



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
Ernest F. Stockwell III, *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: Sept. 7, 2016
TO: Scallop Committee
FROM: Mary Beth Tooley, Scallop Committee Chair
SUBJECT: **Purpose for Scallop Committee meeting on Sept. 14, 2016**

There is a Scallop Committee meeting at the Waypoint Event Center in New Bedford, MA on **Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2016 at 9:30 AM**. Please note there is a Scallop AP meeting at the same location on Sept. 13. Documents for this meeting will be e-mailed to you as they become available.

Purpose: The main goals of the Committee meeting are to:

- 1) Review 2016 scallop survey results, PDT and AP input, and discuss potential specification alternatives to be considered in Framework 28.
- 2) Review and provide input on the draft Framework 28 action plan; provide input on work items in upcoming actions.
- 3) Review progress on management measures in FW28, including: 1) measures to restrict the possession of shell stock inshore of 42° 20' N; 2) measures to apply spatial management to fishery specifications (ACL flowchart); 3) Measures to modify the Closed Area I access area boundary, consistent with potential changes to habitat and groundfish mortality closed areas.
- 4) Review PDT and AP recommendations and provide input on potential scallop work priorities for 2017.
- 5) Provide scallop advisory panel recommendations for the upcoming term to the Council's Executive Committee (closed session).

The full Council is scheduled to take action on some of these topics at the September 2016 Council meeting.

Meeting Materials: Paper copies of the documents listed below will be provided at the meeting. A PDF of each document will be 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. Presentation on 2016 scallop survey results and preliminary PDT input (Mr. Jonathon Peros)
2. Presentation on preliminary biomass estimates and projections (Dr. Dvora Hart)
3. Draft Northern Gulf of Maine Fishery Data Discussion Document
4. Scallop PDT Summary – July 21, 2016
5. Draft Scallop PDT Summary – August 30/31, 2016
6. Presentation on Framework 28 management measures (Mr. Jonathon Peros)
7. Draft Framework 28 Action Plan v3
8. Framework 28 management measures discussion document
9. Potential 2017 work priorities for the Scallop FMP

10. Correspondence
11. Memo from Scallop PDT to the GF PDT re: scallop fishery catch of Georges Bank yellowtail flounder, dated Aug. 1, 2016
12. Draft memo from the Scallop PDT to the Groundfish PDT re: scallop fishery catch of northern windowpane flounder

2016 Scallop Survey Results and Scallop Meat Quality

Recent Activity: The Scallop PDT met in Falmouth, MA on Aug. 30 & 31, 2016 to hear presentations on 2016 scallop survey results and updates on continued work tracking scallop meat quality. Several groups completed surveys in 2016 though both RSA and industry support. VIMS completed dredge surveys of the Mid-Atlantic, Nantucket Lightship and surrounds, and Close God Area II and surrounds, and SMAST completed drop camera surveys of Closed Area I and surrounds, and Nantucket Lightship and surrounds using the large and DSC cameras. HabCam Groups surveyed the Elephant Truck and other portions of the Mid-Atlantic using HabCam 3, and WHOI surveyed areas of the Northern Edge, including eastern Georges Shoal using HabCam 4. The NEFSC survey utilized both HabCam 4 and a dredge survey in the Mid-Atlantic and on Georges Bank. Maine DMR completed a dredge survey of the NGOM in 2016. Dr. David Rudders from VIMS presented background information on what is known about a parasitic worm observed in scallops in 2015 and 2016, including preliminary results from samples taken in the 2016 VIMS survey of the Mid-Atlantic.

Next Steps: Council and NEFSC staff will review the results of the 2016 scallop surveys, and present information on potential specification alternatives to be considered in Framework 28. Dr. David Rudders will provide an update on scallop meat quality observed in the Mid-Atlantic. The Committee may wish to develop potential specification alternatives for the Committee to consider. The scallop PDT and AP will meet jointly in Oct. 2016 to discuss the development of specification runs/alternatives in FW28.

Draft Framework 28 Action Plan and Draft Management Measures

Recent Activity: NEFMC and GARFO staff have updated the action plan for Scallop FW28 based on the Council's direction at the June meeting. Management measures in FW28 include: 1) Measures to restrict the possession of shell stock inshore of 42° 20' N; 2) measures to apply spatial management to fishery specifications (ACL flowchart); 3) Measures to modify the Closed Area I access area boundary, consistent with potential changes to habitat and groundfish mortality closed areas.

Next Steps: Council staff will update the AP and Committee on development of management measures identified at the June Council meeting. The Committee may also wish to provide guidance to the PDT on the development of the current draft management alternatives.

2017 Scallop Work Priorities

Recent Activity. The Council identified several potential work priorities for 2017 at its meetings in April and June. Similarly, the Committee has discussed several concepts this year the staff have flagged for discussion during priority setting this fall. The scallop PDT discussed 2017 work priorities at its meetings on July 21, 2016 and Aug. 31. These comments are included in your meeting materials.

Next Steps. Staff will review potential work priorities for 2017. The Committee should be prepared to provide input on the current list of potential 2017 work priorities, and rank them (if possible). This includes adding priorities that are not currently on the list.

Selection of Scallop Advisors

Next Steps: Council staff will provide the Committee with a list of advisory panel applicants. The Committee will make recommendations for the upcoming term to the Council's Executive Committee.

Please review all documents before the meeting.

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

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