



New England Fishery Management Council

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Ernest F. Stockwell III, *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 1, 2016
TO: Scallop Advisory Panel
FROM: Mary Beth Tooley, Scallop Committee Chair
SUBJECT: **Purpose for Scallop Advisory Panel (AP) meeting on June 7, 2016**

There is a Scallop Advisory Panel meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn in Boston, MA on **Tuesday, June 7, 2016 at 9:30 AM.** Please note there is a Scallop Committee meeting at the same location the following day. Enclosed are paper copies of all meeting materials available for this meeting.

Purpose: The main goals of the Advisory Panel meeting are to:

- 1) Discuss recommendations for 2017/2018 RSA research priorities; discuss RSA policies and program details specific to the review of RSA proposals.
- 2) Review and provide input on the draft Framework 28 action plan; provide input on work items in upcoming actions.
- 3) Review progress on potential management measures that may be included in FW28, including:
 - 1) measures to restrict the possession of shell stock inshore of 42° 20' N;
 - 2) Modifications to the process for setting scallop fishery annual catch limits (ACL flowchart);
 - 3) Measures to modify scallop access areas consistent with potential changes to habitat and groundfish mortality closed areas;
 - and 4) Development of gear modifications to further protect small scallops.

The Scallop Committee will consider your input the following day, and the full Council is scheduled to take action on some of these topics at the June 2016 Council meeting.

Meeting Materials: Paper copies of the documents listed below will be provided at the meeting. A PDF of each document is posted to www.nefmc.org. Staff will provide copies of any additional meeting materials that are not included in this package. If you have any questions about the documents, please contact Jonathon Peros (jperos@nefmc.org; 978-465-0492 ext. 117).

1. Staff Memo, re: Scallop Research Set-Aside Program, dated June 1, 2016
2. Scallop PDT/AP meeting summary, May 4, 2016, including PDT/AP edits to RSA FFO
3. Scallop PDT meeting summary, May 25, 2016
4. Scallop PDT recommendations for 2017/2018 Scallop RSA Research Priorities and FFO
5. Draft FW28 Action Plan, dated June 1, 2016
6. Draft Scallop ACL Flowchart Discussion Paper, version 2, dated June 1, 2016
7. Staff Memo, re: draft management measures, dated June 1, 2016
8. NOAA Office of Law Enforcement Northeast Division enforcement priorities for 2012 - 2017
9. Correspondence

Scallop Research Set-Aside Program

Recent Activity: At least biannually, the Council recommends the specific research priorities that should be used for the Scallop RSA funding announcement. The Scallop PDT and AP met in Boston, MA on May 4, 2016 to hear presentations on recently funded Scallop RSA projects, and review current RSA research priorities. The group discussed potential changes for the 2017/2018 Scallop RSA funding announcement (Document #2). The Scallop PDT met via webinar on May 25, 2016 to develop *PDT* recommendations for the 2017/2018 Scallop RSA funding announcement.

Next Steps: Council staff will review Scallop RSA research priority recommendations made by the Scallop PDT/AP on May 4, 2016. The scallop PDT further refined these recommendations at their May 25, 2016 meeting (Document #3 & Document #4). The AP may wish to develop additional recommendations for the Committee to consider.

Draft Framework 28 Action Plan and Draft Management Measures

Recent Activity: NEFMC and GARFO staff have drafted an action plan for Scallop FW28 based on the Council's 2016 priorities (Document #5). Potential management measures in FW28 include: 1) Measures to restrict the possession of shell stock inshore of 42° 20' N; 2) Modifications to the process for setting scallop fishery annual catch limits (ACL flowchart process); 3) Measures to modify scallop access areas consistent with potential changes to habitat and groundfish mortality closed areas; and 4) Development of gear modifications to further protect small scallops (Document #6 & Document #7).

Next Steps: Council staff will present the draft action plan, and update the AP and Committee on development of management measures identified as priorities in 2016; the AP may wish to develop recommendations to the Scallop Committee for the goals and objectives of this action, as well as the range of alternatives to be considered for this framework. The AP may also wish to provide guidance to the Committee on the development of the current draft management alternatives.

NOAA Office of Law Enforcement Priorities

Recent Activity. The NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) has National Priorities for 2012-2017 for law enforcement, which contain Regional Priorities for the period. The Northeast Office of OLE seeks feedback on its priorities (Document #7) for immediate consideration and as preliminary to the priority setting process next year.

Next Steps. Under "Other Business", the AP will develop any feedback on enforcement priorities relative to the scallop fishery. Several of the Council's species committees will also provide species-specific feedback. At its next meeting, the Council's Enforcement Committee may consider input from the committees and develop feedback to the OLE.

Please review all documents before the meeting.

If you have any questions about these enclosures please contact Jonathon Peros (978-465-0492 ext. 117).