

2017 Scallop Work Items & Northern Gulf of Maine

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Council Staff

Scallop AP & Committee Meeting
March 29 & 30, 2017



New England
Fishery Management Council



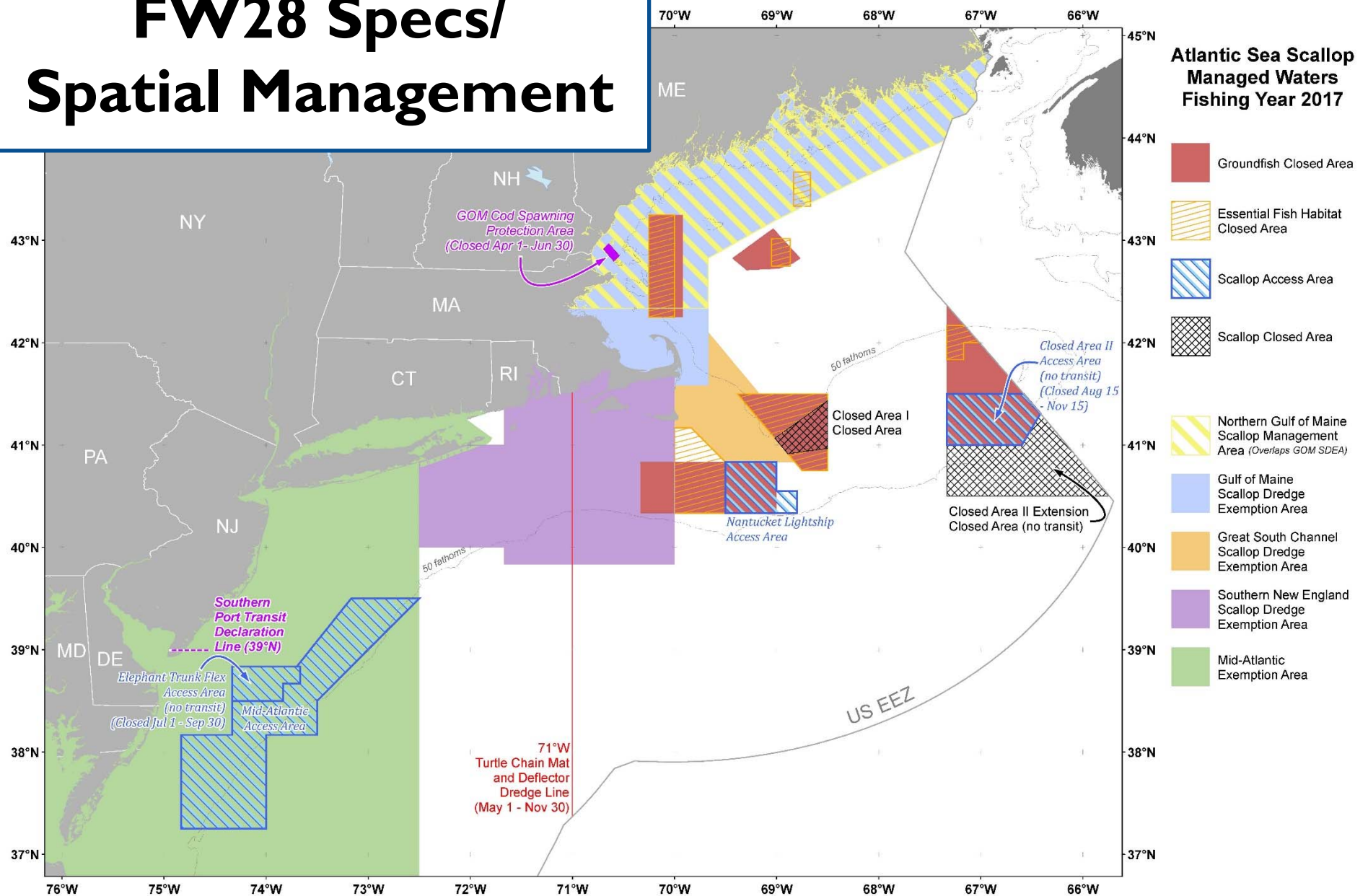
Presentation Outline:

- Review Meeting Materials
- Slides for each agenda topic.

Goals for discussion:

1. Provide input on 2017 Scallop Priorities
2. Provide direction for the development of management measures, as well as PDT tasking
3. Initial discussion about 2018/2019 RSA priorities, and the timing of various priorities (ex: OHA2 and specs)

FW28 Specs/ Spatial Management



2017 Work Priorities

2017 Scallop Priorities

Not in priority order

1. **Specifications (regulatory requirement)**
 2. Modify flatfish accountability measures
 1. **Northern windowpane AM is a regulatory requirement**
 3. Complete 5-year LAGC IFQ review (final report to Council in June)
 4. Modify access areas to be consistent with OHA2
 5. NGOM management measure changes
 6. Integrate findings from Sea Scallop Survey Methods Peer Review
 7. Gear modifications to protect small scallops
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8. STAFF: Support annual scallop RSA process
 9. STAFF: Annual responsibilities related to estimating scallop and flatfish catch during the year.
 10. OTHER: Programmatic RSA review (Scallops, Herring, Monkfish)
 11. OTHER: 2017 groundfish assessment updates. Updating sub-ACLs for four allocated stocks. This requires scallop PDT time to develop catch projections.

Work Plan for 2017

2017 Outlook													
	Item:	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
From 2016	Finish FW28	Submit EA, finalize FW											
From 2016	LAGC IFQ 5-year Review						Final Report						
Ongoing	RSA Process					RSA share Day	RSA Priorities					Mgmt and Tech Reviews	
Reg. Req.	Specifications						Initiate Action		Review Surveys	Develop Alternatives			Final Action
Reg. Req.	N. WND Ams			Develop AM measures for Northern Windowpane AM (and revisit other flatfish Ams? Not reg. req.)									
2017 Work	OHA2/modify AAs			Awaiting Proposed rule - 90 days to Final Rule, CAI measures in									
2017 Work	Survey follow-up			Likely window when the PDT will have time to make substantial progress on management measures during the year.									
2017 Work	NGOM mgmt												
2017 Work	Flatfish AMs - (see reg req as well)												
2017 Work	Gear modifications to protect small scallops												

Work Plan for 2017

2017	FW Specs Action and Mgmt Measures	RSA Priorities	5 Year IFQ Review
APR 18	NEFMC – receives information on 2017 work priorities		Staff preparing the document
MAY	PDT work on 2017 priorities	Joint PDT/AP (RSA Share Day)	
JUN	Committee / PDT develop alternatives	Develop Recommendations	
JUN 20-22	NEFMC – Council initiates action	Council Recommends 2018/2019 RSA Priorities	Final Report
JUL-SEP	Committee / PDT develop alternatives	Letter to NMFS	
SEP 26-28	NEFMC – receives information on the development of specifications		
OCT 18	SSC recommends ABC for FY17 and FY18		
OCT-NOV	Committee and PDT complete documents		
DEC 5-7	NEFMC – Council takes final action		
DEC-JAN	Council staff submits decision draft completes pre-submission		
2018			
JAN	NMFS publishes proposed rule		
JAN	EA reviewed by NMFS		
FEB	Staff completes final submission for NMFS review and approval		
March	NMFS publishes final rule		
APR 1	Target Implementation		

Northern Gulf of Maine Management Measures



2017 NGOM Landings Estimates

- **ALL** landings information for the 2017 fishery are estimates and subject to change.
- **Final tallies will not be available until later this year.**



Gulf of Maine Scallop Resource

- Management: Single stock throughout its range
- Stock includes animals in both federal and state waters from Cape Hatteris to Canadian Border
- GOM resource not regularly surveyed; periodic support through Scallop RSA
- Federal stock assessment focuses on GB and the MA, Gulf of Maine not part of overall stock assessment
- Gulf of Maine is accounted for when setting the OFL, no status determination for management areas in the Scallop FMP (ex. NGOM, ET AA, CA II S AA)
- Majority of scallop catch comes from GB and MA

Amendment 4 - 1994

- Limited entry, DAS limits, gear restrictions
- Criteria - one trip with more than 400 pounds in either 1988 or 1989, extended for new vessels under construction
- Permit category based on number of days used in 1990, or average of 1985-1990 days (FT:150, PT: 37-149, Occ: <37)
- Non-qualifiers: open access/general cat permit restricted to 400 lb. possession limit
- Plan to reduce effort 35-70% over the first seven years, about 10% per year – Between 1994 and 2001 DAS reduced from 204 to 120

Amendment 11 - 2008

- Control date put in place on Nov. 1, 2004
- Main goal: control capacity in GC fishery
- Objectives:
 - allocate portion of fishery to GC permits, limited entry,
 - prevent GC from exceeding their allocation,
 - address incidental catch of scallops in other fisheries.

Amendment 11 – 2008 (cont.)

- Implemented a limited entry and ITQ program
- Criteria: 1,000 pounds during and year (FY2000-2004), individual allocation based on best year indexed by # of years active in the fishery
- Vessel and ownership caps
- NGOM and Incidental limited entry programs
- Pre-A11 there were about 2,500 permits, post-A11 permits for 3 limited entry permit categories:
A: 240 IFQ, B: 90 NGOM, C: 240 Incidental



Amendment I I

LAGC:

“A fleet made up of relatively small vessels, with possession limits to maintain the historical character of this fleet and provide opportunities to various participants including vessels from small communities”

LA:

“the improved management and abundance of scallops in the major resource areas on Georges Bank and in the Mid-Atlantic region has made access to GOM scallops less important for the limited access boats and general category boats from other regions.”



Amendment 11: NGOM

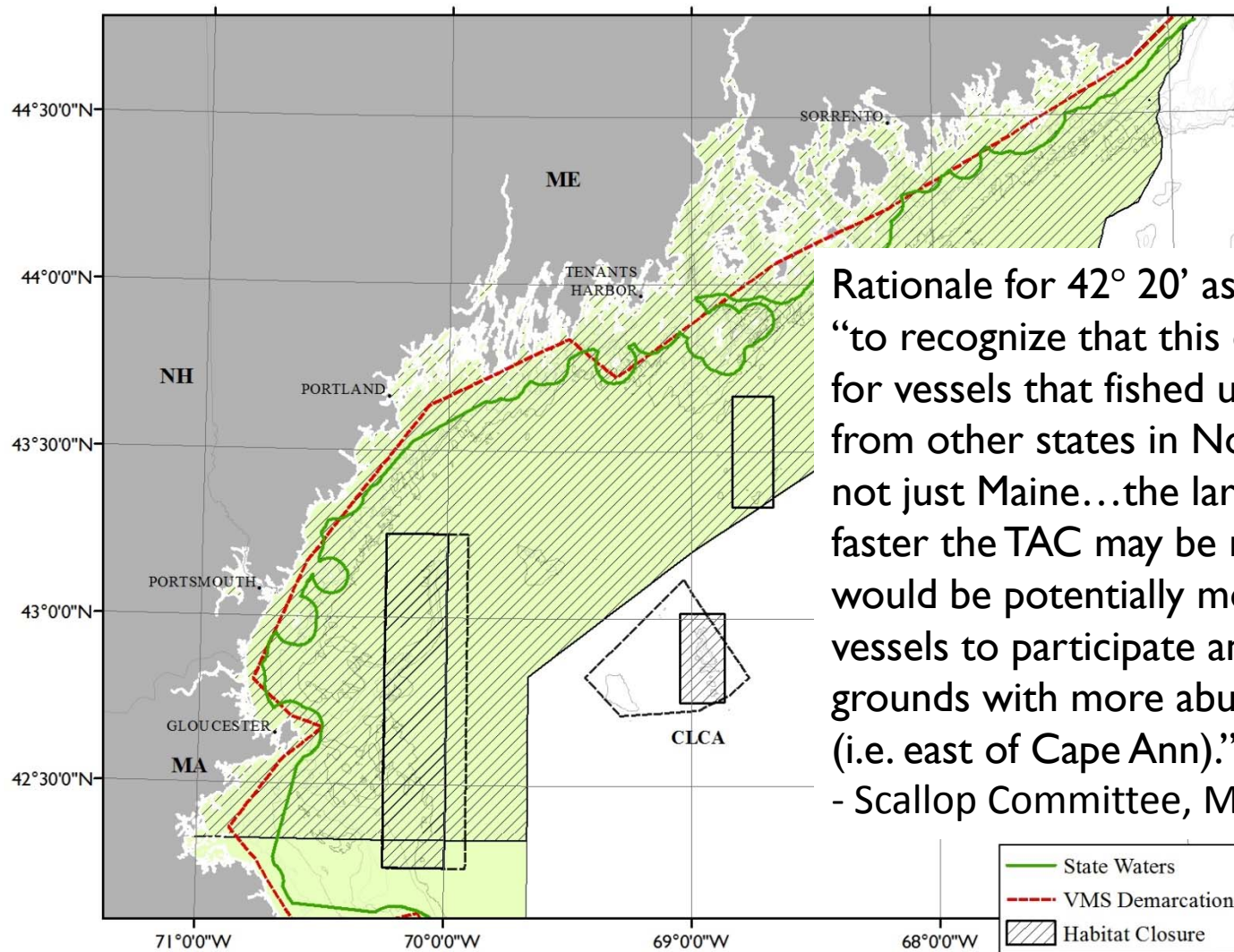
LAGC NGOM Preferred Alternative and Rationale:

“a limited entry program is recommended but with no landings criteria in order to provide a reduced level of access to a wider range of vessels in this region.”

“a placeholder for future management of scallops in the NGOM if and when they return.”

“this alternative would allow a supplemental fishery for vessels that have depended on this resource as part of total revenue over time.” (Amendment 11, pp.43-46)

Amendment 11: NGOM



Rationale for 42° 20' as southern boundary:
“to recognize that this opportunity should be for vessels that fished under general category from other states in Northern New England, not just Maine...the larger the area is the faster the TAC may be reached because it would be potentially more attractive for more vessels to participate and would include fishing grounds with more abundant scallop grounds (i.e. east of Cape Ann).”

- Scallop Committee, March 20, 2007

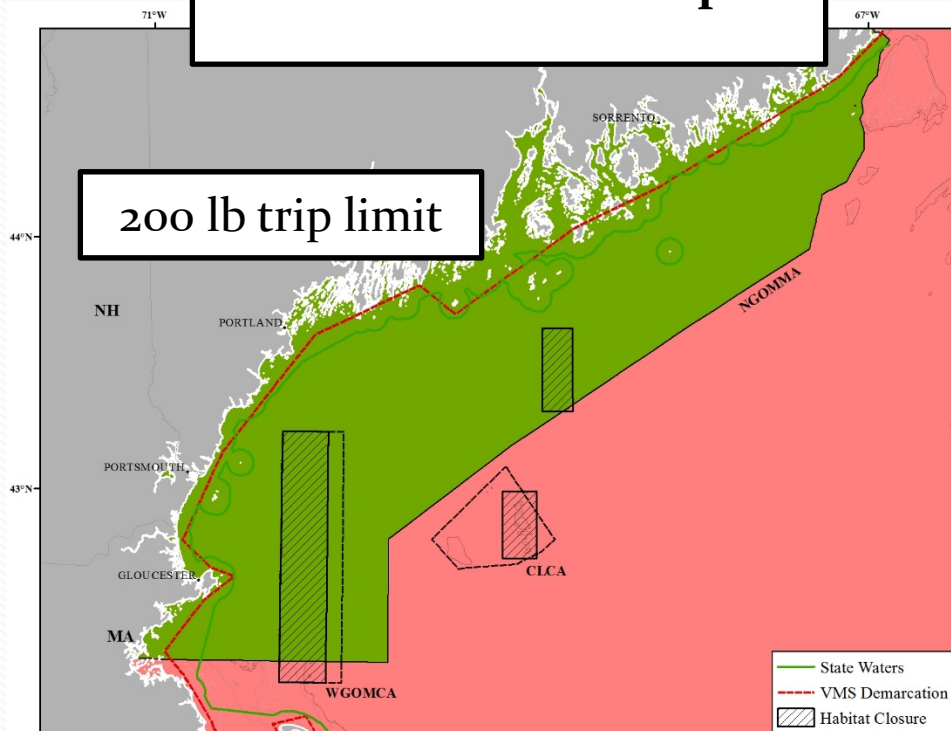


Major Elements of NGOM Program

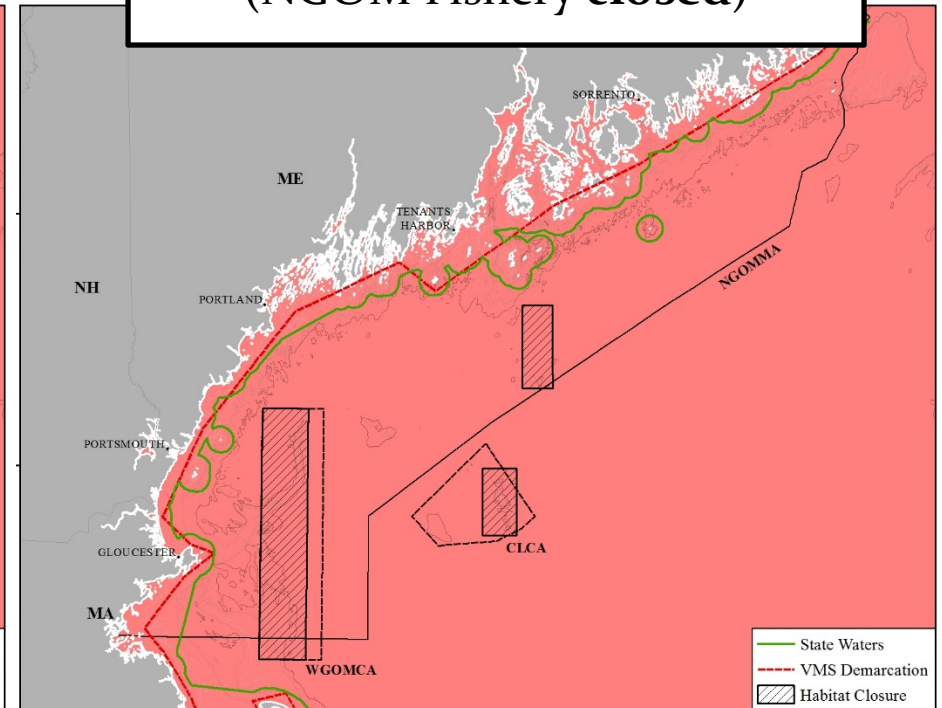
1. Hard TAC
 1. 70,000 lbs from FY 2008 – FY 2016, historic catch.
 2. Slightly higher in FY 2017 – set using survey data
2. Possession limit of 200 lbs for all LAGC IFQ and NGOM boats
3. LAGC IFQ catch applied against NGOM TAC and individual IFQ
4. LAGC Incidental catch is not applied against TAC, 40 lb possession limit
5. LA catch is not applied against the TAC, vessels under DAS management
6. Once TAC is reached, NGOM is shut down to all federally permitted vessels *unless under a state waters exemption program*

Access when NGOM open

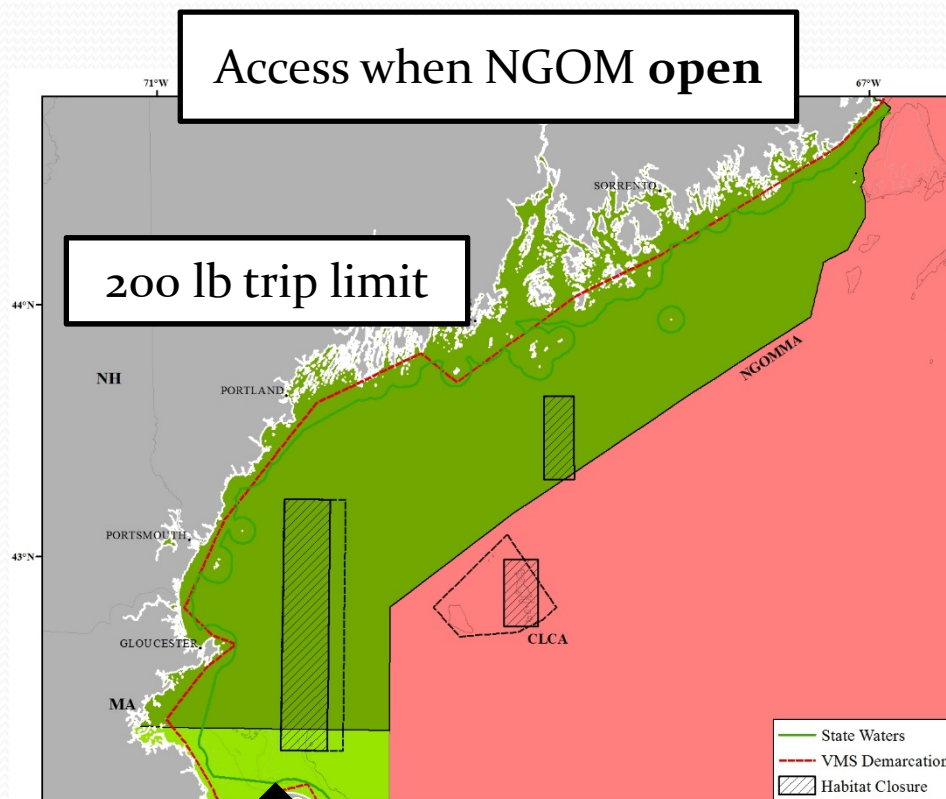
200 lb trip limit



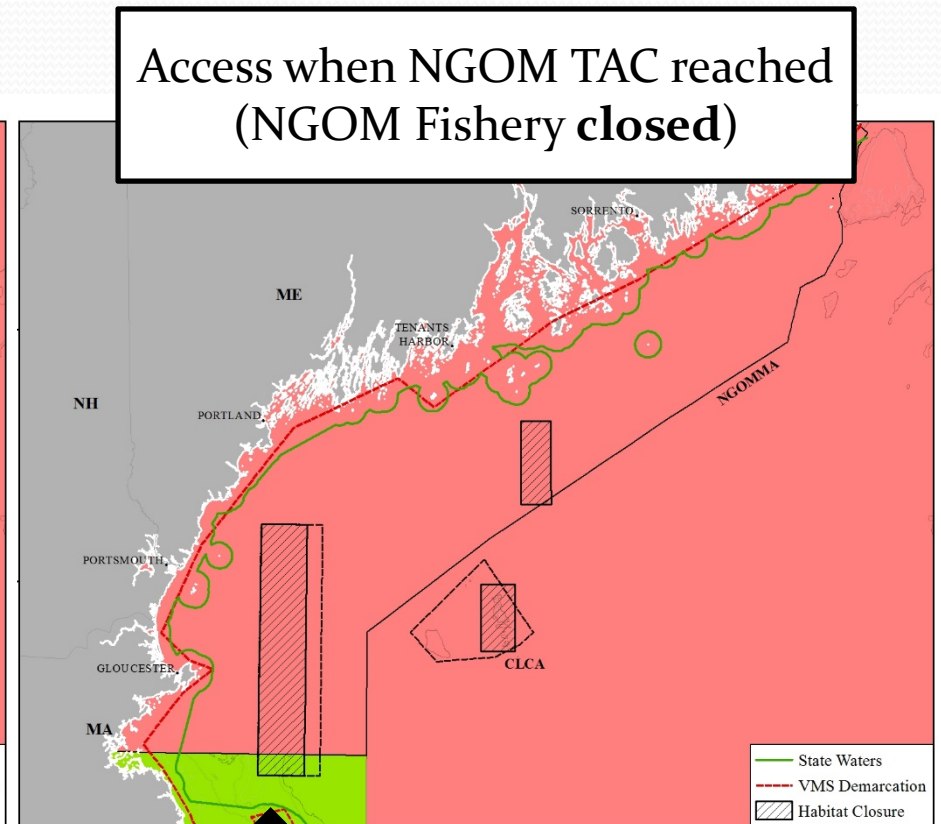
Access when NGOM TAC reached
(NGOM Fishery **closed**)



LAGC IFQ



Trip Limit 600 lbs



Trip Limit 600 lbs

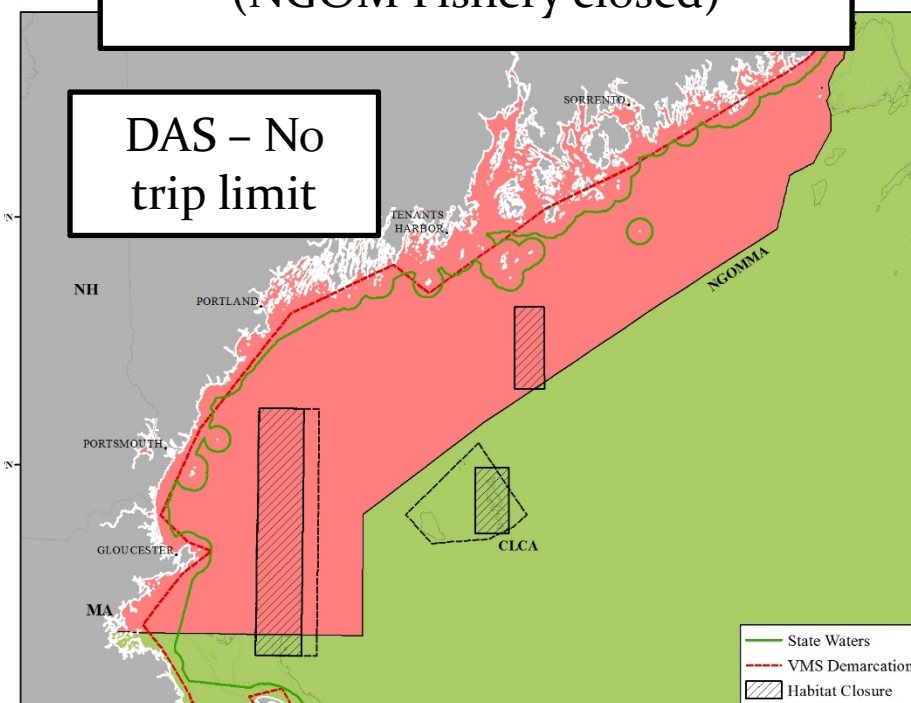
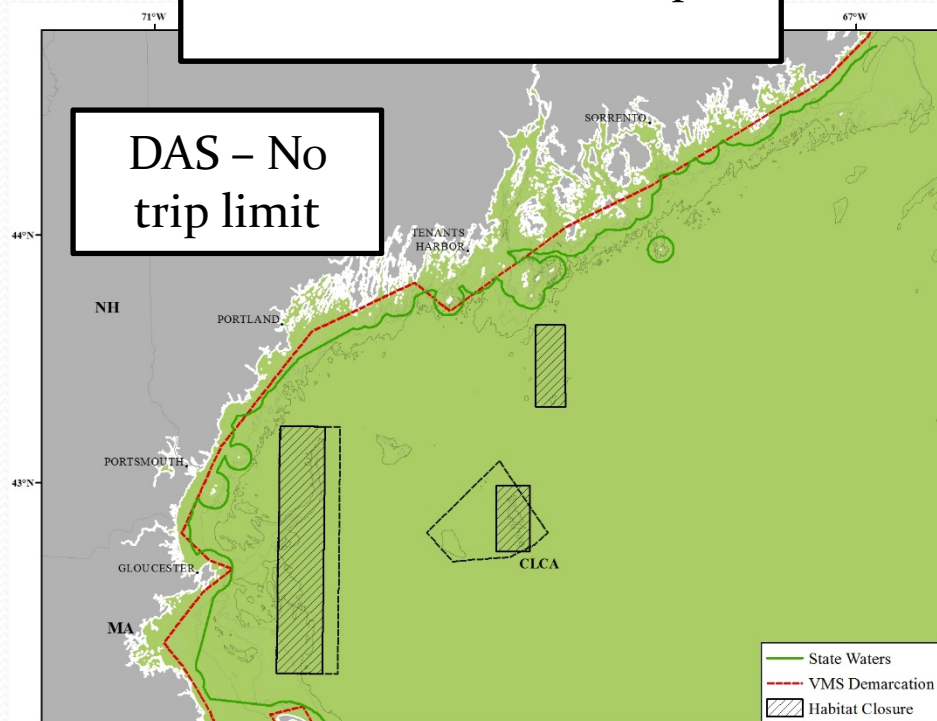
LA

Access when NGOM open

Access when NGOM TAC reached
(NGOM Fishery closed)

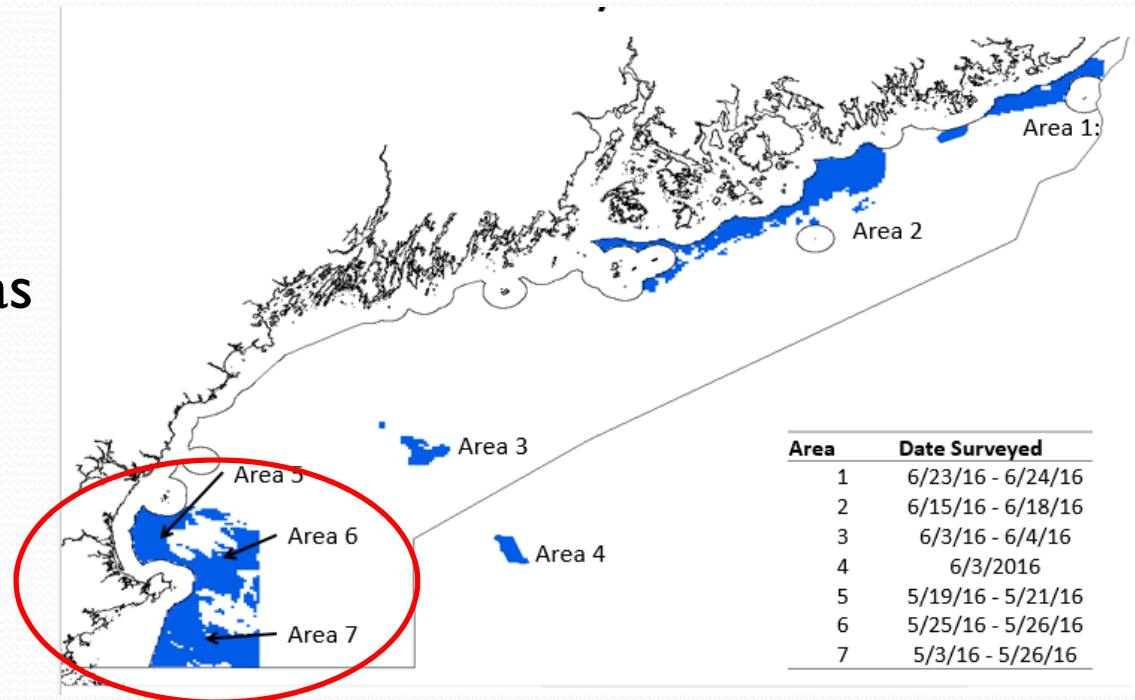
DAS – No
trip limit

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trip limit

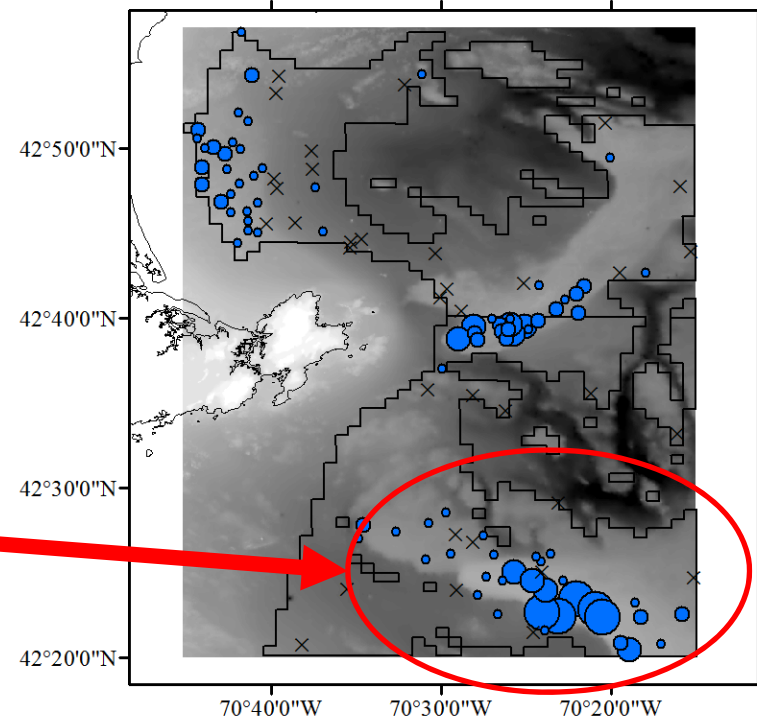
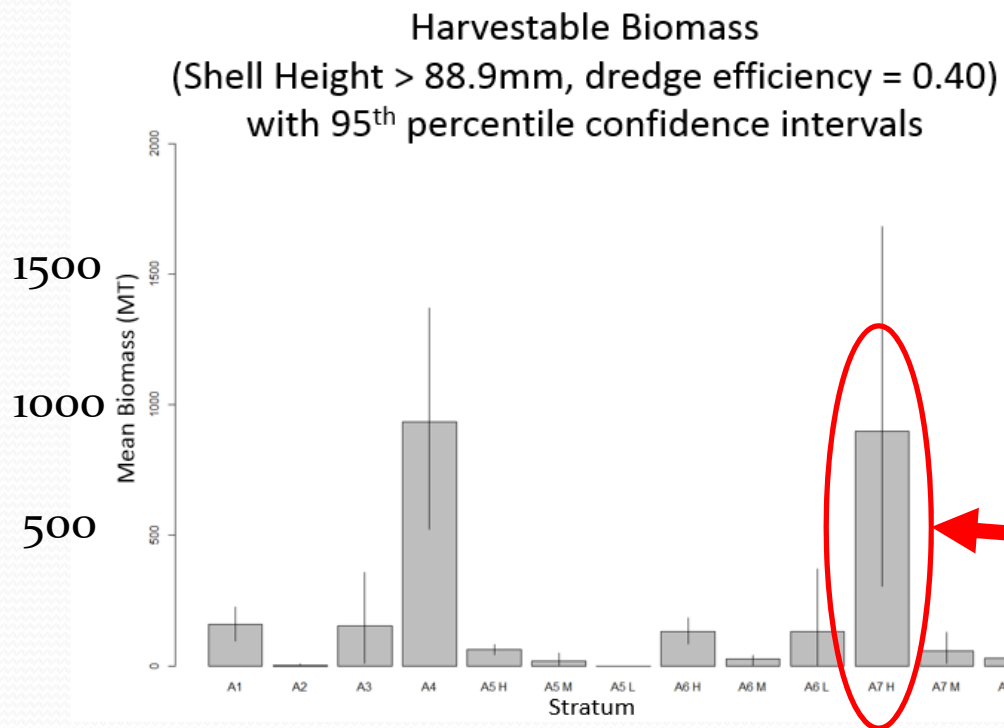


2016 Northern Gulf of Maine Survey

- ME DMR dredge survey
- 238 stations in 7 areas throughout the Gulf of Maine (Cape Ann to Machias Seal Island).
- Biomass in area has increased since 2012 (last surveyed)
- **Majority of biomass in southern portion of management area**

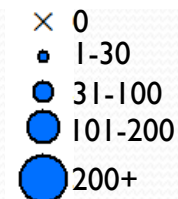


Northern Gulf of Maine Survey



- Biomass expected to increase with annual growth.

Number per tow





Framework 28

1. Northern Gulf of Maine Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 95,000 lbs.
 1. Reduced to account for overages in 2015 and 2016.
2. Prohibit LA and LAGC vessels which fish or transit inshore of the DAS monitoring line north of 42°20' N from possessing more than 50 bu of shell stock when inshore of the DAS monitoring line and from landing more than 50 bu from a trip.



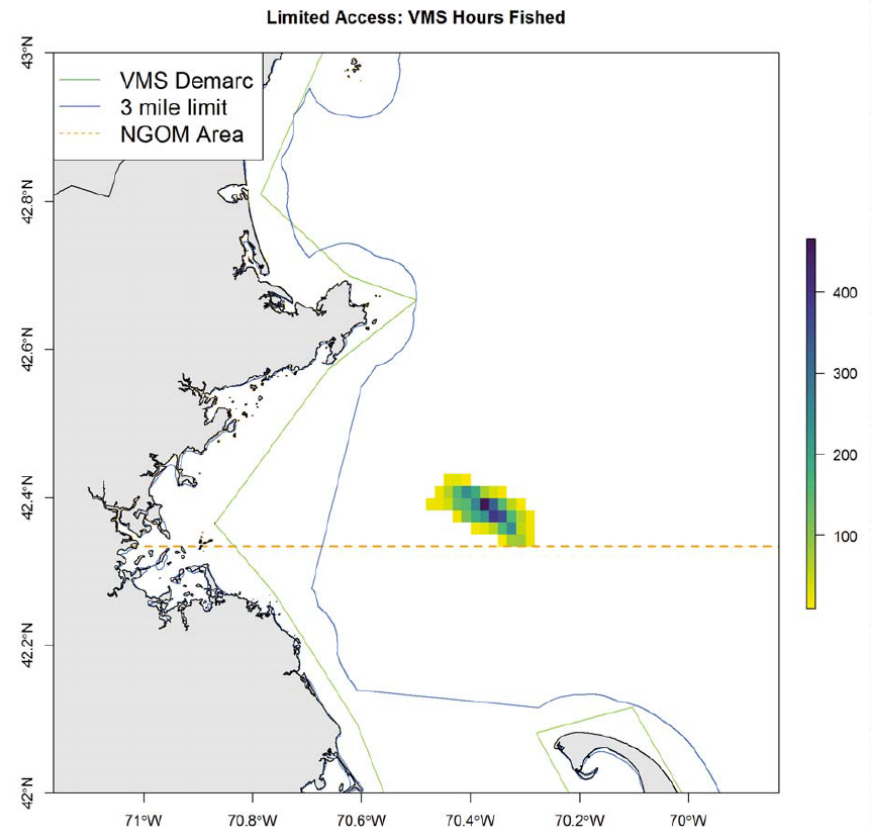
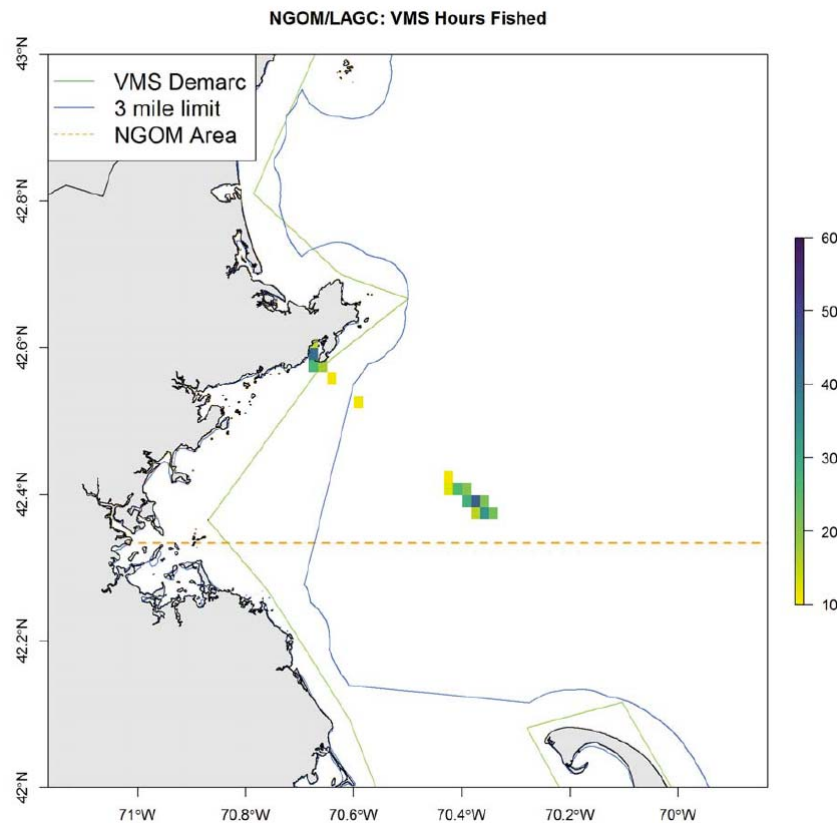
2017 Fishing Activity



2017 Participation in the NGOM

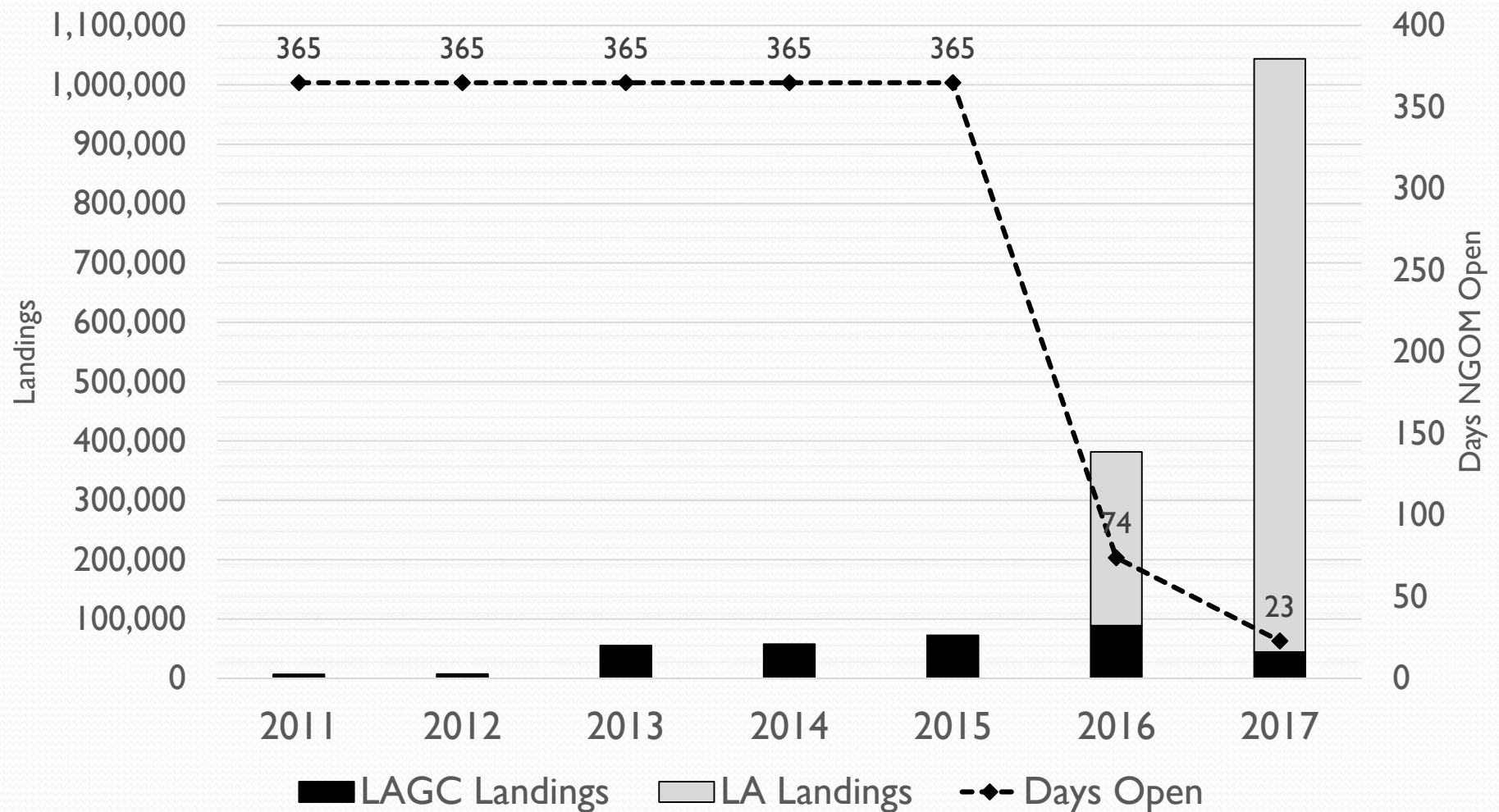
- Several permit categories were active in the area
- Limited Access FT (double-dredge): 49
- Limited Access FT small-dredge (10.5'): 15
- Limited Access PT small-dredge (10.5'): 3
- **Limited Access total: 67**
- LACG Northern Gulf of Maine: 28
- LAGC IFQ: 10
- **Limited Access General Category total: 38**

2017 Fishing Activity in the NGOM

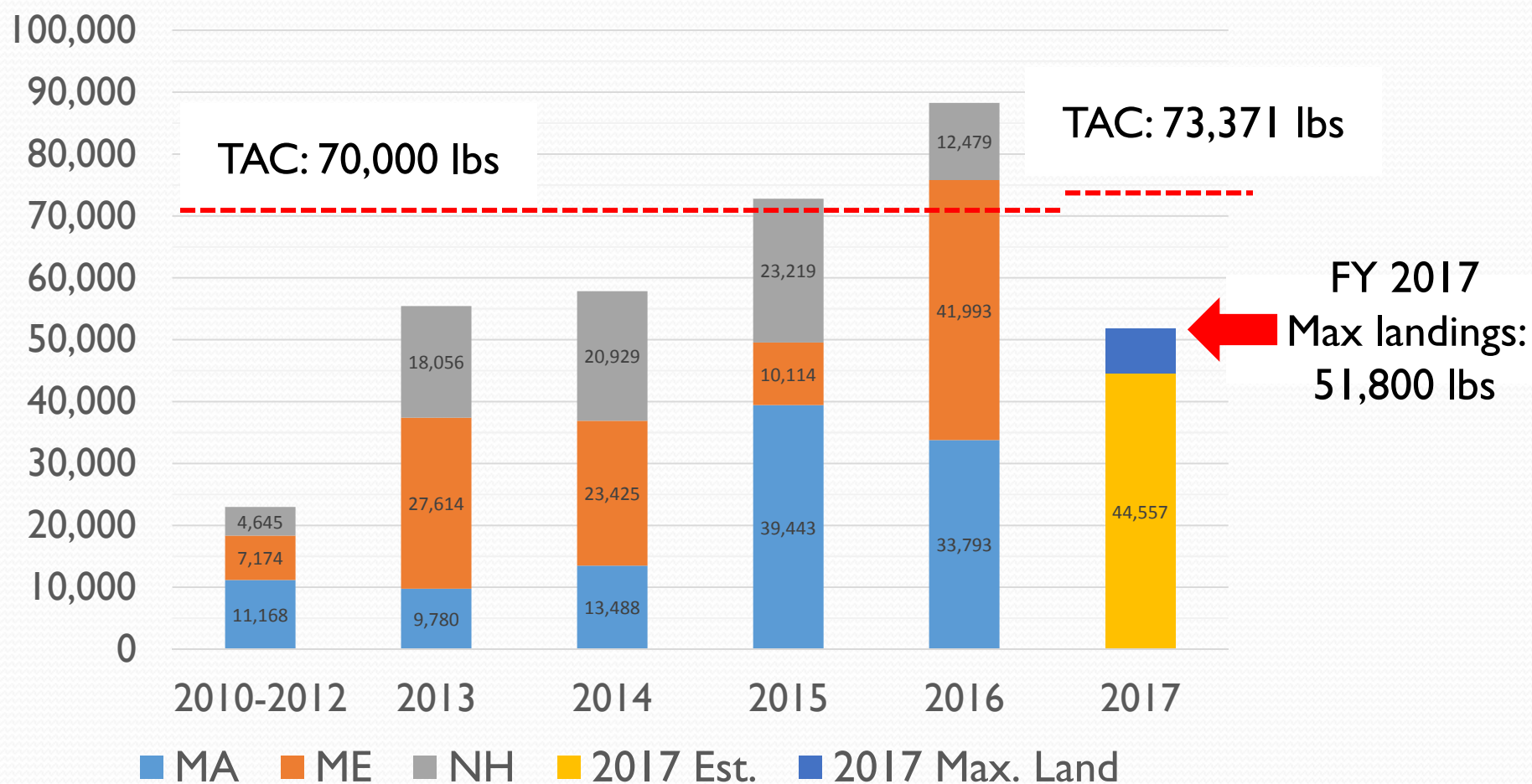


- Effort was concentrated on Stellwagen Bank near the southern boundary of the management area.
- LA and LAGC vessels working the same area.

Estimated Federal Landings from NGOM



LAGC NGOM & IFQ Landings (lbs)

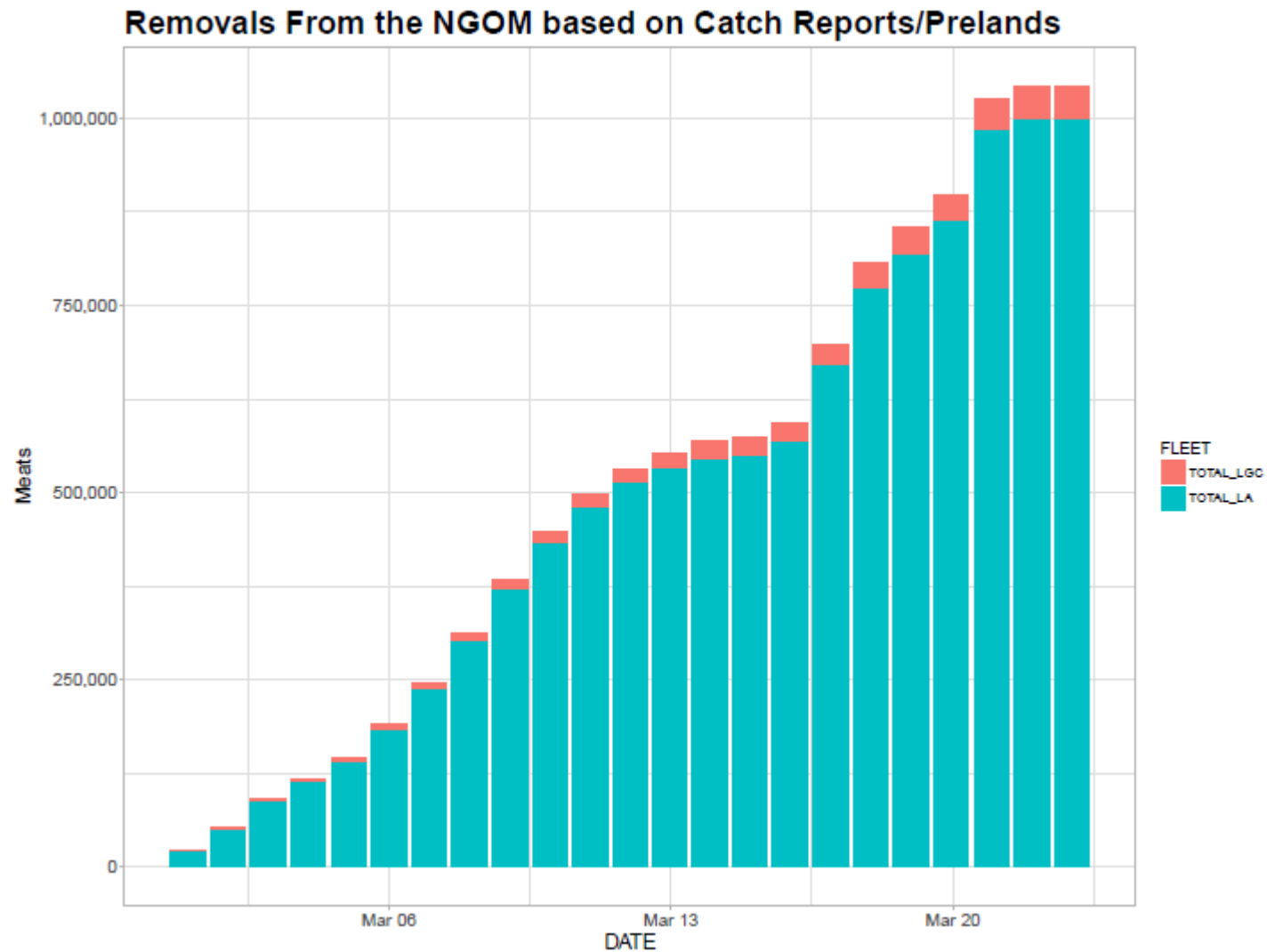




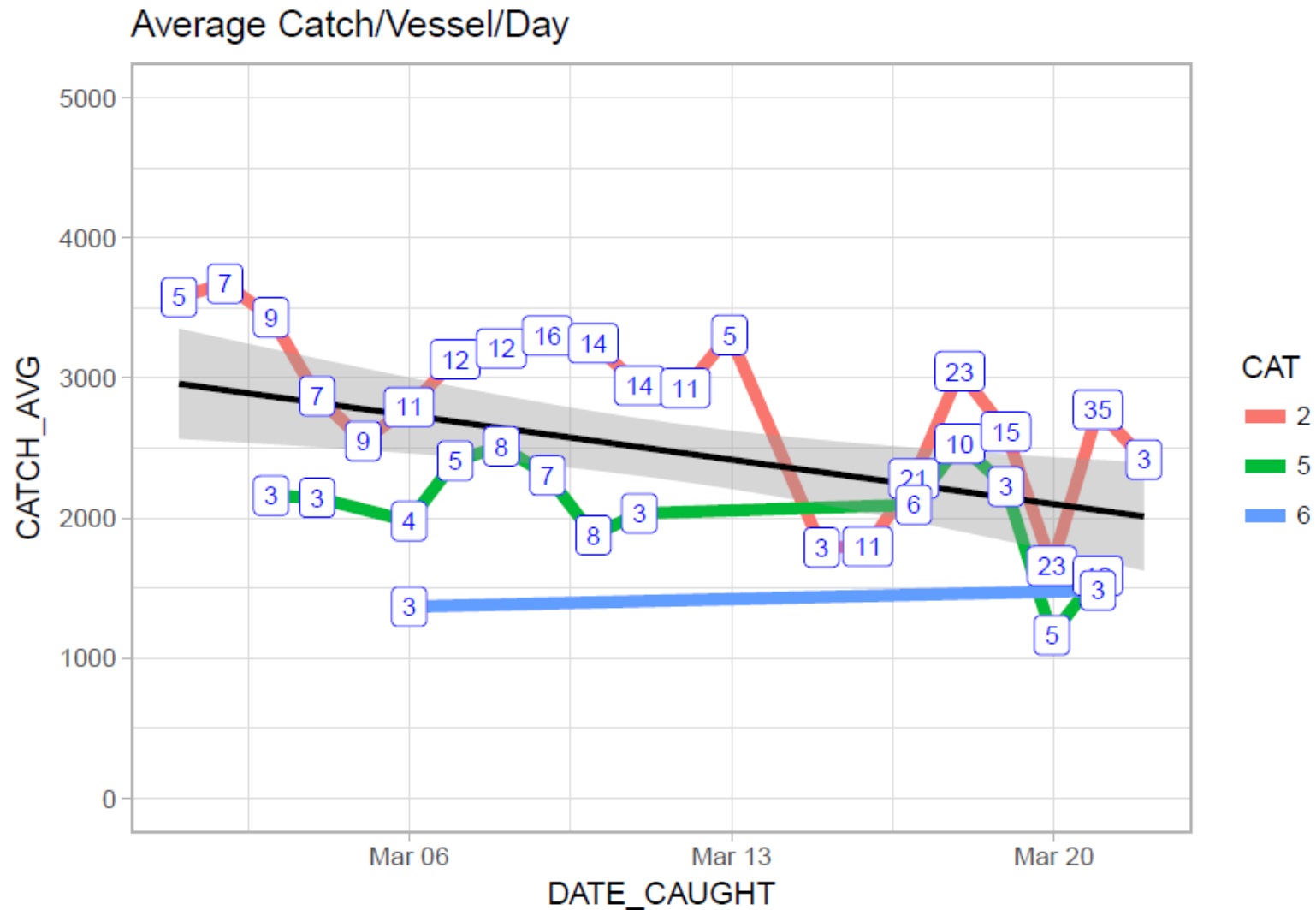
2017 LA Daily Catch Reports

- Daily catch reports provided through VMS
- **Estimates – Data is self reported, not final**
- Not standardized LPUE
- Factors: Number of hours fished, weather, dredge size
- **Indicator of catch rates in the area over time, and when the season closed.**

2017 Daily Catch Reports



2017 LA Daily Catch Reports

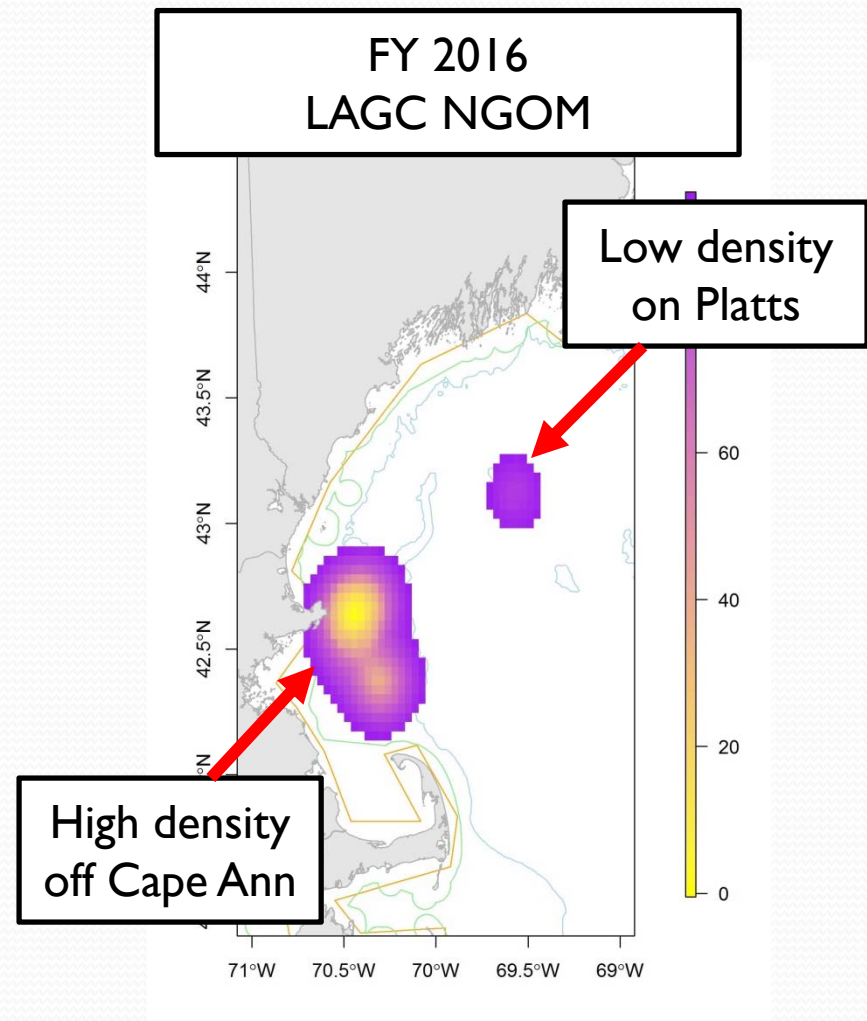




Additional NGOM Fishery Data

LAGC Effort in the NGOM

- Heatmaps of LAGC fishing in NGOM
- Based on VTR point locations, separated by permit type
- Yellow indicates high density of reported trips
- Purple indicates less dense areas



FY 2013

FY 2014

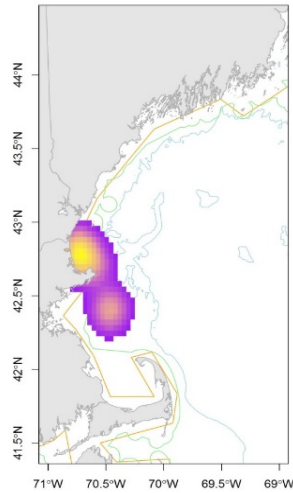
FY 2015

FY 2016

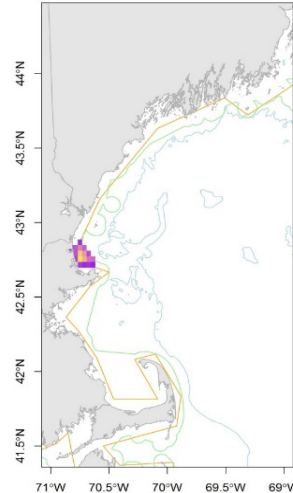
LAGC IFQ:

- Cape Ann
- Ipswich Bay

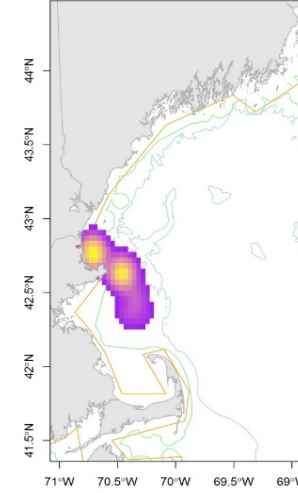
FISHING YEAR 2013 LGC A



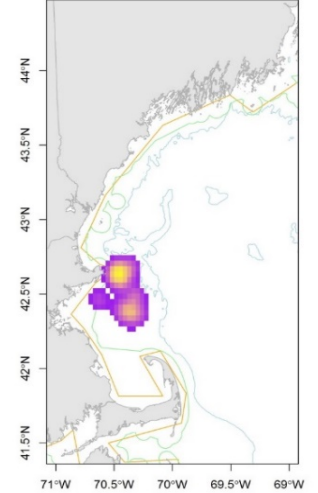
FISHING YEAR 2014 LGC A



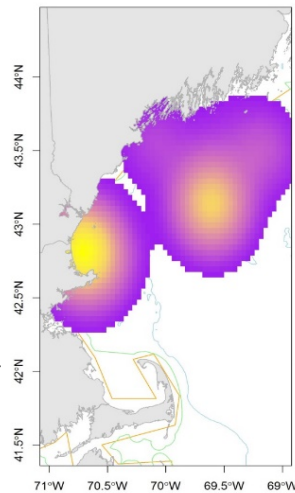
FISHING YEAR 2015 LGC A



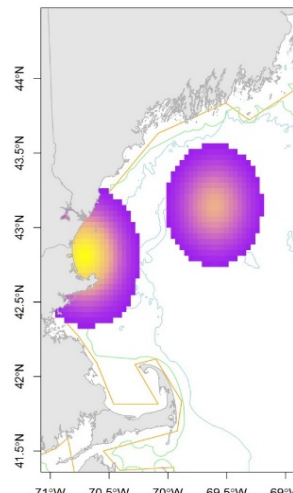
FISHING YEAR 2016 LGC A



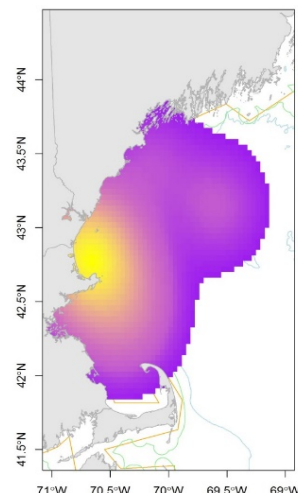
FISHING YEAR 2013 LGC B



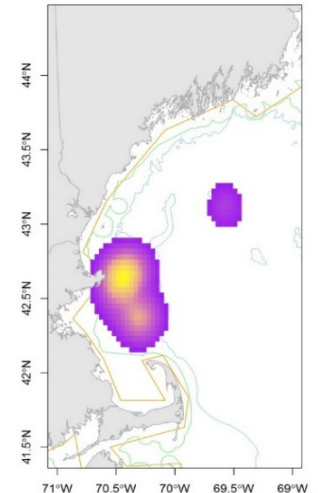
FISHING YEAR 2014 LGC B



FISHING YEAR 2015 LGC B



FISHING YEAR 2016 LGC B



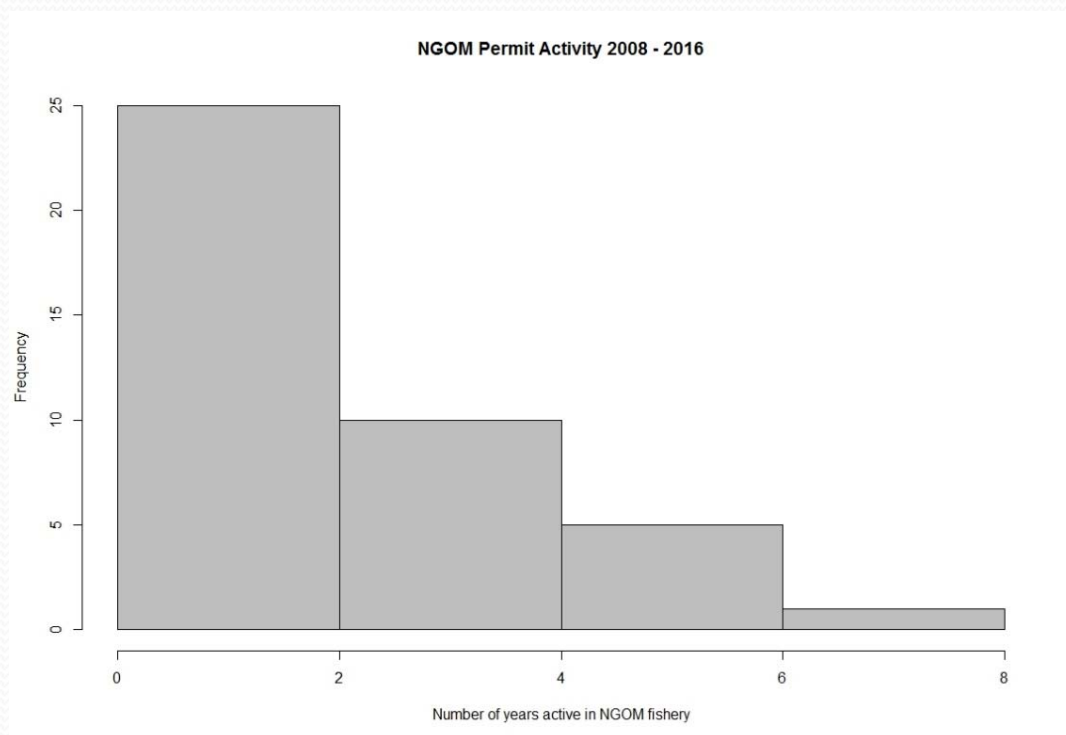
LAGC NGOM:

- Platts Bank
- Cape Ann
- Ipswich Bay

Participation in the NGOM fishery

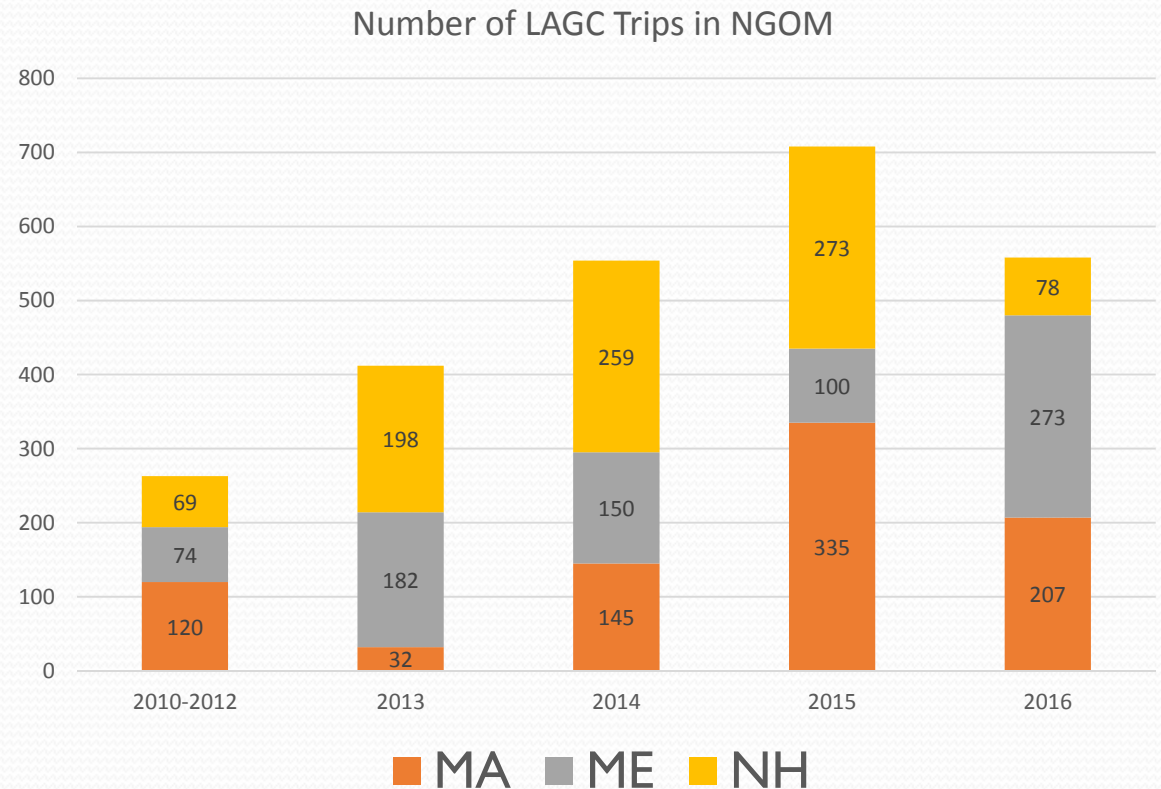
- 2016 – 16% of the active vessels participated in fishery for first time

	Number of Active LAGC Permits by Fishing Year	
FY	LAGC IFQ	LAGC NGOM
2011	6	4
2012	3	6
2013	7	11
2014	8	17
2015	8	20
2016	12	25
2017	10	28



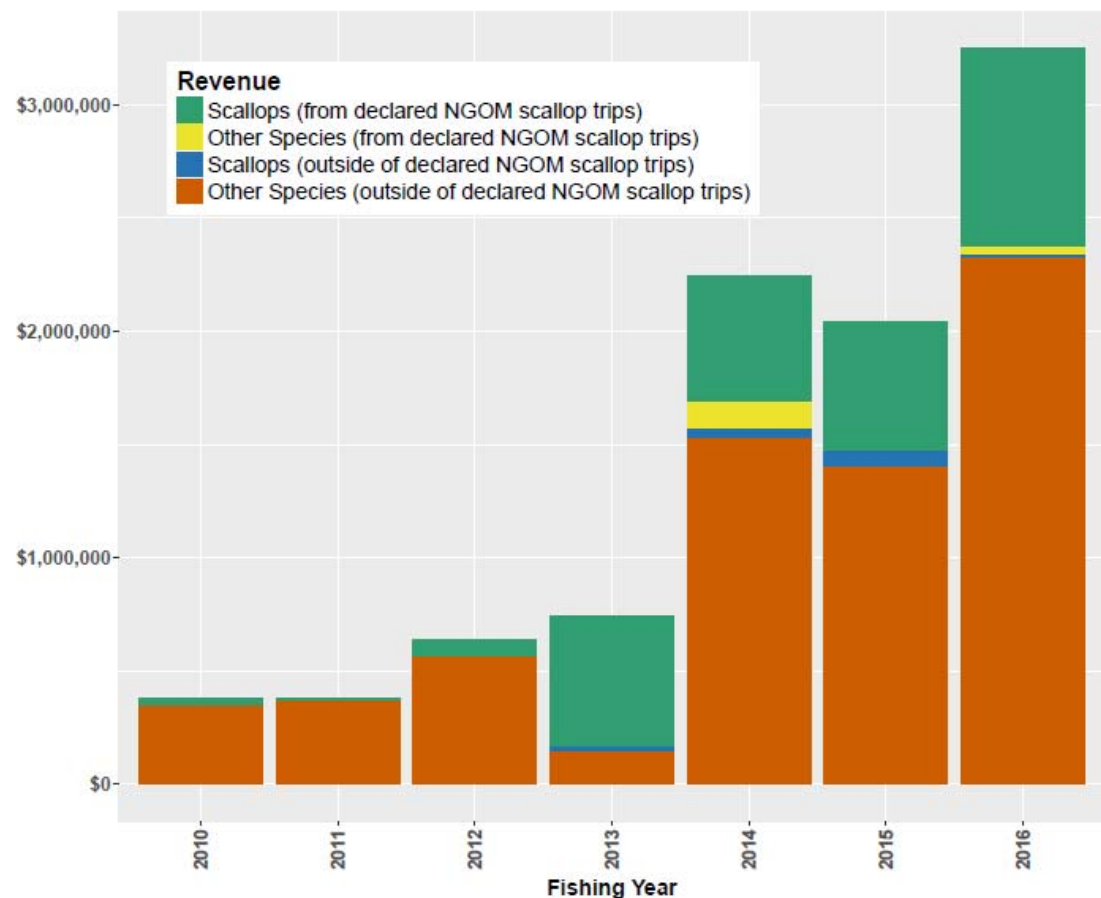
LAGC NGOM & IFQ Effort (trips)

- Graphic: Number of trips by homeport state.
- Number of working in NGOM vessels has increased over time.
- Most trips by “homeport state” has varied since 2010.



NGOM Scallop Revenue

- NGOM permits only.
- Value of NGOM scallops relative to revenue from other species.
- Only includes vessels active in the NGOM scallop fishery that year.
- Number of participants increased over time.
- Other species include lobster, cod, and northern shrimp



2016 LA Permit & Landings

Permit Category	Active Permits	Trips	Landings
Full time	5	14	187,127
Full time small dredge	3	3	15,362
Part time small dredge	5	21	90,028
TOTAL	13	38	292,517

Landings

64% from full time, 31% from part time small dredge, and 5% from full time small dredge

Trips

55% by part time small dredge, 36% by full time, and 8% by full time small dredge

Key Considerations:

- AP/CTE: The PDT is seeking direction on the development of NGOM management measures.
- **The approach used to set the NGOM TAC did not control total landings from the area as expected. The removals from the NGOM in 2017 exceed the anticipated landings.**
- The PDT recommends that a 2018/2019 RSA priority should be to survey the NGOM area, with particular emphasis on the southern portion NGOM management area.
- The PDT recommends that the southern portion of the NGOM management be surveyed in 2017.

Flatfish Accountability Measures



Flatfish AMs

- Four stocks with sub-ACLs and AMs (as of FW56)
- 2017: Develop NWP AM, and modify GB YT and SNE/MA AM areas
- Council Policy on Scallop AM Triggers expected to change in FW56 for 2 year through “temporary exception.”
 - Currently there are two ways an AM can be triggered.
 - FW56 would remove the 150% of sub-ACL trigger.
 - Other trigger: 100% of scallop sub-ACL and 100% of overall ACL is caught

Scallop Fishery Flatfish AMs

Stock	Action	Approach	Percentage or recurring estimate?	Details
SNE/MA Windowpane	FW48	Catch history (10 year period)	<u>Fixed</u> percentage at 36%	90 th percentile of estimated catch from 2001-2010
GB Yellowtail	FW48	Catch history	<u>Fixed</u> percentage at 16%	Council considered a range (8%-16%)
SNE/MA Yellowtail	Multiple (FW44, FW55)	Percentage of estimated catch (90% - 100% in past actions)	<u>Recurring estimate of catch.</u>	Estimated catch completed by Scallop PDT
GOM/GB Windowpane Flounder	FW56	Catch history (10 year period)	<u>Fixed</u> percentage at 21%	90 th percentile of estimated catch from 2005-2014

2017 Scallop sub-ACLs and projected catch

	GBYT	SNE/MA YT	So. Windowpane	N. Windowpane
2017 ACL	201 mt	256 mt	599 mt	172 mt
sub-ACL	32 mt	34 mt	209 mt	38 mt
Projected catch estimates	63.21 mt	10.66	77.85	103.33
% of 2017 sub-ACL	198%	31%	37%	272%

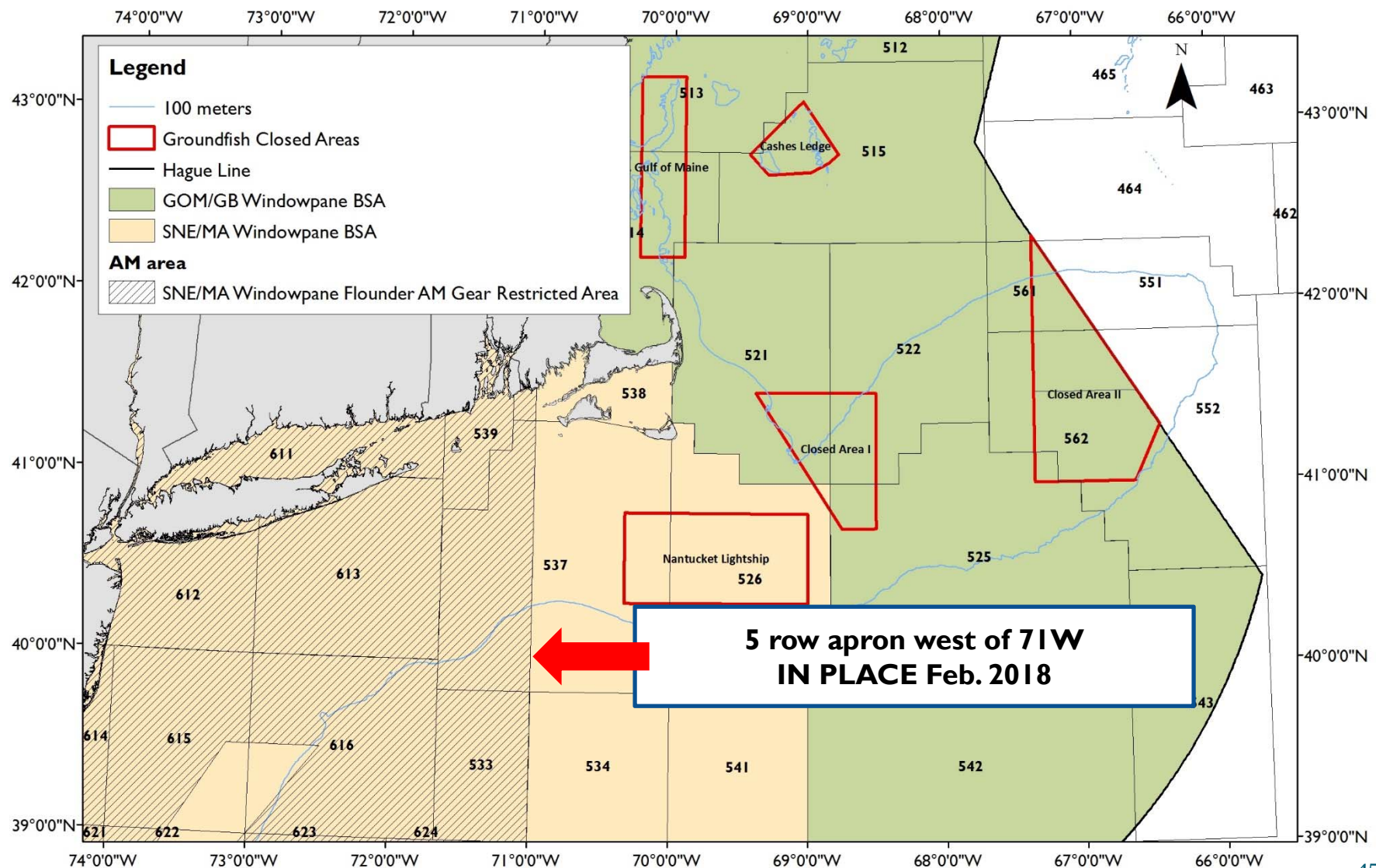
2017 Groundfish Assessment Updates will update flatfish ACLs for 2018;
These values are likely to change for FY2018

Flatfish AM tasking

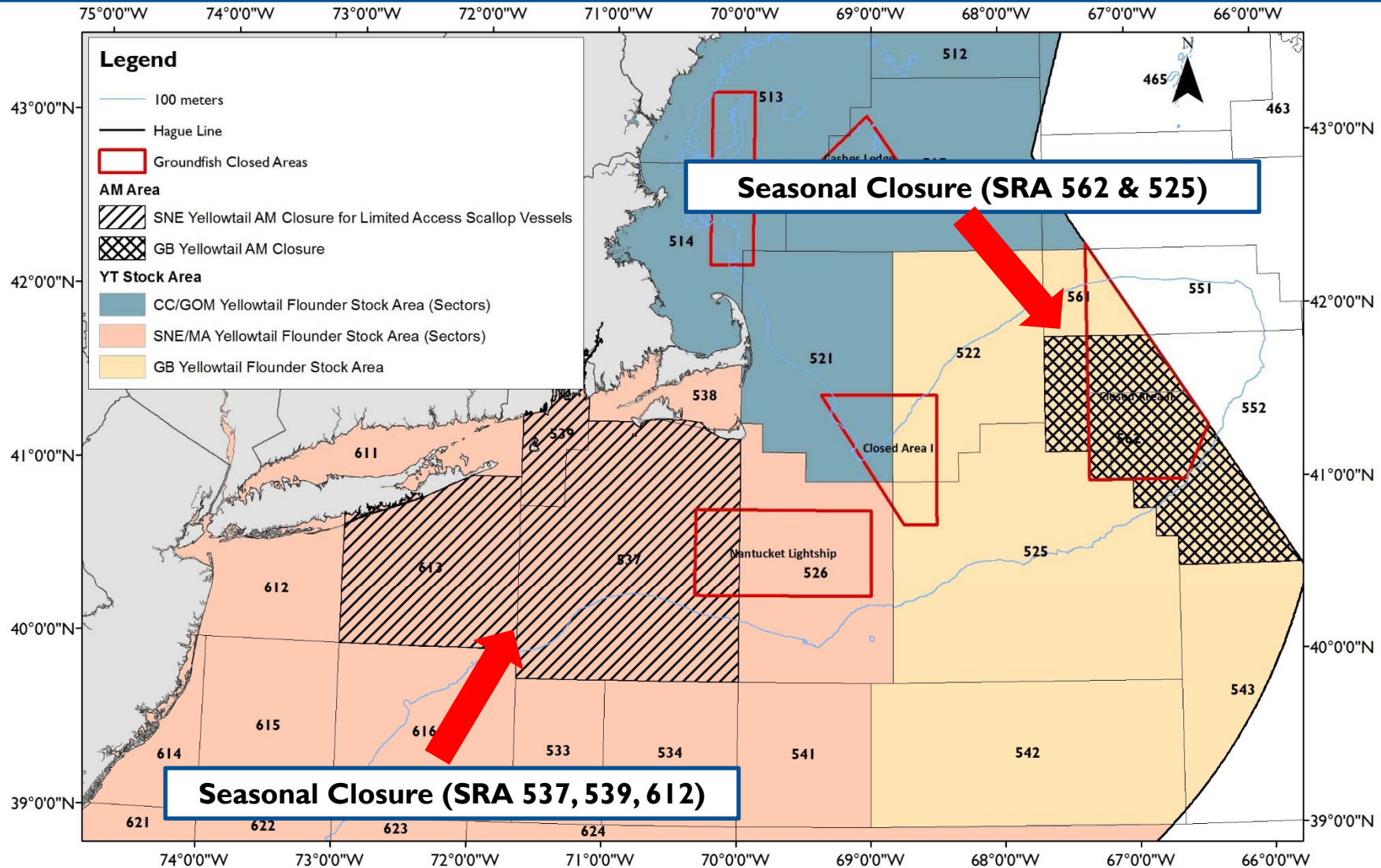
- Several AMs under consideration
 - Northern Windowpane is a regulatory requirement
- Council motion in June 2016:
 - “Recommend making all flatfish bycatch accountability measures consistent to the extent feasible with gear modification accountability measures for southern windowpane flounder.” – Carried 17/0/0

- AP/CTE: Does this motion reflect how you would like the PDT to develop flatfish AMs this year?

Windowpane Stock Areas with GRA AM (SNE/MA)



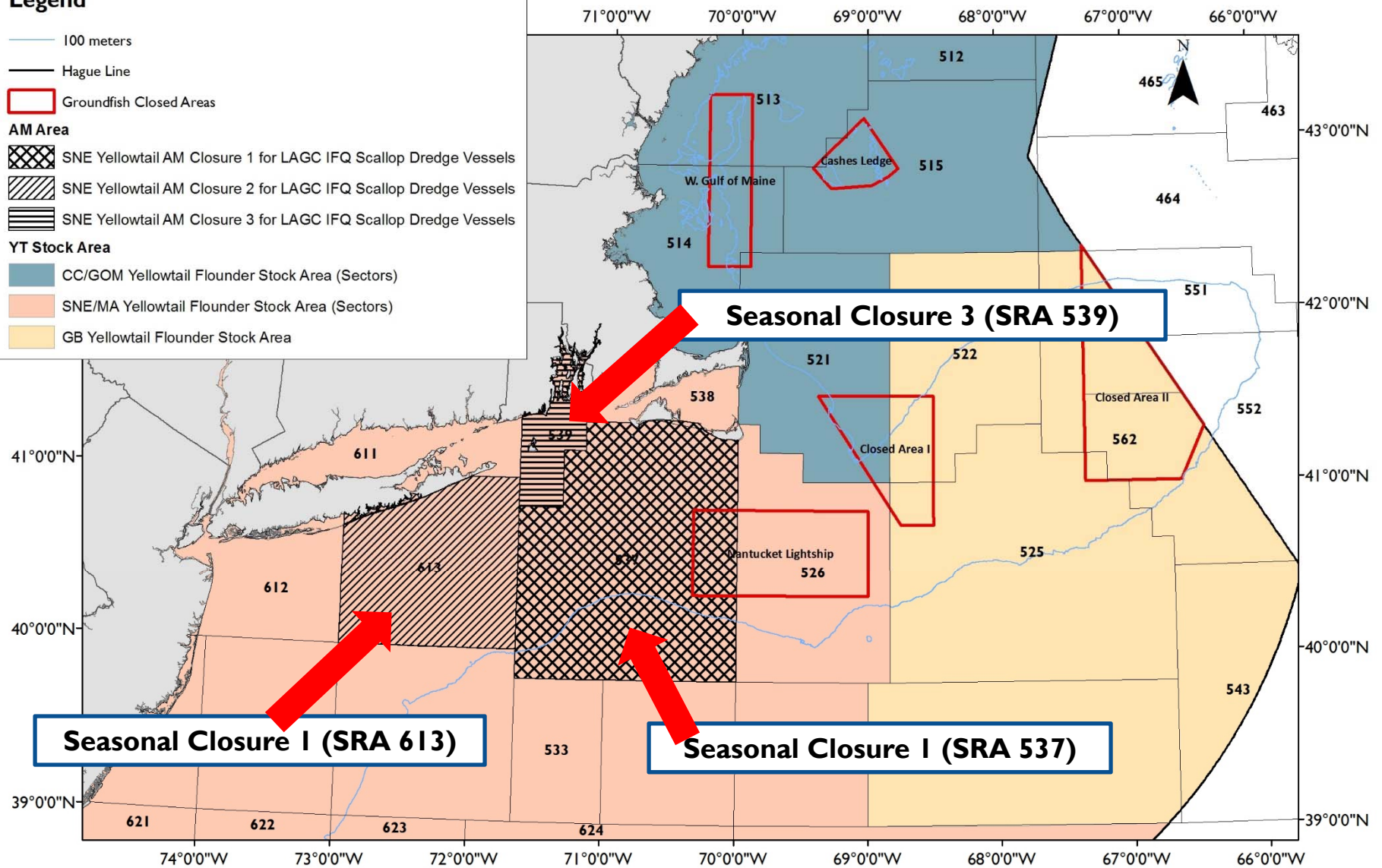
Yellowtail Stock Areas with LA accountability measure areas (GB and SNE/MA YT)



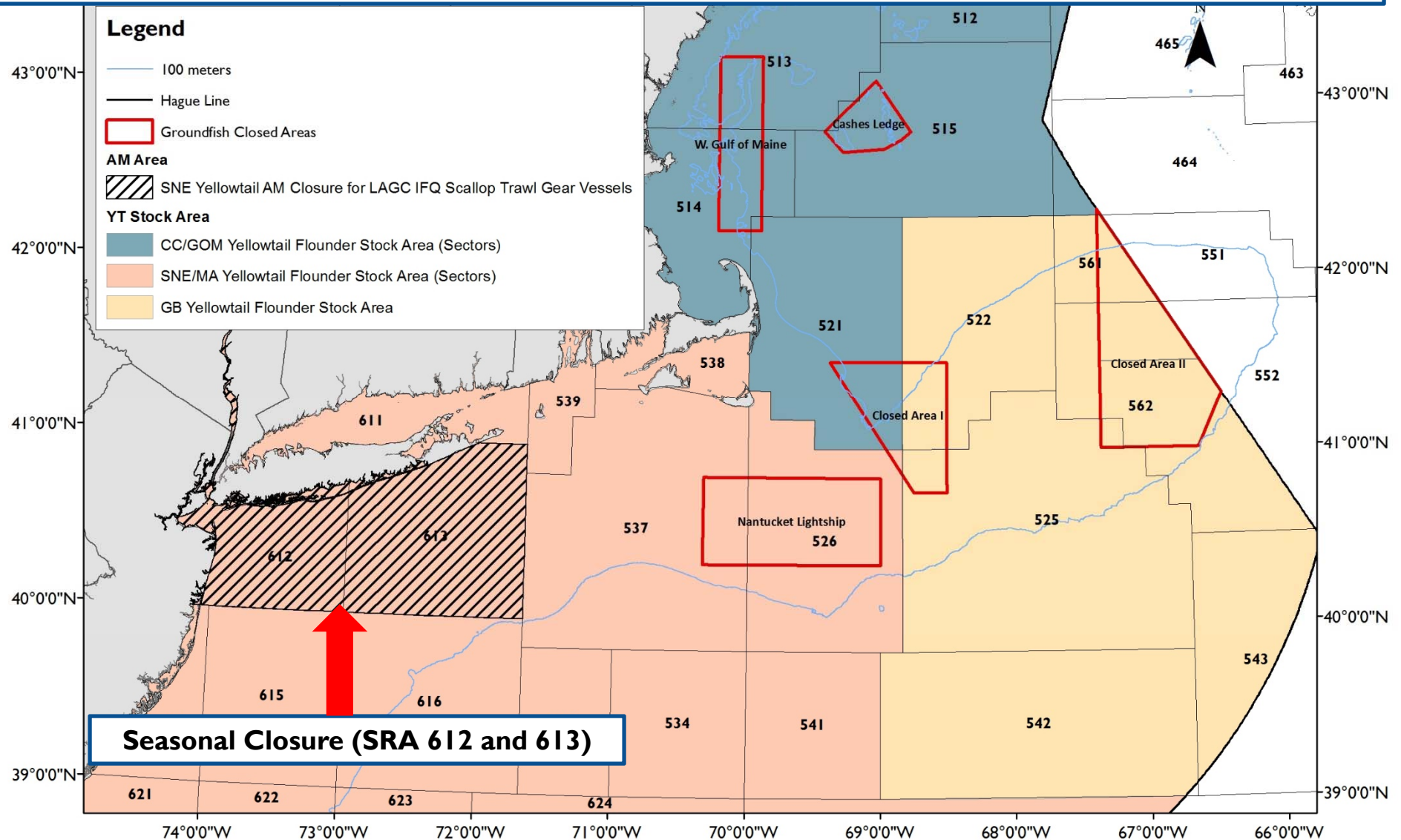
Yellowtail Stock Areas with LAGC IFQ dredge AM areas (SNE/MA YT)

Legend

- 100 meters
- Hague Line
- Groundfish Closed Areas
- AM Area**
 - SNE Yellowtail AM Closure 1 for LAGC IFQ Scallop Dredge Vessels
 - SNE Yellowtail AM Closure 2 for LAGC IFQ Scallop Dredge Vessels
 - SNE Yellowtail AM Closure 3 for LAGC IFQ Scallop Dredge Vessels
- YT Stock Area**
 - CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder Stock Area (Sectors)
 - SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder Stock Area (Sectors)
 - GB Yellowtail Flounder Stock Area



Yellowtail Stock Areas with LAGC IFQ trawl AM areas (SNE/MA YT)



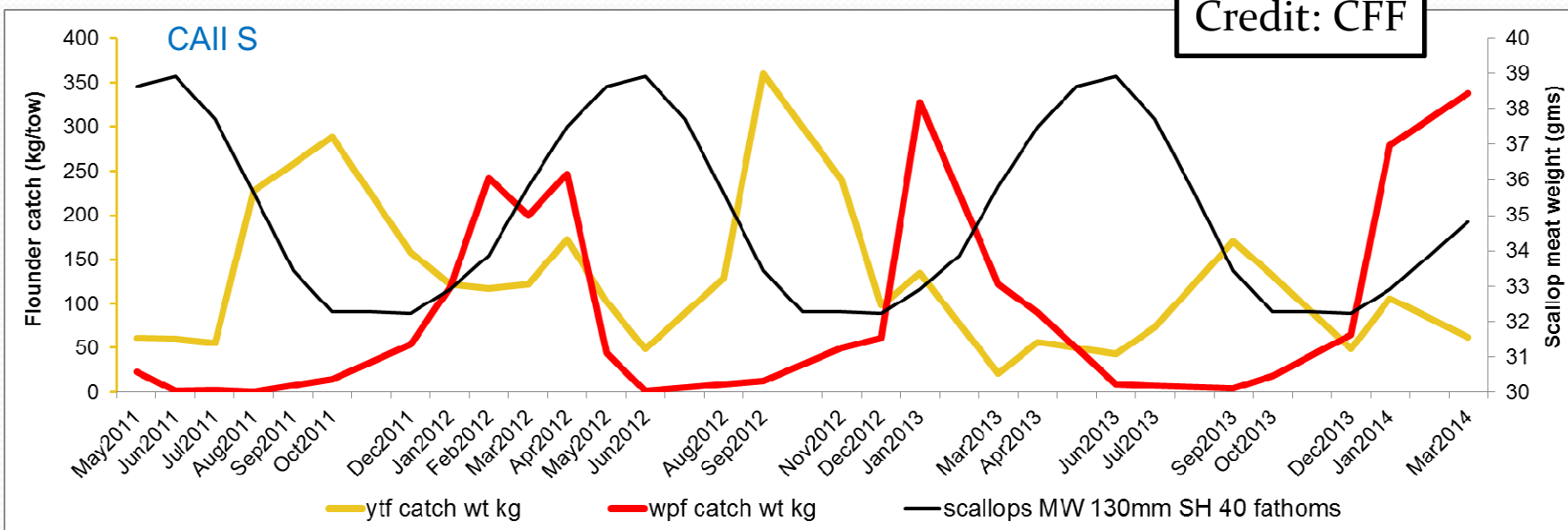


PDT Approaches

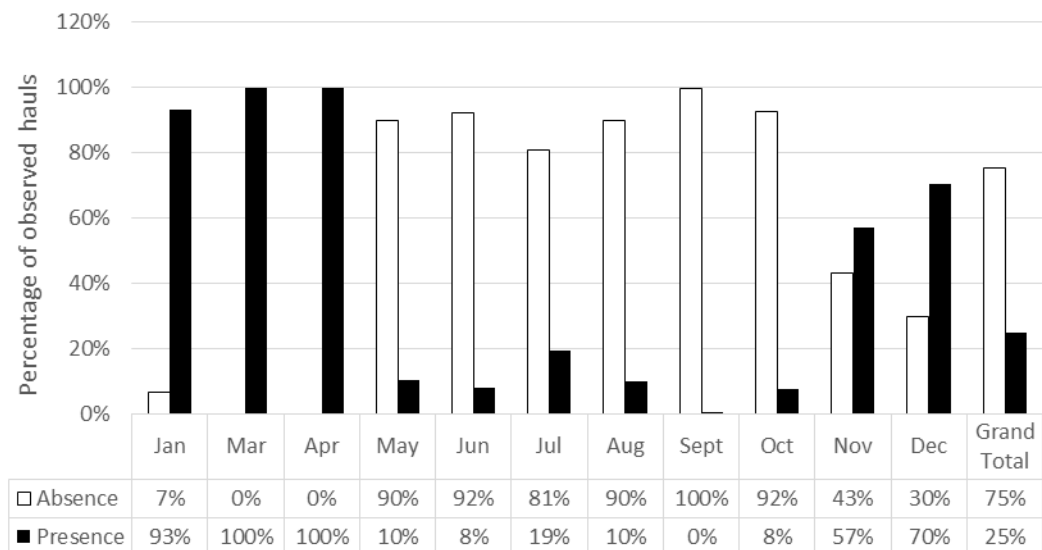
- Reviewed flatfish bycatch data from observer records and CFF's seasonal bycatch survey on GB.
- Reviewed scallop landings from GB and Channel by year and month.
- PDT plans to use observer data to examine the seasonal catch of Northern Windowpane and yellowtail as a function of depth.

Closed Area II South

Credit: CFF



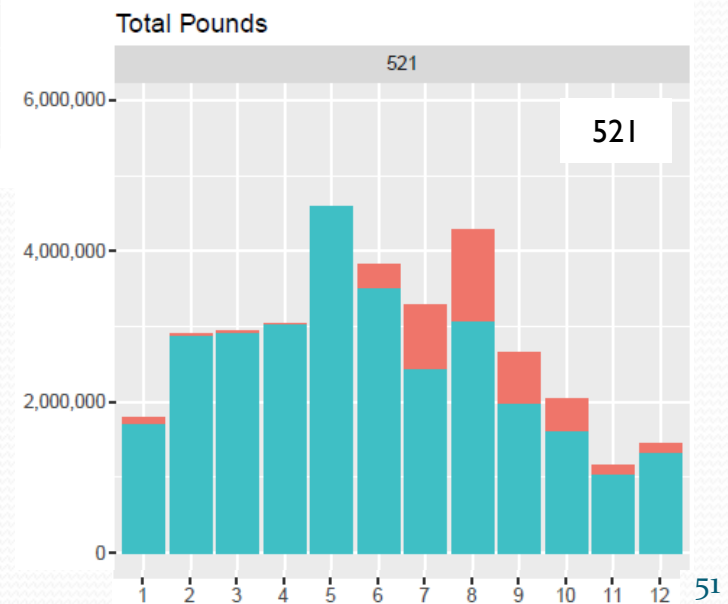
- Seasonal Bycatch survey and observer data: Northern windowpane catches highest from Jan – April in CA II South.



Monthly Scallop Landings by SRA



- Data: Dealer landings matched with VTR for FY 2008 – FY 2017



- Scallop landings highest on Georges Bank: May – Sept.
- Landings from Channel higher than GB from Oct. – April.



PDT Recommendations

- Tools: Gear modifications and time area closures
 - Could consider recommending variations on these approaches (ex: multi-year average), or finer-scale closures within a management unit (ex: 'Hotspot' zones in CA II)
- Majority of northern windowpane catch is on Georges Bank by LA component.
 - Could focus AM in SRA: 522, 525, 561, 562.
- Northern windowpane catch increases in CA II from Jan – April.
 - Could delay opening of CA II to reduce bycatch and potentially optimize meat yields.

PDT Recommendations (cont.)

- Tools: 5-row apron in place for southern windowpane
 - Could develop AMs for Northern windowpane and Yellowtail using this gear.
- AP/CTE: Are there particular approaches to reducing flatfish bycatch that you would like the PDT to develop?

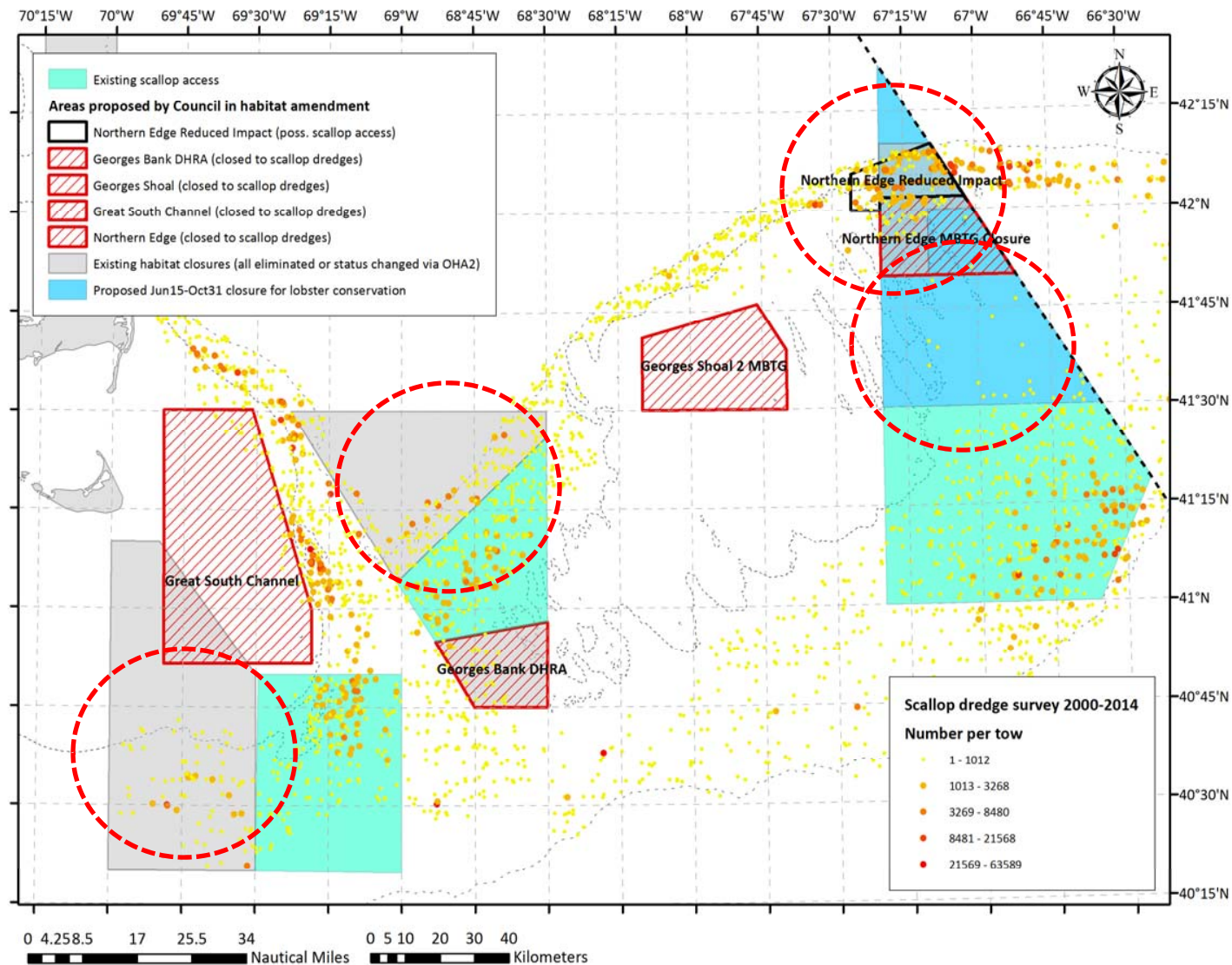
Other 2017 Priorities



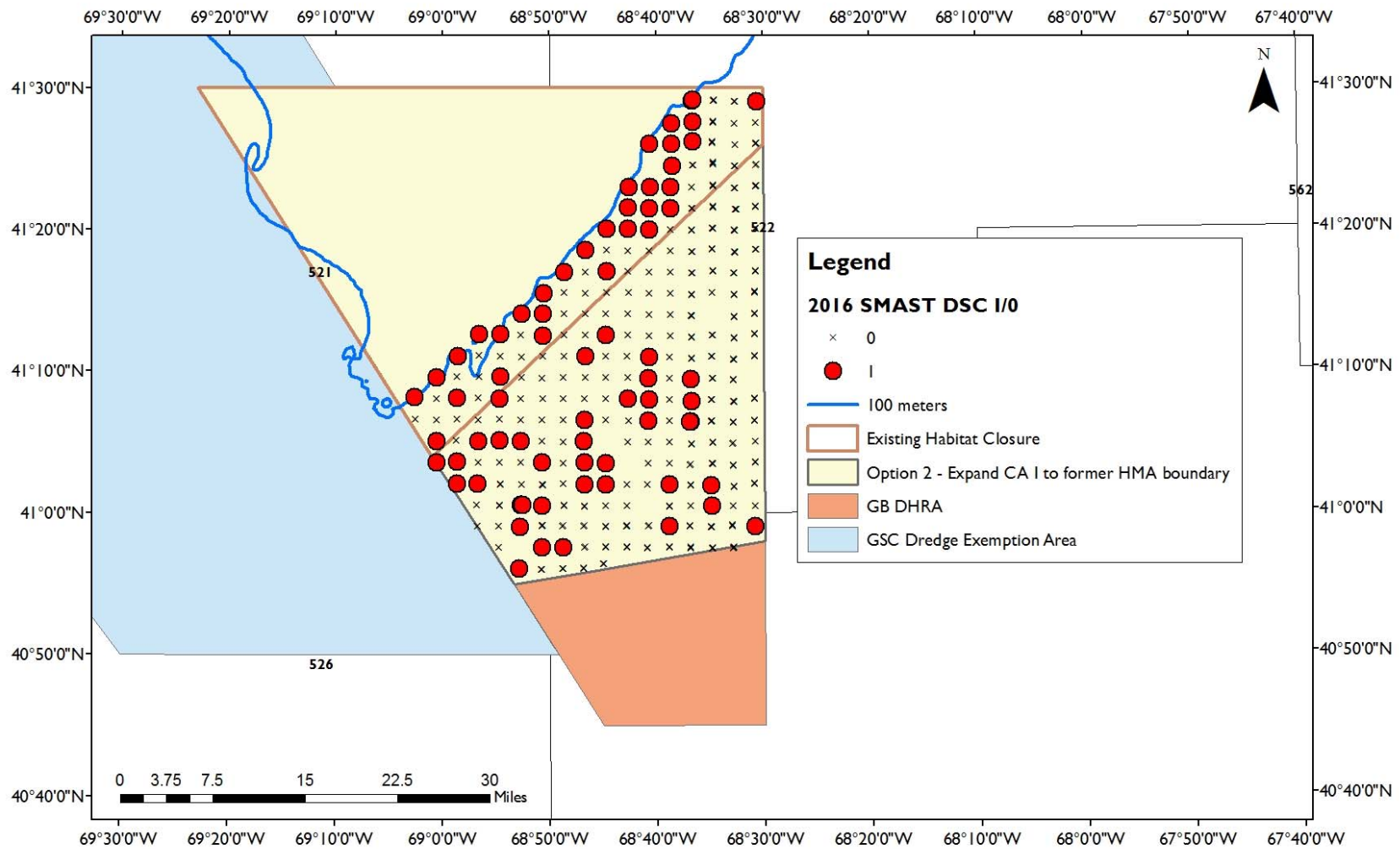
Post-OHA2 Access

- Timing of OHA2 final rule uncertain, perhaps this Fall?
- Access to areas that may open through the OHA2 requires two steps in the scallop FMP
 1. Define the area for access (ex: modify access area)
 2. Allocate to the area (based on survey data)
- Designing areas during the development of specifications (in the fall) will add complexity to the process.
 - Identifying areas (like CA I in FW28) may help streamline this process in the Fall.

Post-OHA2 Access



CA I Committee Preferred; CBR in FW28





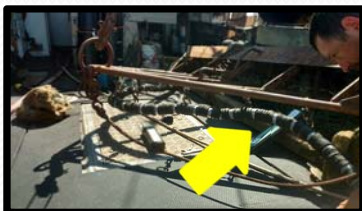
Follow-up to Scallop Survey Review

- Several issues identified for follow-up, two track approach
 - PDT sub-group
 - 2018 Atlantic sea scallop benchmark assessment
- PDT sub-group is planning to begin work this spring on the following issues:
 - Explore ways to combine survey estimates, including situations when there may be a large divergence in estimate
 - Explore dredge efficiency in high density areas
 - Explore the likely under-estimation of biomass variance estimates from HabCam surveys (Dr. Hart presentation March 1, 2017)

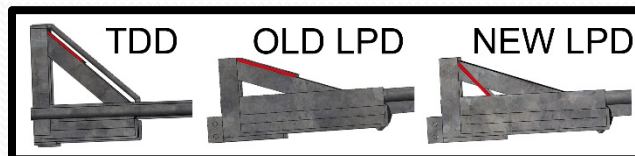
Gear Modifications to Protect Small Scallops

- The PDT was updated on gear research underway by CFF at its March 1, 2017 meeting.
- Several projects have promise, though it does not appear that results would be ready in time to include in a management action this year.

Flounder Sweep



Low-profile dredge



Extended links

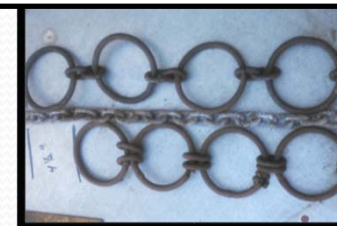


Photo Credits: CFF



What next?

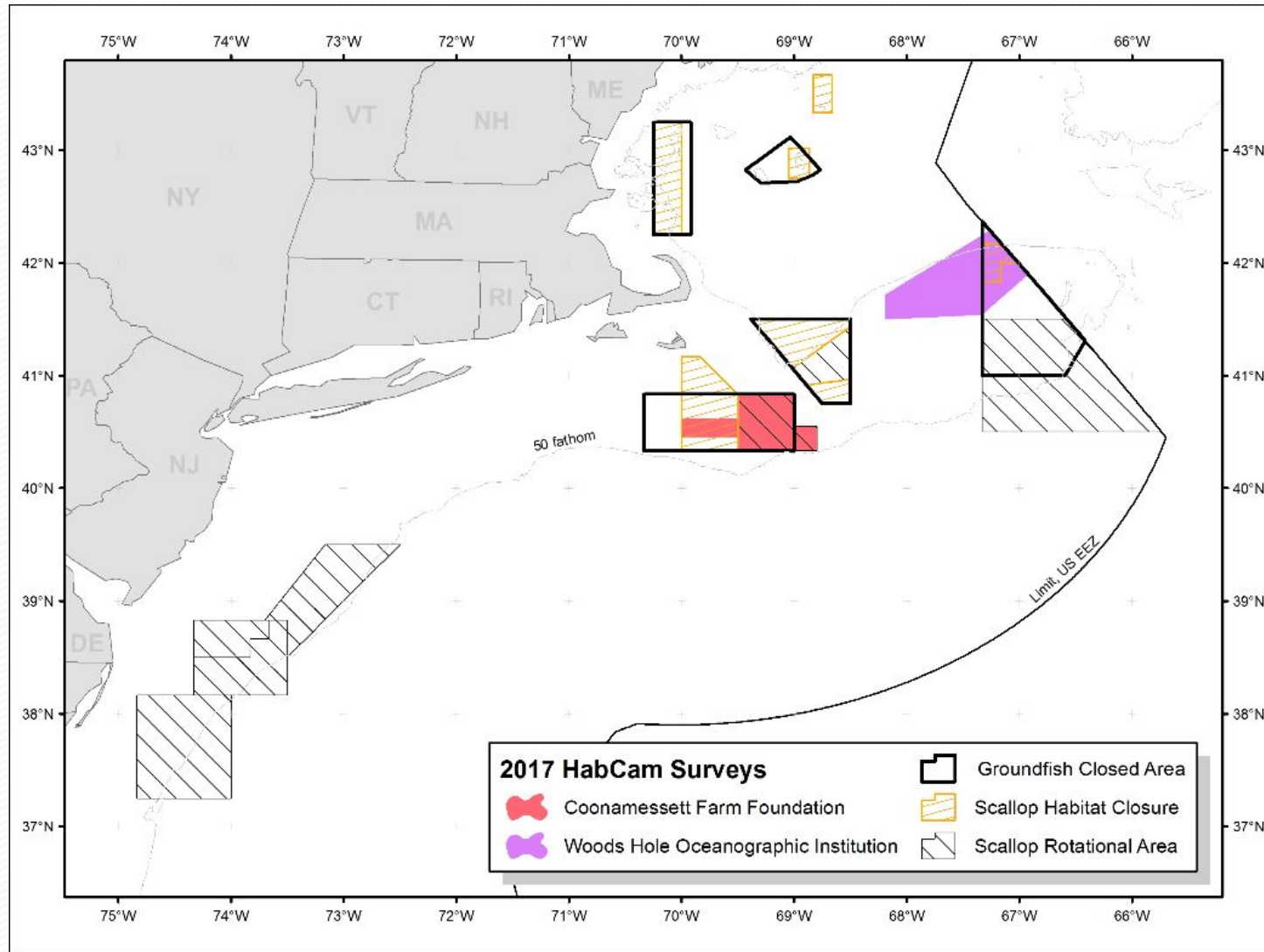
- AP/CTE: Should the PDT continue to develop the *preferred* CA I configuration from FW28 for post-OHA2 area modifications?
 - PDT would be drafting impacts for NEPA analysis.
- AP/CTE: How should the Council proceed with gear modifications to protect small scallops?
 - Keep it on the priority list? Remove as priority?

2017/2018 RSA Awards

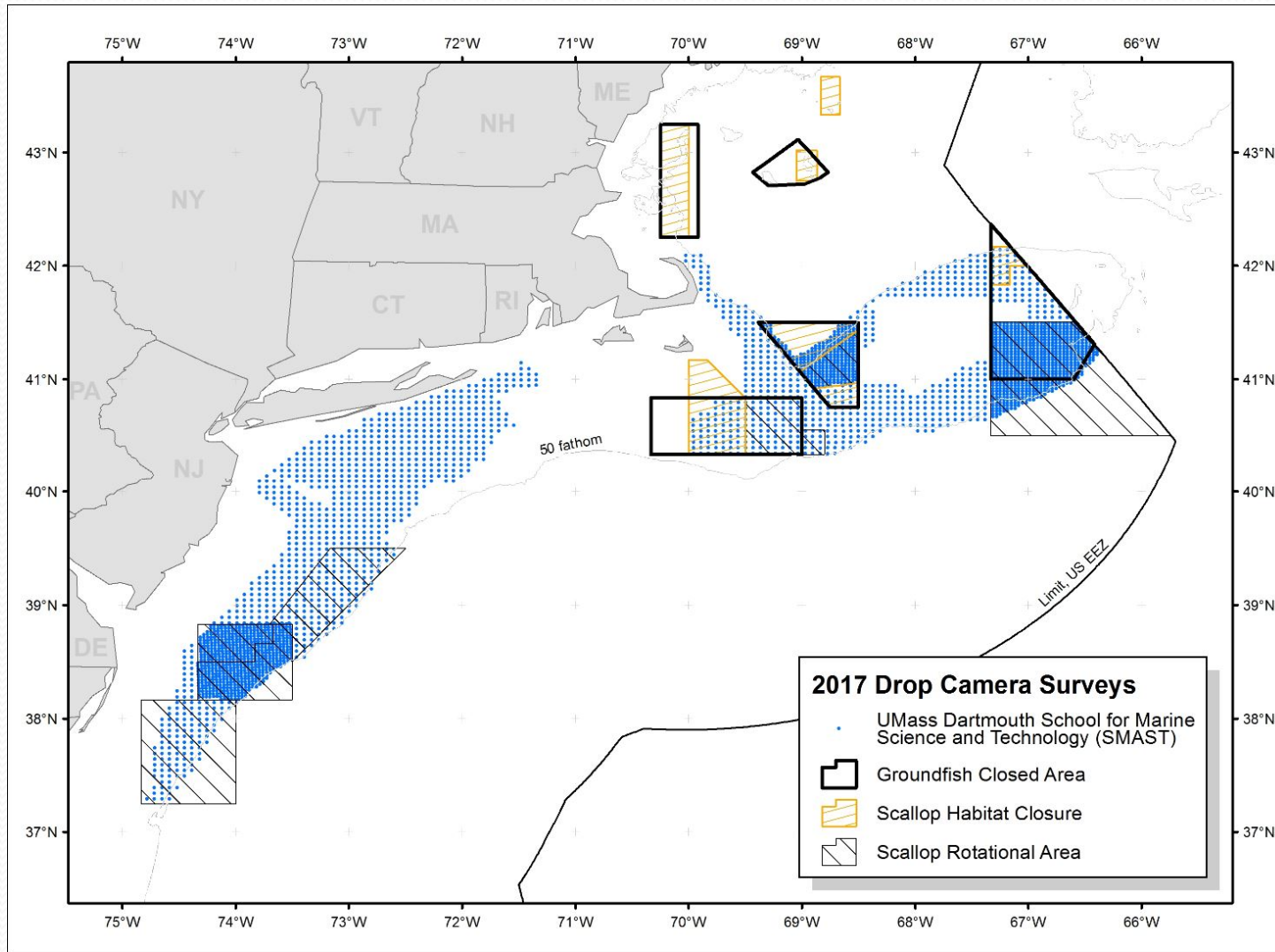
2017/2018 RSA Awards

- RSA Awards Announced on March 17, 2017
- 17 projects recommended for funding, over 30 researchers from 15 organizations (Doc. 8)
 - Surveys (dredge, drop camera, HabCam)
- 1.25 mil. lb set-aside expected to generate more than \$15 million dollars - \$3.5 to fund research, \$11.5 in compensation fishing.
- Multiple survey projects funded in 2016/2017 that will be on the water this year.

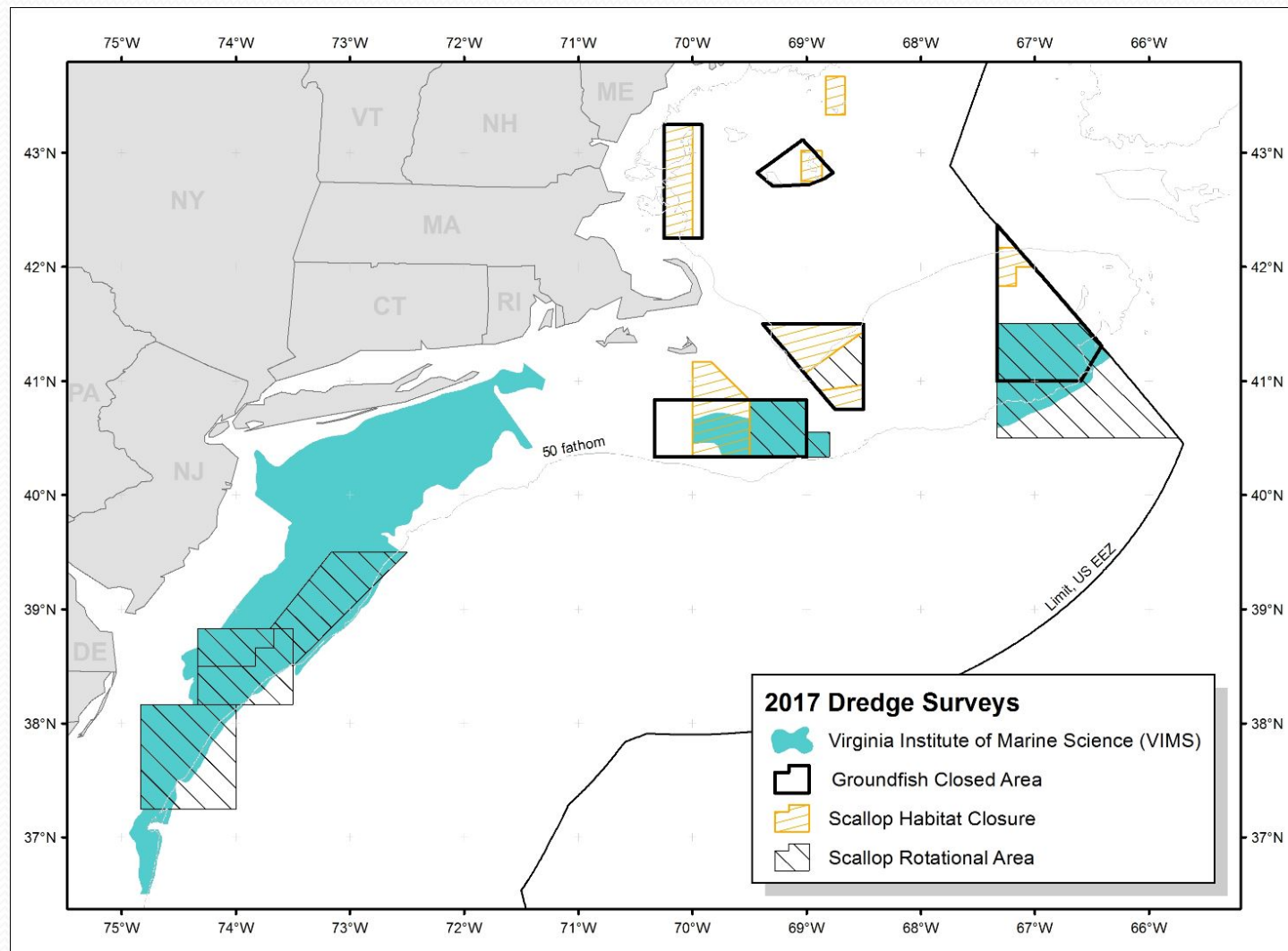
2017 RSA HabCam Surveys



2017 RSA Drop Camera Surveys



2017 RSA Dredge Surveys



2017/2018 RSA Awards

- No action needed today.
 - Council scheduled to recommend RSA priorities in June.
 - RSA Share Day: May 4th, 2017 in Boston, MA (Logan Airport HGI)
- AP and Committee: Begin thinking about RSA priorities for upcoming meetings in May/June.

Questions?