessels via vessel logbook reports; (3) Dealers via Dealer Electronic reporting. Differences with previous reports are due to corrections made to the database.



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE**  
Northeast Fisheries Science Center  
166 Water Street  
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

October 13, 2021

Mr. Thomas A. Nies  
Executive Director  
New England Fishery Management Council  
50 Water Street  
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Tom:

As requested at the October 2021 New England Fishery Management Council meeting, the following tables and figures represent a “report” on the 2021 NEFSC Sea Scallop Survey. The information was discussed at the Plan Development Team meetings prior to the Council meeting. Going forward, we will develop a post cruise report similar to the [Bottom Trawl Survey](#) and [Ecosystem Monitoring Survey](#).

The information provided included the number of planned dredge tows per stratum and the number of completed dredge tows (Table 1). We provide notes for strata with a 0% completion rate. We also plot this information (Figure 1) using the following color code: >70% completion rate (green), 1%-70% completion rate (yellow), and 0% completion rate (red).

We also report the amount of planned HabCam track that was completed. The tracks are often modified at sea based on actual survey progress. The final HabCam track created at sea represents a realistic track that will provide the coverage needed for assessment purposes. In this summary, the “% completion” for HabCam operations is in relation to the last track created aboard the vessel. We also show this graphically along with the Coonamessett Farm Foundation HabCam track.

It is important to note that each year the NEFSC plots more dredge stations and HabCam track than can be realistically completed. This is to ensure that allotted ship time is maximized. The objective is to never run out of “planned work” while at sea, even when conditions are optimal. Completing 100% of all plotted dredge stations/HabCam track is not expected.

I want to acknowledge the effort of NEFSC staff and RV Hugh Sharp crew that prepared and conducted the survey. Working under the COVID protocols was difficult and I commend their success.

Sincerely,

Jonathan A. Hare, Ph.D.  
Science and Research Director

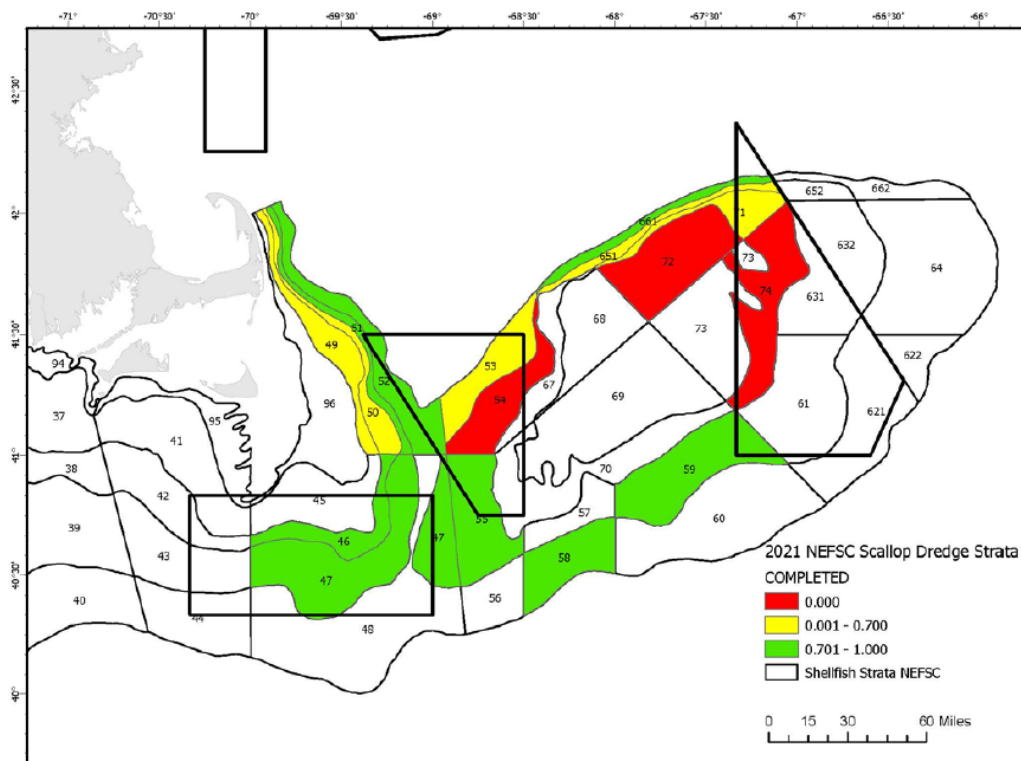
cc: M. Pentony  
P. Chase  
K. Ford  
D. Minkiewicz  
M. MacDonald



## 2021 DREDGE:

The dredge portion of the 2021 survey was generally productive, however the lowest priority strata had to be dropped due to bad weather and a loss of 1 week of ship time (vessel crew staffing issue).

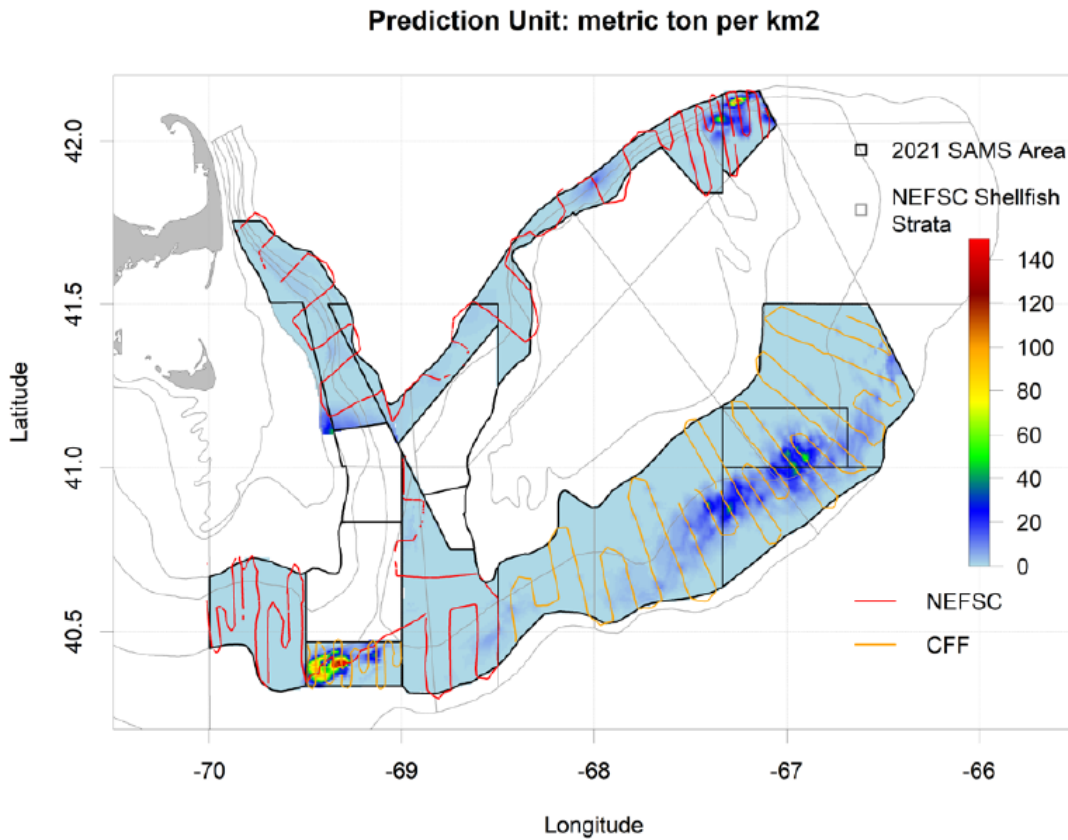
STRATUM	PLANNED	FIXED	COMPLETED	PERCENT_COMPLETE	NOTES
6460	2	0	2	100	
6470	13	1	10	77	
6490	7	0	4	57	
6500	15	0	9	60	
6510	6	0	5	83	
6520	8	0	7	88	
6530	5	1	2	40	
6540	8	2	0	0	Low priority area, dropped due to weather and lost ship time
6550	8	0	7	88	
6580	7	0	6	86	
6590	10	0	9	90	
6651	12	2	5	42	
6661	7	1	5	71	
6710	20	0	7	35	
6720	2	0	0	0	Low priority area, dropped due to weather and lost ship time
6740	2	0	0	0	Low priority area, dropped due to weather and lost ship time



## 2021 HABCAM

708nm of the 894nm planned track (79%) was completed. The area in the South Channel that was not sampled using HabCam was sampled by NEFSC dredge and SMAST dropcam.

With 1.5 days of HabCam track remaining in 2021, it was noticed that the outer strands of wire on a section of the fiber-optic cable were starting to unravel.. After consulting with multiple engineers, it was decided that it would be unsafe to re-deploy HabCam without conducting a re-termination. Given time constraints, the decision was made to switch to dredge operations.





## New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116  
Eric Reid, *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

October 12, 2021

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

Dear Mike:

On April 1, 2021, I expressed serious concerns with the proposed SeaWatch Surfclam EFP. The following comments are in addition to the feedback we provided in our initial letter and take into account the response letter you sent to SeaWatch on September 9, 2021.

The Council has been deliberate in its management decisions over the past several years to conserve the scallop resource within and just outside Closed Area II (CAII), closing some or all of the area to scallop fishing to optimize yield. We are concerned about the potential impact that exploratory surfclam fishing in CAII would have on the robust scallop resource in this area. The CAII rotational areas on eastern Georges Bank held ~30%<sup>1</sup> of the total scallop biomass in 2021. This region is, and will continue to be, the most important area for the scallop fishery for the foreseeable future. The Council appreciates the concerns that you raised in your recent letter to SeaWatch. We agree with your assertion that 60 full trips (32 bu/cage, 134 cages) is an appropriate level of effort and sampling to address the stated purpose of the project compared to the 416 trips that was originally proposed.

As we noted in our April 1, 2021, letter, without a clear understanding of where the fishing would occur, it is extremely difficult to provide meaningful comments on this EFP request. Your recent letter to SeaWatch recommended “that any closed area access for surfclam vessels should correspond to the rotational access area(s) and schedule of the scallop fishery.” We generally agree that the EFP should bear scallop management issues in mind but think this guidance to SeaWatch could be clearer and more specific. We do not believe fishing under the surfclam EFP should take place at the same time and in the same areas as scallop vessels are accessing the area.

CAII is a large, diverse management unit, and surveys show that scallops do not occur uniformly throughout the area. Three surveys were conducted in this area in 2021: a drop camera survey (University of Massachusetts Dartmouth School for Marine Science and Technology), a HabCam survey (Coonamessett Farm Foundation), and a dredge survey (Virginia Institute of Marine Science). The results of these surveys are similar in terms of scallop biomass estimates and the distribution of scallops throughout eastern Georges Bank. Scallop distribution observed by the drop camera, dredge, and HabCam surveys are shown in Figure 1, Figure 2, and Figure 3,

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<sup>1</sup> 2021 Combined survey biomass of Closed Area II SW, SE, and EXT shown in [https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/3b.-210908\\_Surveytable\\_FINAL.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/3b.-210908_Surveytable_FINAL.pdf)

respectively. Stations with low or no scallop catch are shown in black, and larger circles indicate areas of higher density. HabCam data of scallops 35mm-75mm shows recruits in the eastern portion of the CAII region, and higher densities of biomass to the west and south (Figure 4).

The recent re-stratification of the surfclam dredge survey, which concentrated survey strata to the area that encompassed 99% of the historical stock density (NEFSC 2017<sup>2</sup>), provides guidance as to where surfclams are likely to occur. We are assuming that fishable densities of clams are most likely to be found within these strata. We believe there is an opportunity to successfully harvest and test surfclams for PSP within CAII without adversely impacting the scallop resource in this region by focusing surfclam fishing in and around the surfclam strata.

If SeaWatch decides to move forward with the EFP, we recommend that it be modified to focus on areas in and around the surfclam strata inside CAII, and avoid areas where dense aggregations of scallops were observed during the 2021 scallop surveys (Figure 1, Figure 2, Figure 3, Figure 4). The Council recommends restricting exploratory fishing and PSP testing for surfclams in the hatched 'recommended avoidance area' shown in Figure 5. Approximate coordinates of the recommended avoidance area are provided in Table 1. The Council notes that there are areas in CAII to the east of the surfclam strata where the 2021 scallop surveys did not detect scallops. These areas are outside the surfclam survey strata but are not recommended for avoidance.

Based on these concerns, we recommend that the SeaWatch EFP be modified to clearly define the time and area that is being proposed for fishing so that the Council and public can better understand the scope of this research and potential impacts on resources within the CAII management unit.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Nies  
Executive Director

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<sup>2</sup> NEFSC (2017) "61st Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (61st SAW) assessment report."  
<http://doi.org/10.7289/V5/RD-NEFSC-17-05>

Figure 1 - Scallop rotational areas (black), 2021 School for Marine Science and Technology (SMAST) scallop density per station (blue dots), groundfish/habitat closures (red/orange), and surfclam survey strata (purple).

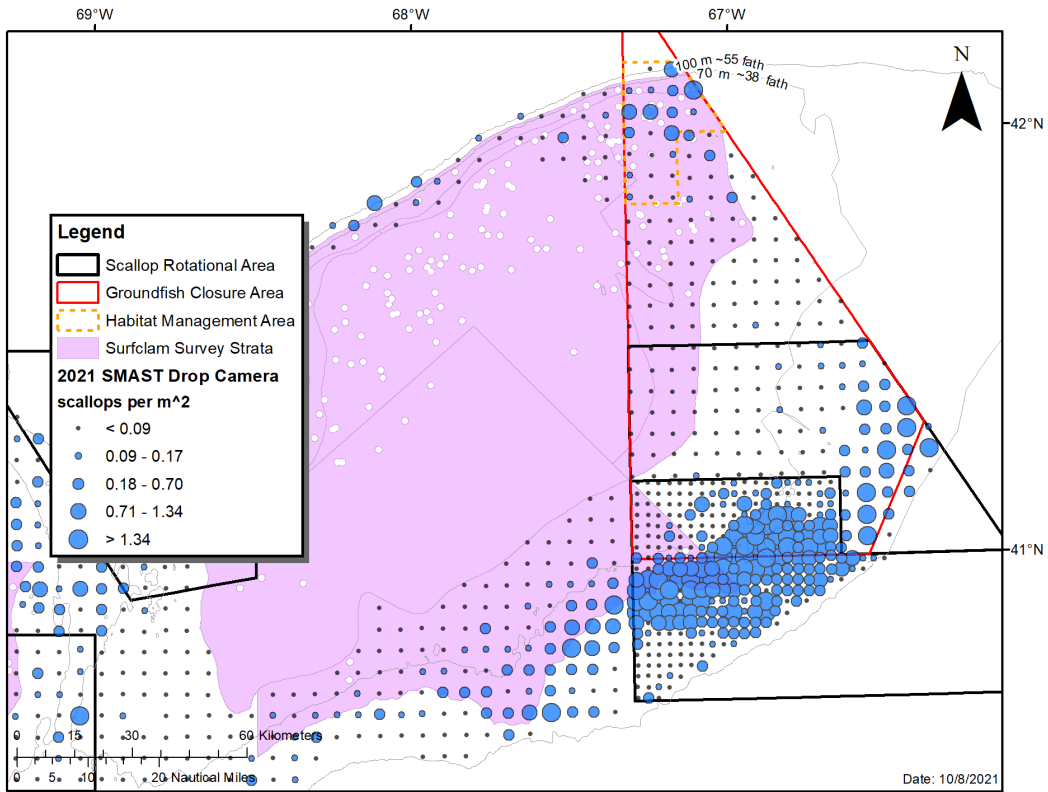


Figure 2 - Scallop rotational areas (black), 2021 Virginia Institute for Marine Science (VIMS) scallops per station (orange dots), groundfish/habitat closures (red/orange), and surfclam survey strata (purple).

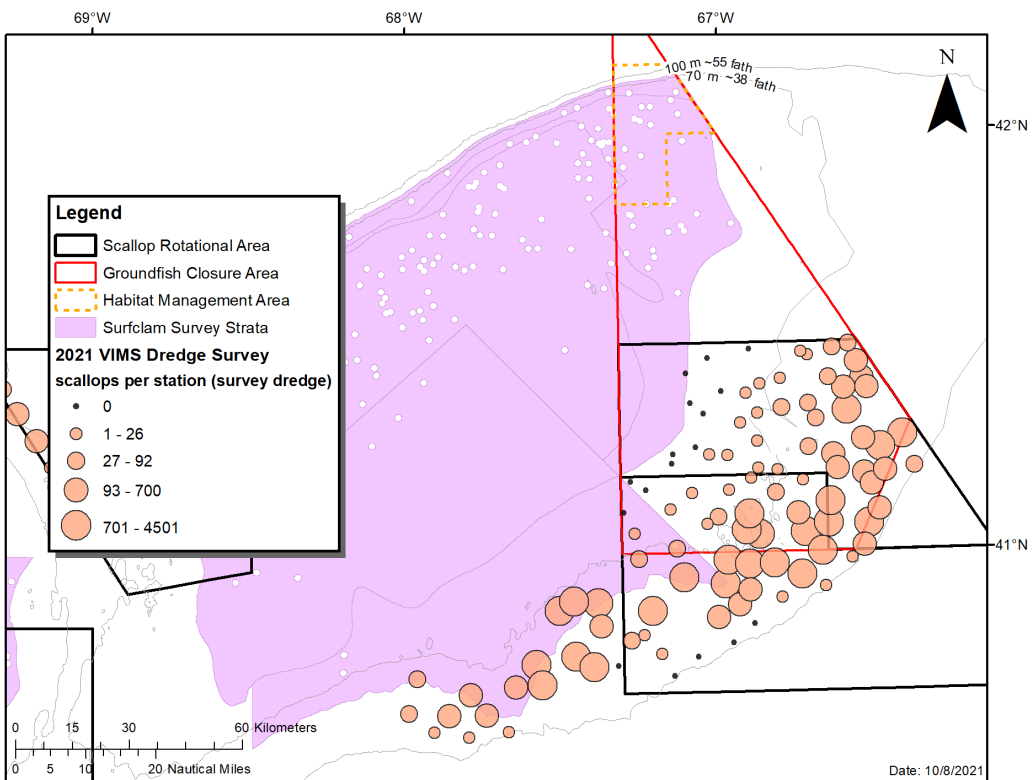




Figure 3 – Scallop rotational areas (black), 2021 HabCam predicted scallop biomass per km<sup>2</sup>, groundfish/habitat closures (red/orange), and surfclam survey strata (purple).

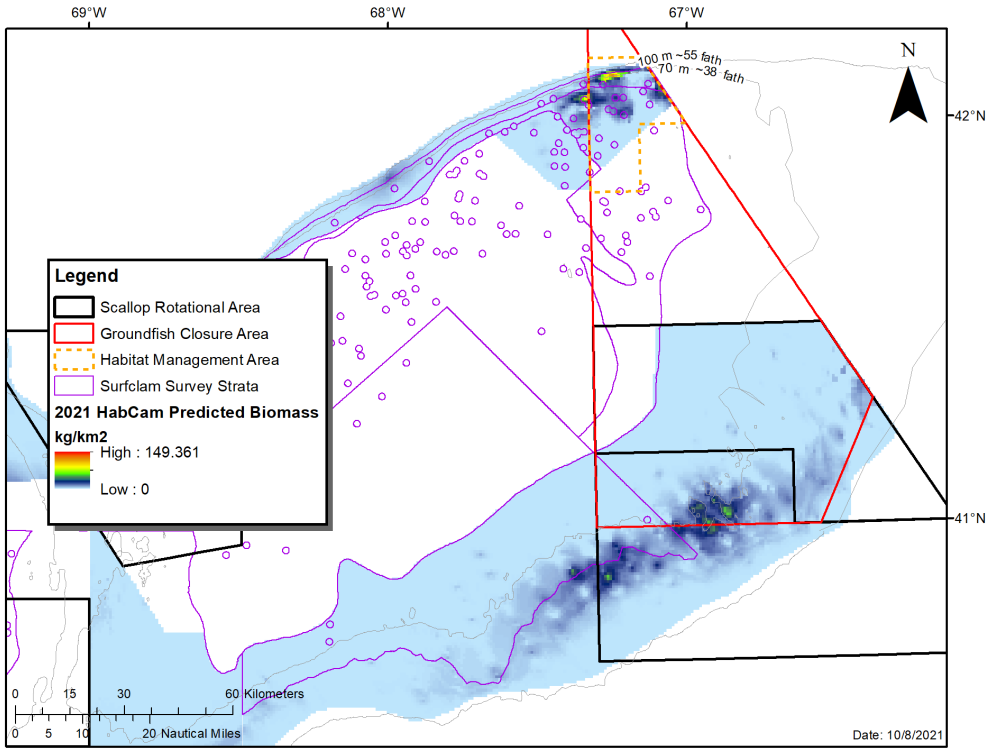


Figure 4 – Predicted biomass (mt per km<sup>2</sup>) of scallops between 35-75 mm shell height from the 2021 HabCam survey of eastern Georges Bank.

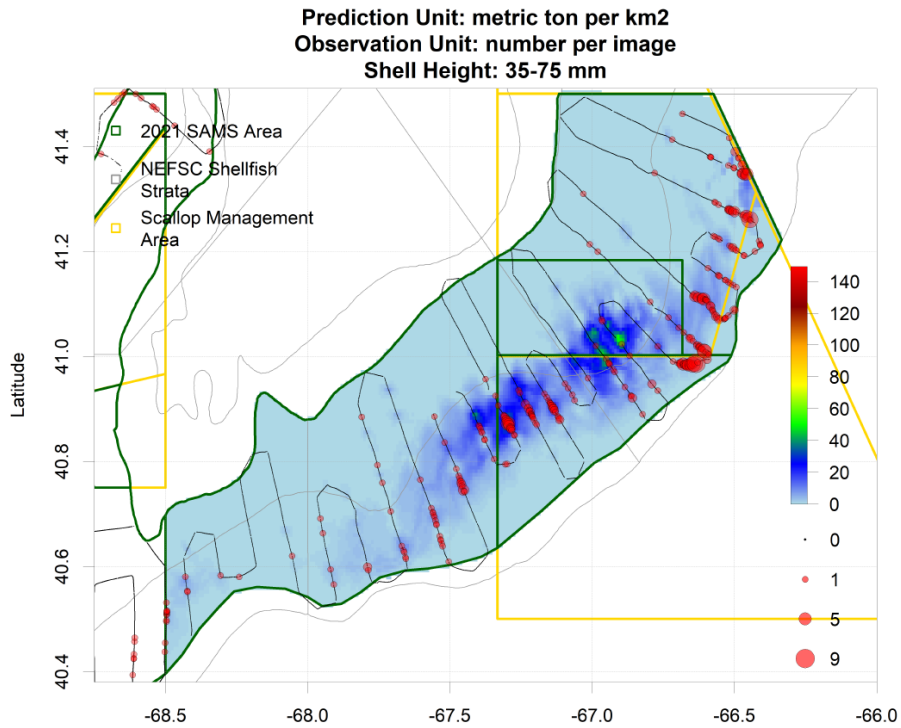


Figure 5 – The recommended area of avoidance for any potential surfclam PSP testing (hatched blue) relative to scallop rotational areas (black), groundfish/habitat closures (red/orange), and surfclam survey strata (purple).

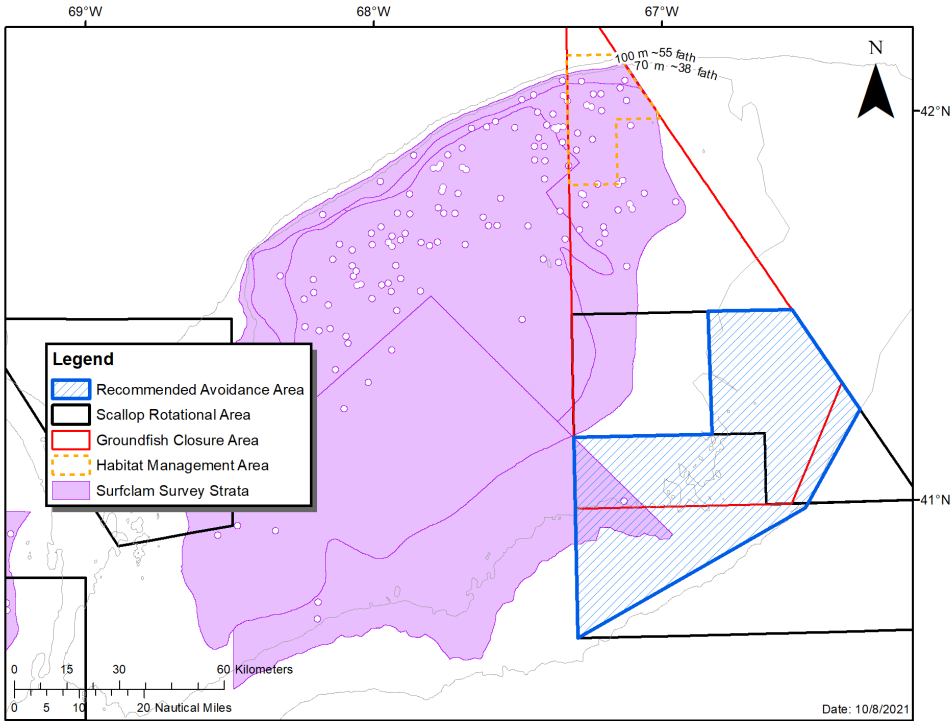


Table 1 – Approximate coordinates (decimal degrees) of the recommended area of avoidance for any potential surfclam PSP testing referenced in Figure 5.

Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	41.5000	-66.8655
2	41.5000	-66.5788
3	41.2371	-66.3550
4	41.0000	-66.5005
5	40.6667	-67.3333
6	41.1833	-67.3333
7	41.1833	-66.8655
8	41.5000	-66.8655



Chairman Eric Reid  
New England Fishery Management Council  
315 Hamilton-Allenton Road  
North Kingstown, RI 02852

October 4, 2021

Dear Chairman Reid:

More than two-thirds of the limited access (LA) sea scallop fleet agree they need the operational flexibility a leasing program can provide, and that this need will only become more critical in the future. To demonstrate this clearly, owners or owning entities representing 232 LA scallop vessels have signed public letters that ask the New England Fishery Management Council to prioritize the discussion and development of a leasing program by conducting scoping sessions as soon as possible. As we contact more vessel owners, we expect this number to continue to grow. Already, it is the most significant indication of support within the scallop fishery for the Council to proceed with the development of a leasing program.

The LA scallop fleet understands both the benefits and the increasing need for flexibility in the fishery that a leasing program can provide. The benefits of a leasing program are not limited to the improved conservation of economic inputs and safety at sea in the fishery; they also include significant fuel and emissions savings across the fleet. The Scallop AP and Committee have advanced this option for more than two years. It's time for action.

In coming days, you will be asked to rank your priorities for the 2022 work program for the Council. ***We are asking you to rank scallop priority #26, the creation of "a multi-year priority to develop limited access vessel DAS and access area trip leasing suggested by the Scallopers Campaign," as your number one priority for the scallop fishery in 2022.*** Selecting this priority will bring the leasing issue into the Council process, where it belongs, with all the protections and off-ramps that this process provides. After years of discussion, it's time to move this issue forward, particularly recognizing how much the scallop fishery has changed in the last decade and the challenges that the fishery will face in the future.

We realize there is another priority listed related to leasing, scallop priority #25, that states the Council will create "an annual work priority to conduct scoping or listening sessions on a LA DAS and access area trip leasing program to assess the need for a leasing program and whether to move forward with developing an amendment." ***In our view, this option does not advance the issue and will only delay putting leasing into the Council process for at least another year and potentially years to come.***

A significant majority of the fleet has asked the Council to prioritize the discussion and development of a leasing program. Scallop priority #26 appropriately recognizes that the development of a leasing program will be a multi-year process, as the AP and Committee work to evaluate all of the issues that would need to be addressed with management alternatives in the development of a successful leasing program.

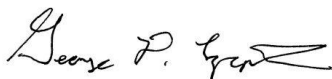
Scallop priority #26 would also include scoping meetings, which would clearly satisfy the Council's NEPA requirements. As it's not clear #25 would satisfy NEPA, if the Council chooses that priority and then decides to move forward with an amendment, the Council may need to repeat the scoping process after holding listening sessions, wasting valuable time and resources. However, as has happened with other proposed FMP amendments, under #26 the Council can decide at any point not to proceed.

Due to the strong and growing industry support for developing a leasing program and the Council's delayed response to this issue, the Scallopers Campaign petitioned the Secretary of Commerce in January 2021 to implement a leasing program. However, our preference has always been for the Council to take this on. We have therefore asked the Secretary to withhold taking action on our request in order to provide the New England Council with the opportunity to identify development of a leasing program as a high priority for 2022. The Scallopers Campaign looks forward to working closely with the Council, the AP, and the Committee as this issue moves forward through the Council's priority-setting process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Pike". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "J".

Jeff Pike

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George P. LaPointe". The signature is written in a cursive style.

George LaPointe



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Mr. Thomas A. Nies  
Executive Director  
New England Fishery Management Council  
50 Water St., Mill 2  
Newburyport, MA 01950

September 23, 2021

Dear Mr. Nies,

As the Council begins considering its work priorities for 2022, we wanted to update you on some of the activities of the Scallopers Campaign. During last year's Council discussion on the development of a leasing program for the Limited Access scallop fleet, we reported that a "supermajority" of LA vessels supported the Council developing a leasing program through the normal amendment process. At that time, some Council members dismissed that support, and in your June 2021 letter to Regional Administrator Pentony, you stated that our "claim (level of support) is difficult to corroborate".

At the beginning of 2021, the Campaign decided to renew and strengthen the industry support we had earned over 2019 and 2020. This work is ongoing, but to date, we can report that we have secured **written, signed letters** from owners representing 66 percent of the LA scallop fleet, with more expected in coming weeks. Those letters "call upon the New England Fishery Management Council to prioritize the discussion and development of a leasing program by conducting scoping sessions as soon as possible." We can also report that 64 percent of leasing supporters own four or fewer vessels. As we talk with vessel owners it is becoming clearer that a leasing option is very important for small operators. We are [providing you with copies of the letters](#) we have received to date, as well as the list of supporting vessels. We will provide updated documents as more letters come in.

The Campaign has also engaged Northern Economics Inc. to conduct an external assessment of the "Potential Impacts of the Proposal to Allow Leasing in the Limited Access Scallop Fishery." We expect to receive the final report later this month and will share its findings with the Council. The assessment examines the leasing concept, as proposed by the Campaign, and how it would allow the fishery to conserve economic inputs and reduce cost redundancies in fishing operations. One aspect we underestimated was the significant climate benefits of a leasing program. According to the analysis, reducing the excess fishing capacity in the fishery will create a significant reduction in CO2 emissions (approx. 11,500 MT annually). The reduction in CO2 is largely the result of fewer boats running generators and keeping systems operational while idle in port.

We hope this information is helpful to you and the Council as you consider making leasing a priority for this valuable fishery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Pike', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jeff Pike