

Amendment 19 Public Hearings

**Deirdre Boelke, NEFMC Staff,
Scallop PDT Chair**

**The webinar will begin
at 10:00 AM**

November 16 and 18, 2015



**New England
Fishery Management Council**

Webinar Agenda

10:00 Introduction

10:10 Staff presentation on Amendment 19

10:30 Clarification questions, then comments

12:00 Close



Webinar Logistics

- Attendees are muted to reduce background noise.
- If you would like to speak (question or comment), click the 'raise hand' feature in the GoToWebinar application.
- When it is your turn, you will be called on by name and unmuted.
- Please try to be brief if there are a large number of attendees who would like to comment.
- If you have a logistical concern, write it in the chat window and we will do our best to address it as appropriate.
- If technical difficulties prevent you from speaking, remember that the deadline for written comments is **November 20**.



Staff Presentation Outline

- Timeline
- Purpose and Need
- Background, Alternatives, Draft Impacts
- How to Comment



A19 Timeline



2015	
10/1	Council approved preferred alternatives
11/2	Public comment period begins
11/16 - 11/18	Public hearings
11/18	Groundfish Advisory Panel mtg
11/19	Groundfish Committee mtg
11/20	Public comment period ends
12/3	Council mtg – FINAL ACTION
2016	
Jan.	FEIS submitted to NMFS
June	Possible implementation of A19



Amendment 19

- **Background**
- **Section 1.2 – Purpose and Need**
 - Need to improve the Scallop FMP so that fishery specifications are better aligned with the start of the FY
 - Purposes – reduce potential economic and biological consequences and reduce overall administrative burden from late implementation



Amendment 19 (cont.)

- **Section 2.0 – Management Alternatives (page 15)**
 - 2.1 No Action
 - 2.2 Develop a Specifications Process
 - 2.3 Change the start of the fishing year to April 1 (from March 1)
- **Section 1.3.1.2 – Changes that could improve timing but do not require change to scallop regulations (page 11)**
 - Modify when and how the federal scallop survey is conducted
 - Change final Council meeting earlier (October)
 - Only include specifications – no other measures
 - Two year specifications so second year is in place on time
 - New idea from GARFO to submit “decision document” after final Council meeting and proposed rule drafted using that rather than final EA



Amendment 19 (cont.)

- **Section 2.0 – Alternatives – page 15**
- **Section 3.0 – Considered and Rejected alternatives – page 22**
- **Section 4.0 – Description of Affected Environment – page 22**
- **Section 5.0 – Draft Impacts – page 103**



2.1 No Action

- Pros – use updated data, flexibility to adjust other measures if specs set by FW, requirement for two Council meetings
- Cons – process often gets delayed from development, analysis, and review of other measures not related to specifications
- Biological Impacts – Delays can have negative impacts on the resource and protected resources. If MA AA trips available later in the FY higher overlap with turtle season. Neutral impacts on EFH and bycatch.
- Economic Impacts – Low Negative on fishermen and consumers, reduced flexibility to plan trips, increased confusions from default measures and replaced measures, can have negative impacts on profits and economic benefits.
- Higher Administrative burden from delayed implementation



2.2 Implement a Spec Process

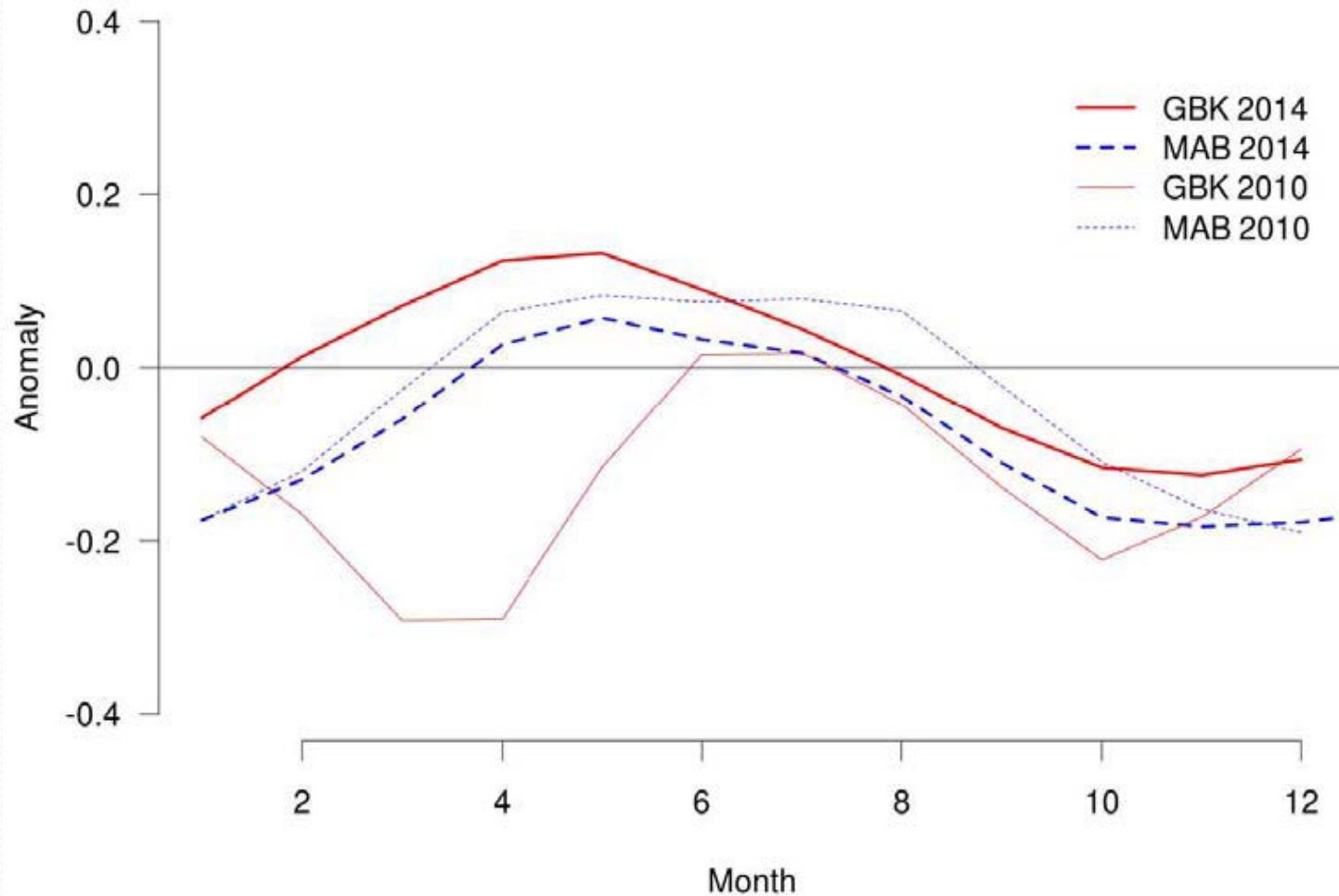
- Pros – use updated data, potential time savings without requirement of two Council meetings and more limited scope of action, greater potential to use a SIR (supplemental information report) with potential time savings
- Cons – does not guarantee specs in place March 1, less flexible to add other measures
- Biological Impacts – low negative to low positive on resource depending on timing of specs, neutral to low positive for EFH and bycatch, positive for turtles if MA AA trips available earlier in the year.
- Economic Impacts – Low positive if flexibility is improved from fewer delays.



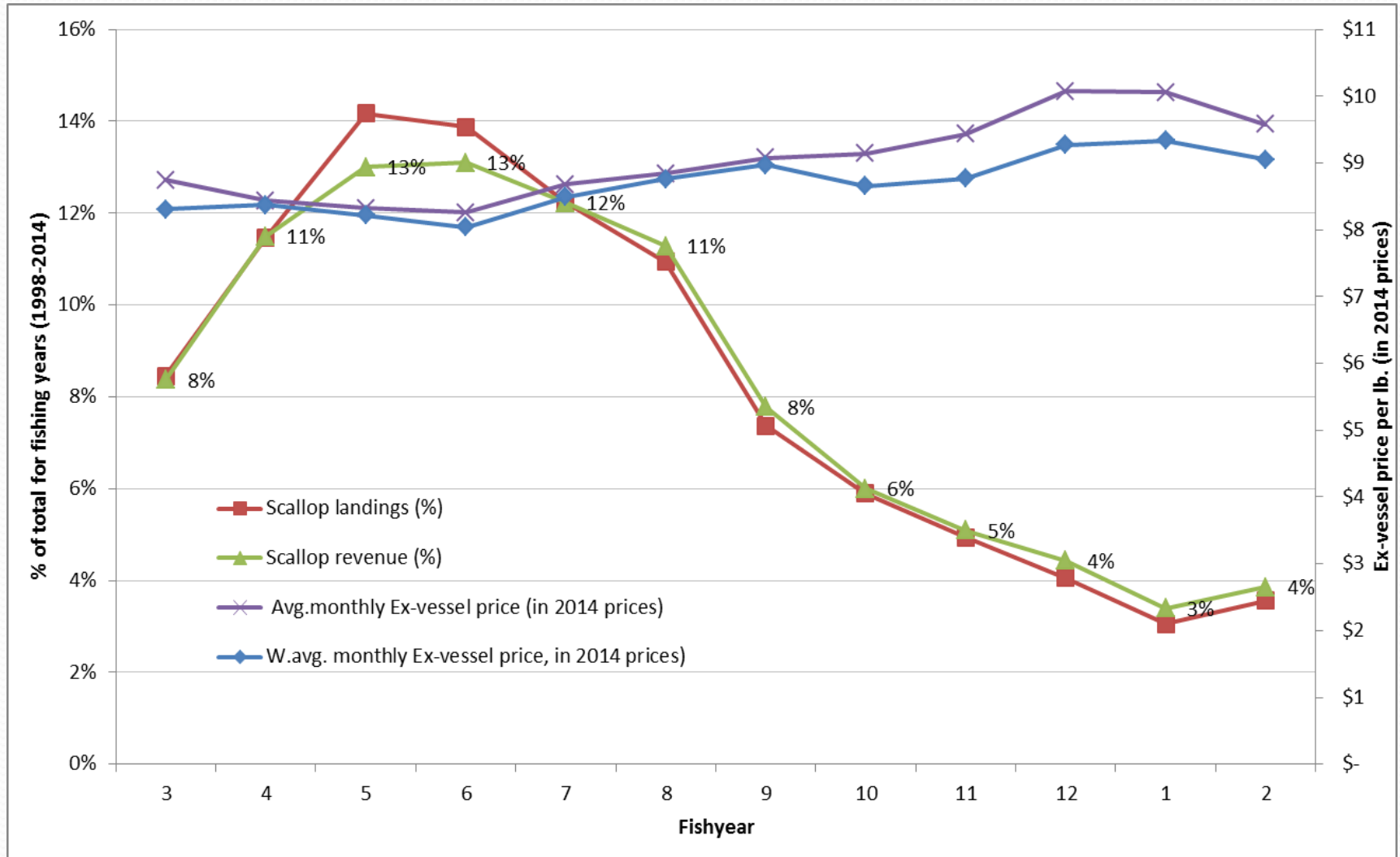
2.3 Change the fishing year to April 1

- This could be selected with spec process alternative or without
- Pros – use updated data, flexibility to adjust other measures over 2 Council meetings if specs still set by FW, more in sync with GF fishing year for annual monitoring of ACLs, with new pre-submission process outlined on pages 13-14 likely implementation of specs now in April already
- Cons – if FW process remains the process often gets delayed from development, analysis, and review of other measures
- Biological Impacts – low positive compared to No Action, combined with spec process expected to have most positive impacts. Neutral for EFH impacts. Same low negative as No Action unless combined with spec process.
- Economic Impacts – some change in business planning with potential risks but expected to decline over time and outweighed by positive impacts on resource, scallop yield, and revenues over the long-term.

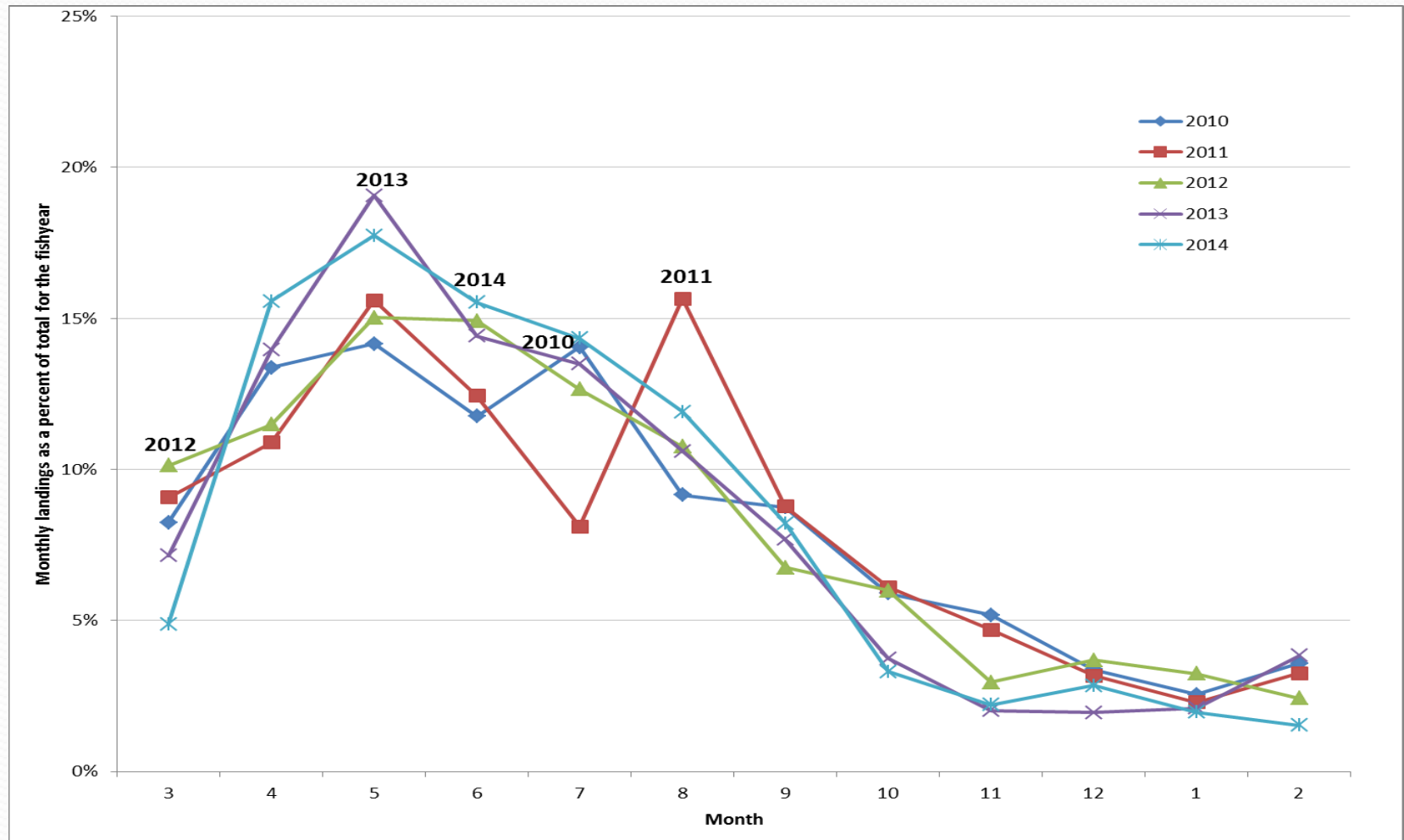
Seasonal MW variation – Figure 38



Monthly distribution of scallop landings (2004-2014) (Figure 40)



Monthly distribution of scallop landings as percent of total for year (Figure 41)



Potential Impacts of the Alternatives to the Fishery Management Plan

	Atlantic Sea Scallop	Essential Fish Habitat and Non-target Species/Fisheries	Protected Resources	Fishery Related Businesses and Communities
Alternative 2.1 No Action Specs by FW and March 1 start date	Low negative	Low negative to neutral	Negative	Low negative
Alternative 2.2 Specification Process Specs can be implemented by spec action	Low negative to low positive	Neutral to Low positive	Positive	Low positive
Alternative 2.3 Change FY to April 1 Start of FY shifts from March 1 to April 1	Low positive	Neutral to Low positive	Low negative to Negative	Low positive

How to Comment

- Oral comments during webinar
 - Name and affiliation
 - Concise rationale
- Written comments due **5:00 PM November 20.**

See hearing document for details.

<http://www.nefmc.org/library/amendment-19-1>

- Questions: Deirdre Boelke, Scallop Plan Coordinator

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