



New England Fishery Management Council

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John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 20, 2017
TO: Scallop Committee
FROM: Vincent Balzano, Scallop Committee Chair
SUBJECT: **Purpose for Scallop Committee meeting on October 26, 2017**

There is a Joint Scallop PDT and AP meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn in Boston, MA on **Thursday, Oct. 26, 2017 at 9:00 AM.** Please note there is a Scallop AP and PDT meeting scheduled on Oct. 25, 2017 at that same location. Paper copies will not be mailed to you before the meeting. 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 analyses and discuss potential specification alternatives to be considered in Framework 29, and receive an update on OHA2 relative to FW29.
- 2) Review PDT progress on tasking from the Sept. Committee meeting.
- 3) Review progress on management measures in FW29, including: 1) flatfish accountability measures; 2) Northern Gulf of Maine Management Measures; 3) Measures to modify the access area boundaries, consistent with potential changes to habitat and groundfish mortality closed areas.
- 4) Provide input on potential scallop work priorities for 2018.

The AP and Committee will meet again on Nov. 29 and 30 in Boston, MA to review progress on this Framework and to make final recommendations to the Council. The full Council is scheduled to take final action on Framework 29 at the November Council meeting in Newport, RI.

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).

Documents:

1. Framework 29 Action Plan
2. Framework 29 Documents:
 - a. Framework 29 Specification information (*may be updated before meeting*)
 - b. Draft Framework 29 management measures (*may be updated before meeting*)
 - c. Updated fishery data for FY 2017
3. Scallop Committee Meeting Summary, Sept. 20, 2017
4. Scallop Advisory Panel Meeting Summary, Sept. 19, 2017
5. Scallop PDT Meeting Summaries: July – October
6. Scallop PDT memo to the SSC re: 2017 and 2018 (default) OFLs and ABCs
7. Potential 2018 work priorities for the Scallop FMP
8. Correspondence

Additional materials may be added and presentations will be shared as they become available.

2017 Scallop Survey Results and Specification Alternatives in FW29

Recent Activity: The Scallop PDT has met in person and by conference call several times to review updated 2017 scallop survey results and SAMS model results. The PDT discussed 2018 and 2019 (default) OFL and ABC recommendations to the SSC on September 25, 2017 by conference call. The SSC met on October 12, 2017 to discuss the OFL/ABC recommendations. The Scallop Committee tasked the PDT to develop specifications alternatives at its Sept. 20 meeting (Doc. 3). The Scallop PDT met by conference call on October 18, 2017 to discuss progress on specification development.

Next Steps: Council and NEFSC staff will present information on potential specification alternatives to be considered in Framework 29. The Committee may wish to develop additional specification alternatives for the PDT to run and analyze in FW29. The AP and Committee will have the opportunity to select preferred alternatives at their meetings on Nov. 29 and 30 in Boston, MA. The Council will take final action on Framework 29 at its meeting in Newport, RI in early December.

Anticipated Outcomes:

1. Provide input on open area fishing configurations for FW29, particularly areas that could become open bottom (ex: NLS-ext and Delmarva).
2. Provide input on F rates for setting DAS fishing (ex: $F=0.48$, $F=0.4$, something lower?). Including or excluding NLS-S and DMV will change DAS associated with different F rates.
3. For areas currently available to the fishery (i.e. NOT areas that may open with OHA2), provide tasking to the PDT of additional SAMS runs to be included in FW29, if needed. In doing so, the Committee should identify the number of access area trips, where they would be taken, and the configuration of open areas.
4. For areas that may open to the fishery through OHA2 (i.e. Closed Area I, Nantucket Lightship West), provide tasking to the PDT of additional SAMS runs to be included in FW29, if needed. In doing so, the Committee should identify the number of access area trips, where they would be taken, and the configuration of open areas. This should be done after the recommendations on available areas are made (#3).

FW 29 Committee tasking re: Modifications to access areas, consistent with OHA2

Recent Activity: In September the Scallop Committee tasked the PDT to develop an alternative for an access area in a portion of the Nantucket Lightship that may open through the Omnibus Habitat Amendment 2. NMFS published the Notice of Availability for the OHA2 on October 6, 2017. The comment period for this document closes on December 5, and we expect NMFS to make a decision by January 4, 2018.

Next Steps: Council staff will update the group on progress of this new access area boundary, and updated timelines for OHA2 relative to Framework 29. This issue will be taken up after the group discusses specification options for areas that are currently available to the fishery.

Anticipated Outcomes:

5. Provide input on potential access area configurations in the western part of the Nantucket Lightship to be included in FW29.

FW 29 Committee tasking re: NGOM (TAC alternatives and RSA options)

Recent Activity: In September the Scallop Committee tasked the PDT to analyze options for splitting the NGOM TAC, and evaluate how the LA component share could be applied toward RSA compensation fishing. The Scallop PDT is developing projections of exploitable biomass for the NGOM management area.

Next Steps: Council staff will update the group on progress to-date, including estimates of exploitable biomass for the NGOM management area. The AP may also wish to provide guidance to the Committee on the development of the current draft management alternatives.

Anticipated Outcomes:

6. Provide input to on potential NGOM total allowable catch values for FY 2018 and FY 2019 (default) to be included in FW29.
7. Provide input on management measures to include in FW29 (ex: LA/GC TAC split options).
8. Provide input on potential harvest strategies of LA fishing in the NGOM (ex: RSA compensation fishing, allocated trips to the management area).

Review progress on flatfish AM development

Recent Activity. The Scallop PDT has developed a range of potential management measures focusing on Northern windowpane, Georges Bank yellowtail flounder, and Southern New England yellowtail flounder.

Next Steps. Council staff will update the group on the current status of management measures.

Anticipated Outcomes:

9. Provide input on potential flatfish accountability measures for 1) Northern windowpane flounder, 2) Georges Bank yellowtail flounder, and 3) Southern New England Yellowtail flounder to be included in FW29.

2018 Scallop Work Priorities

Recent Activity. The Council identified a list of potential work priorities for 2018 at its September meeting. The scallop PDT discussed 2018 work priorities at its meetings on July 21, 2016 and Aug. 31. The AP and Committee reviewed preliminary lists at their meetings in September.

Next Steps. Staff will review potential work priorities for 2018. The Council will be setting 2018 work priorities at the December meeting.

Anticipated Outcomes:

10. The Scallop Committee will review the current list of potential 2018 work priorities, and rank them (if possible).

Please review all documents before the meeting.

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