

DECISION DOCUMENT

for

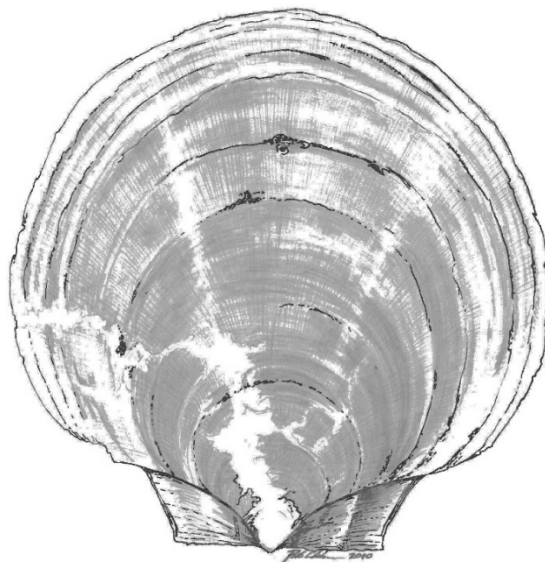
Framework Adjustment 29

to the

Atlantic Sea Scallop FMP

Advisory Panel and Committee Copy (11/22/17, version 1)

This decision document will be updated again for the Council on November 27, 2017 (version 2), and after the Advisory Panel and Committee meet to reflect their input on alternatives under consideration in this action (version 3).



Scallop AP and Committee Meetings

November 29 & 30, 2017

Boston, MA

This decision document was developed to assist the Advisory Panel and Committee to provide the Council with input on measures in Scallop Framework Adjustment 29.

Framework 29 was initiated at the April 2017 Council meeting and currently includes: scallop fishery specifications for FY2018 and default measures for FY2019 (ABC/ACLs, DAS, access area allocations for LA and LAGC, hard-TAC for NGOM management area, target-TAC for LAGC incidental catch and set-asides for the observer and research programs). This action also includes the following: 1) Northern Gulf of Maine management measures; 2) flatfish accountability measures; 3) measures to modify access area boundaries, consistent with potential changes to habitat and groundfish mortality closed areas; 4) allocation of Limited Access Closed Area I carryover pounds.

Framework 29 Timing Relative of OHA2: The Council is considering a range specification alternatives in FW29 in the event that the OHA2 is fully or partially implemented by NMFS. A final decision on the Omnibus Habitat Amendment is anticipated by January 4, 2018, after the Council takes final action on Framework 29. NMFS may fully approve all the Council's preferred measures, or partially approve the action (and disapprove some proposed measures). The Scallop Committee tasked the PDT with developing four specification scenarios to cover the range of measures that may be approved in OHA2. These include: 1) No change to current habitat and groundfish closures; 2) Approval and implementation of both Georges Bank measures (Alternative 10 in 2.3.4 of OHA2) and Great South Channel and Southern New England (Alternative 4 in Section 2.3.5 of OHA2); 3) Approval and implementation of only Great South Channel and Southern New England measures; and 4) Approval and implementation of only Georges Bank measures.

In this action, the Council is only considering recommending access to and the harvest of scallops currently in 1) Closed Area I North Habitat Management Area, which is part of Georges Bank habitat measures, and 2) the Nantucket Lightship Habitat Management Area which is part of the Great South Channel and Southern New England measures. While OHA2 may lift closures of other areas that hold scallops, the Council has not developed measures in this action to facilitate access beyond Closed Area I and the Nantucket Lightship HMAs.

Scallop AP and Committee: You may wish to identify a *preferred alternative* for each OHA2 specification scenario identified in Table 2 (below).

Table 1 – OHA2 specification scenarios (1-4) considered in FW29 and Council's Preferred Alternatives.

#	OHA2 Specification Scenarios	FW29 Specification Alternatives Available for Selection under this Scenario	Council's preferred alternative
1	No change to current habitat and groundfish closures.	4.4.2 - BASE Runs 4.4.1 - No Action	TBD
2	Approval and implementation of both Georges Bank measures (Alternative 10 in 2.3.4 of OHA2) and Great South Channel and Southern New England (Alternative 4 in Section 2.3.5 of OHA2)	4.4.3 & 4.4.4 - Both open (5 & 6 trip options) 4.4.5 - NLS West Runs 4.4.6 - CAIF36 4.4.2 - BASE Runs 4.4.1 - No Action	TBD
3	Approval and implementation of only Great South Channel and Southern New England measures through OHA2	4.4.5 - NLS West Runs 4.4.2 - BASE Runs 4.4.1 - No Action	TBD
4	Approval and implementation of only Georges Bank measures through OHA2	4.4.6 - CAIF36 4.4.2 - BASE Runs 4.4.1 - No Action	TBD

Council staff will present information on the range of alternatives under consideration in Framework 29. The AP and Committee will have the opportunity to select preferred alternatives at this meeting. This is the final opportunity for both groups to weigh in on FW29 development before the Council takes final action on December 7, 2017 in Newport, RI. Council staff recommends that the AP and Committee work through Framework 29 decisions in the order specified in Anticipated Outcomes on page 4. This list is intended to help guide discussion, and does not preclude either group from developing additional recommendations. For Alternatives with multiple F rates (ex: F=0.36 and F=0.40), the AP and Committee may wish to discuss the preferred access area configuration first, and then identify preferred F rate.

Anticipated Action by AP and Committee:

1. Select *preferred alternative* for 2018 and 2019 OFL and ABC (Section 4.1)
2. Select *preferred alternatives* for Northern Gulf of Maine Management Measures (Section 4.2)
 - a. Consider recommending RSA trip limits for any NGOM RSA harvest – otherwise this will be specified by NMFS.
3. Allocation of Limited Access Closed Area I Carryover Pounds (select a *preferred alternative*)
4. Select a *preferred specifications alternative* for OHA2 Scenario 2: Approval and Implementation of both Georges Bank and Great South Channel/Southern New England Measures are approved.
5. Select a *preferred specifications alternative* for OHA2 Scenario 3: Approval and Implementation of only Great South Channel/Southern New England measures through OHA2.
6. Select a *preferred specifications alternative* for OHA2 Scenario 4: Approval and implementation of only Georges Bank measures through OHA2.
7. Select a *preferred specifications alternative* for OHA2 Scenario 1: Status Quo – No change to current habitat and groundfish closures.
8. Select a *preferred alternative* for setting the total LAGC IFQ trips in access areas.
9. Select a *preferred alternative* for allocating LAGC IFQ trips by access area.
10. *Recommend* default measures for FY 2019. (Not numbered, but the AP and Committee may also wish to weigh in on PT access area allocations and trip limits).
11. Select a *preferred alternative* for additional measures to reduce fishery impacts.
12. Select a *preferred alternative* for Northern windowpane accountability measures.
13. Select a *preferred alternative* for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder accountability measures.
14. Select a *preferred alternative* for Southern New England yellowtail flounder accountability measures.
15. Review the PDT's evaluation of projected flatfish catch in Framework 29 (see Doc.4), and determine whether or not to recommend additional measures in this action to reduce catch of flatfish by the scallop fishery. If the AP and Committee recommend additional measures, they may wish to identify a *preferred alternative*.

The numbers at the top of each page correspond to the Anticipated Action listed above.

#1

Section 4.1 – Overfishing Limit and Acceptable Biological Catch

(p. TBD)

Scallop AP and Committee: You may wish to identify a preferred alternative for this section. The Council will consider your input when it takes final action in December.

Section 4.1 - OFL and ABC			PDT Preferred	AP Preferred	CTE Preferred
4.1.1	Alt. 1	No Action			
4.1.2	Alt. 2	Updated OFL and ABC for FY2018 and FY2019	**		
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider:					
This measure would update OFL and ABC estimates using the most recent survey information.					
The SSC approved updated OFL and ABC values for 2018 and 2019 (default) at its meeting on Oct. 12, 2017 in Boston, MA.					
Alternative 2, updating the OFL and ABC, is supported by the Scallop PDT.					

#2

Section 4.2 – Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area

(p.TBD)

The Council developed the following problem statement to guide the development of Northern Gulf of Maine Management Measures in Framework 29:

Recent high landings and unknown biomass in the NGOM scallop management area underscore the critical need to initiate surveys and develop additional tools to better manage the area and fully understand the total removals from the management area.

Scallop AP and Committee: You may wish to identify a preferred alternative for this section. The Council will consider your input when it takes final action in December.

If you select Alternative 2 as preferred, you must select the F rate to fish the management area at (4.2.2.1 or 4.2.2.2) and decide how the TAC in the area will be split (select preferred sub-option).

Does the AP or Committee have recommendations on how NGOM RSA pounds are harvested? For example, should the Council consider using trip limits to manage this harvest?

Table 2 – Comparison of NGOM TAC options under consideration for FY 2018 and FY 2019.

FW29 Alternative	FW 29 Section	F	2018 TAC	2019 TAC
1	4.2.1		95,000	0
2, Option 1a	4.2.2.1	0.15	165,000	115,000
2, Option 2b	4.2.2.2	0.18	200,000	135,000
3	4.2.3	0	0	0

Table 3 - Comparison of Potential NGOM TACs for LA (RSA) and LAGC for FY 2018 (lbs) for each sub-option considered in Alternative 2 of Section 4.2 .

FY 2018	F=0.15 (165,000 lb TAC)		F=0.18 (200,000 lb TAC)	
FW 29 Section	4.2.2.1.1	4.2.2.1.2	4.2.2.2.1	4.2.2.2.2
Alternative 2 Sub-Option:	1a (70k, 50/50)	2a (95k, 25/75)	1b (70k, 50/50)	2b (95k, 25/75)
LA (RSA) TAC (lbs)	47,500	52,500	65,000	78,750
LAGC TAC (lbs)	117,500	112,500	135,000	121,250

#2 (continued)

4.2 - Northern Gulf of Maine TAC			PDT Pref.	AP Pref.	CTE Pref.
4.2.1	Alt. 1	No Action (95,000 lb TAC, no change to management of the area)			
4.2.2	Alt. 2	Set NGOM TAC using exploitable biomass projections for 2018 and 2019, cap removals for all fishery components, and apply LA share of TAC toward RSA compensation fishing	**		
4.2.2.1	Alt. 2 – Option 1a	Set NGOM TAC at F=0.15 (165k lbs in 2018, 115k lbs in 2019)			
4.2.2.1.1	Alt. 2 – Sub-Option 1a	NGOM TAC split: first 70,000 lbs to LAGC, then 50/50 split			
4.2.2.1.2	Alt. 2 – Sub-Option 2a	NGOM TAC split first 95,000 lbs to LAGC, then 25/75 between LAGC and LA			
4.2.2.2	Alt 2 – Option 2b	Set NGOM TAC at F=0.18 (200k lbs in 2018, 135k lbs in 2019)			
4.2.2.2.1	Alt. 2 – Sub-Option 1b	NGOM TAC split: first 70,000 lbs to LAGC, then 50/50 split			
4.2.2.2.2	Alt. 2 – Sub-Option 2b	NGOM TAC split first 95,000 lbs to LAGC, then 25/75 between LAGC and LA			
4.2.3	Alt. 3	Set NGOM TAC at 0 for FY 2018 and FY 2019			
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider:					
The Council has developed a range of measures that include provisions that would modify how the LAGC and LA components operate in the NGOM management area.					

#3

Section 4.3 – Allocate Limited Access Closed Area I Carryover Pounds

(p. TBD)

Scallop AP and Committee: You may wish to identify a preferred alternative for this section. The Council will consider your input when it takes final action in December.

4.3 – Allocate Closed Area I Carryover Pounds			PDT Pref.	AP Pref.	CTE Pref.
4.3.1	Alt. 1	No Action			
4.3.2	Alt. 2	Allocate the Limited Access Closed Area I Carryover Pounds for FY 2018, Contingent upon OHA2 approv	**		
<p>Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider:</p> <p>The Council has specified that it would like Limited Access Closed Area I carryover to be allocated if either Closed Area I Access Area is available or if the Nantucket Lightship West Access Area is available. Allocation of Closed Area I carryover would be done in following order:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. If both Closed Area I and the Nantucket Lightship West are available, the carryover pounds would be allocated exclusively to CA I. (OHA2 Scenario 2).2. If only Closed Area I is available, the carryover pounds would be allocated exclusively to CA I. (OHA2 Scenario 4).3. If only the Nantucket Lightship West is available (and CAI is not), the carryover pounds would be allocated to vessels for harvest exclusively in the Nantucket Lightship West. (OHA2 Scenario 3).4. If no changes are made through OHA2, the carryover pounds would not be allocated through FW29. <p>SAMS model runs were done assuming the allocation of LA CAI carryover pounds under each scenario.</p> <p>See Section 6, Affected Environment of FW 29 for additional information on CAI carryover.</p>					

#4

Scallop Fishery Specifications

OHA2 Scenario 2 – Both Nantucket Lightship West and Closed Area I are available

(p. TBD)

This is the first of four OHA2 scenarios that the AP and Committee will consider in FW29.

The AP and Committee may wish to recommend Alternatives 1 – 6, which is the full range of alternatives available under OHA2 Scenario 2 (shown in the table below).

FW 29 Measure	Section in FW29	Open Area F	Landings w/ CAI carryover	APL after set-asides	FT LA DAS	FT Access Area Allocation, AA trips ()	LAGC IFQ Only (5%) Quota
Status Quo FW 28 preferred	4.4.7	F=0.44	n/a	41.7 mil	25	72,000 (4)	2.08 mil
Alternative 1 No Action (FW 28 Def.)	4.4.1	F=0.39	n/a	22.3 mil	21.75	18,000 (1)	1.1 mil
Alternative 2 Base Runs	4.4.2.1	F=0.36	n/a	49.6 mil	23	90,000 (5)	2.48 mil
	4.4.2.2	F=0.4	n/a	51.5 mil	26	90,000 (5)	2.57 mil
Alternative 3 Both CAI and NLS-W open, 5 trip option	4.4.3.1	F=0.36	57.7 mil	53.8 mil	28	90,000 (5)	2.69 mil
	4.4.3.2	F=0.4	59.9 mil	57.6 mil	31	90,000 (5)	2.8 mil
Alternative 4 Both CAI and NLS-W open, 6 trip option	4.4.4.1	F=0.26	57.9 mil	53.9 mil	21	108,000 (6)	2.7 mil
	4.4.4.2	F=0.295	60 mil	56.1 mil	24	108,000 (6)	2.8 mil
Alternative 5 Only NLS West opens	4.4.5.1	F=0.36	57.8 mil	53.9 mil	28	90,000 (5)	2.7 mil
	4.4.5.2	F=0.4	59.9 mil	55.9 mil	31	90,000 (5)	2.8 mil
Alternative 6 Only CAI Opens	4.4.6	F=0.36	53.0 mil	49.0 mil	23	90,000 (5)	2.45 mil

#5

Scallop Fishery Specifications

OHA2 Scenario 3 – ONLY Nantucket Lightship West available

(p. TBD)

This is the second of four OHA2 scenarios that the AP and Committee will consider in FW29.

The AP and Committee may wish to recommend Alternatives 1, 2 or 5, which is the full range of alternatives available under OHA2 Scenario 3 (shown in the table below).

FW 29 Measure	Section in FW29	Open Area F	Landings w/ CAI carryover	APL after set-asides	FT LA DAS	FT Access Area Allocation, AA trips ()	LAGC IFQ Only (5%) Quota
Status Quo FW 28 preferred	4.4.7	F=0.44	n/a	41.7 mil	25	72,000 (4)	2.08 mil
Alternative 1 No Action (FW 28 Def.)	4.4.1	F=0.39	n/a	22.3 mil	21.75	18,000 (1)	1.1 mil
Alternative 2 Base Runs	4.4.2.1	F=0.36	n/a	49.6 mil	23	90,000 (5)	2.48 mil
	4.4.2.2	F=0.4	n/a	51.5 mil	26	90,000 (5)	2.57 mil
Alternative 5 Only NLS West opens	4.4.5.1	F=0.36	57.8 mil	53.9 mil	28	90,000 (5)	2.7 mil
	4.4.5.2	F=0.4	59.9 mil	55.9 mil	31	90,000 (5)	2.8 mil

#6

Scallop Fishery Specifications

OHA2 Scenario 4 – ONLY Closed Area I is available

(p. TBD)

This is the third of four OHA2 scenarios that the AP and Committee will consider in FW29.

The AP and Committee may wish to recommend Alternatives 1, 2, or 6, which is the full range of alternatives available under OHA2 Scenario 2 (shown in the table below).

FW 29 Measure	Section in FW29	Open Area F	Landings w/ CAI carryover	APL after set-asides	FT LA DAS	FT Access Area Allocation, AA trips ()	LAGC IFQ Only (5%) Quota
Status Quo FW 28 preferred	4.4.7	F=0.44	n/a	41.7 mil	25	72,000 (4)	2.08 mil
Alternative 1 No Action (FW 28 Def.)	4.4.1	F=0.39	n/a	22.3 mil	21.75	18,000 (1)	1.1 mil
Alternative 2 Base Runs	4.4.2.1	F=0.36	n/a	49.6 mil	23	90,000 (5)	2.48 mil
	4.4.2.2	F=0.4	n/a	51.5 mil	26	90,000 (5)	2.57 mil
Alternative 6 Only CAI Opens	4.4.6	F=0.36	53.0 mil	49.0 mil	23	90,000 (5)	2.45 mil

#7

Scallop Fishery Specifications

OHA2 Scenario 1 – ONLY Closed Area I is available

(p. TBD)

This is the fourth of four OHA2 scenarios that the AP and Committee will consider in FW29.

The AP and Committee may wish to recommend Alternatives 1 or 2, which is the full range of alternatives available under OHA2 Scenario 2 (shown in the table below).

FW 29 Measure	Section in FW29	Open Area F	Landings w/ CAI carryover	APL after set-asides	FT LA DAS	FT Access Area Allocation, AA trips ()	LAGC IFQ Only (5%) Quota
Status Quo FW 28 preferred	4.4.7	F=0.44	n/a	41.7 mil	25	72,000 (4)	2.08 mil
Alternative 1 No Action (FW 28 Def.)	4.4.1	F=0.39	n/a	22.3 mil	21.75	18,000 (1)	1.1 mil
Alternative 2 Base Runs	4.4.2.1	F=0.36	n/a	49.6 mil	23	90,000 (5)	2.48 mil
	4.4.2.2	F=0.4	n/a	51.5 mil	26	90,000 (5)	2.57 mil

#8

Section 4.5.1 – Allocation of the LAGC IFQ Trips in Access Areas

(p. TBD)

Scallop AP and Committee: You may wish to identify a preferred alternative for this section. The Council will consider your input when it takes final action in December.

Section 4.5.1 – Allocation of the LAGC IFQ Trips in Access Areas			PDT Pref.	AP Pref.	CTE Pref.
4.5.1.1	Alt. 1	No Action (558 trips, default measure)			
4.5.1.2	Alt. 2	5.5% of overall AA allocations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 trip options: 2,855• 6 trip options: 3,426	**		
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider:					

#9

Section 4.5.2 – LAGC IFQ Allocations by area

(p. TBD)

Scallop AP and Committee: You may wish to identify a preferred alternative for this section. The Council will consider your input when it takes final action in December.

Section 4.5.2 – LAGC IFQ Allocations by area			PDT Pref.	AP Pref.	CTE Pref.
4.5.2.1	Alt. 1	No Action (Default Measures from FW28 – All trip in the MAAA)			
4.5.2.2	Alt. 2	Allocate LAGC IFQ Access Area Trips Proportional to Allocations in each area, and allocate the equivalent of CA II trips to evenly to Georges Bank access areas	**		
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider:					
This decision considers where LAGC IFQ access area trips can be taken.					

Table 4 - Alternative 2 Allocation of LAGC IFQ trips by Access Area

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j
			Number of Trips in Each Access Area					Proportion of Trips by Region	
Alternative	LAGC IFQ trips	Total FT AA trips	CAII	NLS-S	MAAA	NLS-West	CAI	GB%	MA%
1 - No Action	558	1			558				100%
2 - BASE	2855	5		1,142	1,713			40%	60%
3 - 5BOTH	2855	5		1,142	1,142		571	60%	40%
4 - 6BOTH	3426	6		571	1,142	1,142	571	66%	34%
5 - NLSW	2855	5		571	1,142	1,142		40%	60%
6 - CAI	2855	5		856	1,142		856	60%	40%

#10

Section 4.4.8 - Default Measures for FY2019

Scallop AP and Committee: You may wish to identify a preferred alternative for this section. The Council will consider your input when it takes final action in December.

You may also wish to weigh in on PT LA access area allocations.

	PDT Pref.	AP Pref.	CTE Pref.
Section 4.4.8 – Default Measures for 2019	**		
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider:			
Proposed Default Measures: Default measures for the limited access fishery would include DAS at 75% of the projected DAS allocation for 2018, and one access area trip in the MAAA at 18,000 for FT LA vessels. The LAGC IFQ allocation would be set at 75% of its 2018 quota at the start of the fishing year, and that LAGC IFQ access area trips be set at 5.5% of the total access area allocation for default measures. These trips would only be available in the MAAA.			

1. **The PDT recommends that FY 2019 default measures be set at 75% of DAS for 2018, with 1 trip in the Mid-Atlantic Access Area. The PDT recommends that the LAGC IFQ quota be set at 75% of the 2018 LAGC IFQ APL for FY 2019.** This is the same approach that the Council used to set default measures in FW 28, and provides the fishery with a modest allocation and access area trips in the MAAA to start the fishing year in the event that there is a delay in the implementation of allocations in 2019.
2. **The PDT recommends the following Part-Time LA allocations for FW 29 measures:**
 - a. **5 trip options: PT vessels receive two (2) 18,000 lb trips, one of which must be taken in the MAAA.** *Rationale:* This is a similar approach to what the Council recommended for PT vessels in Framework 28 for FY2017. All 5 trip options allocate at least 2 FT trips to the MAAA. Using an 18,000 trip limit streamlines possession limits across FT and PT permit holders.
 - b. **6 trip options: three (3) 14,400 lb trips, one in MAAA, one in NLS-West, one in CAI.** *Rationale:* Under a 6 trip option, FT vessels would have two access area trips in the MAAA, and NLS. This approach would follow a similar allocation structure, and afford PT vessels access to CAI.

#11

Section 4.6 – Additional Measures to Reduce Fishery Impacts

(p. TBD)

Scallop AP and Committee: You may wish to identify a preferred alternative for this section. The Council will consider your input when it takes final action in December.

Section 4.6 – Additional Measures to Reduce Fishery Impacts			PDT Pref.	AP Pref.	CTE Pref.
4.6.1	Alt. 1	No Action, RSA Comp fishing restricted to open areas			
4.6.2	Alt. 2	Prohibit RSA Compensation fishing in CAII Access Area, and allow limited RSA compensation fishing in the NGOM Management Area.	**		
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider:					
This decision considers where scallop RSA compensation fishing can occur in FY 2018.					

1. **The PDT recommends that the Council prohibit RSA compensation fishing in Closed Area II for FY2018.** This would include the CAII-extension area that would become part of the Closed Area II access area. Rationale is same as from Framework 28: Prohibiting RSA compensation fishing in CAII is expected to reduce impacts on Georges Bank yellowtail flounder and Northern windowpane flounder in the CAII S and CAII-ext areas. The scallop fishery is allocated 16% of the Georges Bank yellowtail flounder ABC, and 21% of the Northern windowpane ABC. The scallop fishery share of the US allocation of GB yellowtail is expected to be around 33 mt for the coming FY. The Northern windowpane ACL is expected to be around 18 mt. This measure is intended to compliment other scallop measures which reduce flatfish bycatch on Georges Bank, such as prohibition on the possession of the stock, a seasonal closure from Aug. 15 – Nov. 15, and the use of a 10” twine top.

#12

Section 4.7 – Accountability Measures for Northern Windowpane Flounder

(p. TBD)

Scallop AP and Committee: You may wish to identify a preferred alternative for this section. The Council will consider your input when it takes final action in December.

Section 4.7 – AMs for Northern Windowpane			PDT Preferred	AP Preferred	CTE Preferred
4.7.1	Alt. 1	No Action			
4.7.2	Alt. 2	Reactive Accountability Measure in Georges Bank Open Areas			
4.7.3	Alt. 3	Reactive Accountability Measures in Closed Area II and Extension (same “small” AM for both sub-options)			
4.7.3.1	sO1	Large AM – Year-Round GRA in Closed Area II and Closed Area II ext			
4.7.3.2	sO2	Seasonal Closure in Closed Area II and Closed Area II ext (Nov 16 – Dec 31)			
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider:					

#13

**Section 4.8 – Accountability Measures for Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder
(p. TBD)**

Scallop AP and Committee: You may wish to identify a preferred alternative for this section. The Council will consider your input when it takes final action in December.

Section 4.8 – AMs for GB YT			PDT Preferred	AP Preferred	CTE Preferred
4.8.1	Alt. 1	No Action			
4.8.2	Alt. 2	Reactive Accountability Measure in Georges Bank Open Areas			
4.8.3	Alt. 3	Reactive Accountability Measures in Closed Area II and Extension (same “small” AM for both sub-options)			
4.8.3.1	sO1	Large AM – Year-Round GRA in Closed Area II and Closed Area II ext			
4.8.3.2	sO2	Seasonal Closure in Closed Area II and Closed Area II ext (Nov 16 – Dec 31)			
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider:					

#14

Section 4.9 – Accountability Measures for Southern New England Yellowtail Flounder
(p. TBD)

Scallop AP and Committee: You may wish to identify a preferred alternative for this section. The Council will consider your input when it takes final action in December.

Section 4.9 – AMs for SNE YT			PDT Preferred	AP Preferred	CTE Preferred
4.8.1	Alt. 1	No Action			
4.8.2	Alt. 2	Reactive GRA Accountability Measures for LA and LAGC components			
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider:					

#15

Evaluation of projected flatfish bycatch in Framework 29

At their meeting on October 26, 2017, the Scallop Committee passed the following motion on a unanimous vote (11-0-0):

Move that the Committee task the PDT to 1) compare the FW29 flatfish bycatch projections to potential flatfish sub-ACL values being developed for FY2018; and 2) in cases where the projected scallop fishery bycatch exceeds the scallop fishery sub-ACL in 2018 develop options for reducing bycatch for inclusion in FW29.

The Scallop PDT has completed its FY 2018 projections of scallop fishery bycatch of Georges Bank yellowtail flounder, Northern windowpane flounder, Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder, and Southern windowpane flounder. A comparison of projected catch with potential FY 2018 sub-ACLs is shown in the table below. Bycatch estimates for 2018 exceed the scallop sub-ACLs for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder, Northern windowpane flounder, and Southern windowpane flounder. To address part two of Committee tasking, the Scallop PDT discussed 1) existing measures in the Scallop FMP designed to reduce flatfish bycatch, 2) the impact of spatial management on scallop fishery bycatch, 3) measures in Framework 29 that are anticipated to reduce bycatch, and 4) stock-specific options for proactively reducing bycatch in FW29. **See Document 4 for full PDT discussion on this topic.**

	Georges Bank Yellowtail	Northern Windowpane	SNE/MA Yellowtail	Southern Windowpane
Overfished?	Unknown	Yes	Yes	No
Overfishing?	Unknown	No	Yes	No
2018 US ABC	213	92	52	473
Scallop Allocation (%)	16%	21%		36%
Sub-ACL	33	18		158
Range of Projected Catch	5.57 - 43.44	46.69 - 68.08	3.84 - 5.25	228.6 - 308.23

- The PDT recommends that the Council proactively apply the small Northern windowpane reactive AM being developed in FW29 (proactive for FY 2018 only, if CAII is open). The AM would require the use of a 5-row apron with a 1.5:1 maximum hanging ratio from November 16 – December 31 in Closed Area II. This measure is anticipated to reduce Northern windowpane bycatch by ~24%, and Georges Bank yellowtail bycatch by ~9% during that time.**

Table 5 - Comparison of Specification Alternatives in FW29, including details on spatial management configuration.

	FW 29 Measure	Status Quo FW 28 preferred applied in 2018	Alternative 1 No Action (FW 28 Def.)	Alternative 2 Base Runs		Alternative 3 Both CAI and NLS-W open, 5 trip option		Alternative 4 Both CAI and NLS-W open, 6 trip option		Alternative 5 Only NLS West opens		Alternative 6 Only CAI Opens
a	Section in FW29	4.4.7	4.4.1	4.4.2.1	4.4.2.2	4.4.3.1	4.4.3.2	4.4.4.1	4.4.4.2	4.4.5.1	4.4.5.2	4.4.6
b	Open Area F	F=0.44	F=0.39	F=0.36	F=0.4	F=0.36	F=0.4	F=0.26	F=0.295	F=0.36	F=0.4	F=0.36
c	Run Title	<i>sq</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>BASE36</i>	<i>BASE40</i>	<i>5BOTH36</i>	<i>5BOTH40</i>	<i>6BOTH26</i>	<i>6BOTH295</i>	<i>NLSW36</i>	<i>NLSW40</i>	<i>CAIF36</i>
d	Landings w/ CAI carryover					57.7 mil	59.9 mil	57.9 mil	60 mil	57.8 mil	59.9 mil	53.0 mil
e	APL after set-asides	41.7 mil	22.3 mil	49.6 mil	51.5 mil	53.8 mil	57.6 mil	53.9 mil	56.1 mil	53.9 mil	55.9 mil	49.0 mil
f	FT LA DAS	25	21.75	23	26	28	31	21	24	28	31	23
g	FT Access Area Allocation	72,000	18,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	108,000	108,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
h	FT trips at 18,000 lbs	4	1	5	5	5	5	6	6	5	5	5
i	LAGC IFQ Only (5%) Quota	2.08 mil	1.1 mil	2.48 mil	2.57 mil	2.69 mil	2.8 mil	2.7 mil	2.8 mil	2.7 mil	2.8 mil	2.45 mil
j	Projected Open Area LPUE	2,178	2,221	2,508	2,476	2,531	2,500	2,607	2,581	2,531	2,500	2,508
k	Area Swept Est. (sqnm)	4,214	2,581	2,852	3,095	2,673	2,941	2,050	2,271	2,584	2,941	2,777
l	<i>Spatial Management Configuration for Each Framework 29 Specifications Alternative</i>											
m	Georges Bank Area											
n	CL1ACC	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	1 trip CA I AA	1 trip CA I AA (CL1ACC & CL1NA)	1 trip CA I AA	1 trip CA I AA (CL1ACC & CL1NA)	1 trip CA I AA (CL1ACC & CL1NA)
o	CL1NA	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	CL1ACC & Closed	Closed	CL1ACC & Closed	Closed	Closed
p	CL-2(N)	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
q	CL-2(S)	CA II AA	Closed	1 trip CA II AA	1 trip CA II AA	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	1 trip CA II AA (CL-2(S) & CL2Ext)
r	CL2Ext	Closed	Closed	(CL-2(S) & Closed	(CL-2(S) & Closed	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
s	NLSAccN	NLS AA	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
t	NLSAccS	NLS AA	Closed	1 Trip in NLS-South	1 Trip in NLS-South	1 Trip in NLS-South	1 Trip in NLS- South	Closed	Closed	1 Trip in NLS-South	1 Trip in NLS- South	1 Trip in NLS- South
u	NLSNA	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	2 Trips in NLS-West	2 Trips in NLS- West	2 Trips in NLS-West	2 Trips in NLS- West	2 Trips in NLS-West	2 Trips in NLS- West	Closed
v	NLSExt	NLS AA	Closed	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
w	NF	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
x	SCH	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
y	SF	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
z	MidAtlantic											
aa	Block Island	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
bb	Long Island	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
cc	NYB	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
dd	MA inshore	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
ee	HCSAA	MAAA	MAAA	3 Trips MAAA	3 Trips MAAA	2 Trips MAAA	2 Trips MAAA	2 Trips MAAA	2 Trips MAAA	2 Trips MAAA	2 Trips MAAA	2 Trips MAAA
ff	ET Open	MAAA	MAAA									
gg	ET Flex	ET-Flex	Closed									
hh	DMV	MAAA	MAAA	Open, DMV@F=0	Open, DMV@F=0	Open, DMV@F=0	Open, DMV@F=0	Open, DMV@F=0	Open, DMV@F=0	Open, DMV@F=0	Open, DMV@F=0	Open, DMV@F=0
ii	Virginia	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open

Figure 1 –Comparison of Area Swept (sqnm) estimates for each specifications alternative under consideration in Framework 29.

				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Run Title			<i>sq</i>	<i>na</i>	BASE36	BASE40	5BOTH36	5BOTH40	6BOTH26	6BOTH295	NLSW36	NLSW40	CAIF36
		Section in FW29		4.4.7	4.4.1	4.4.2.1	4.4.2.2	4.4.3.1	4.4.3.2	4.4.4.1	4.4.4.2	4.4.5.1	4.4.5.2	4.4.6
			Area Swept Est. (sqnm)	4,214	2,581	2,852	3,095	2,673	2,941	2,050	2,271	2,584	2,941	2,777
a	<i>sq</i>	4.4.7	4,214		1,633	1,362	1,119	1,541	1,273	2,164	1,943	1,630	1,273	1,437
b	<i>na</i>	4.4.1	2,581	-1,633		-271	-514	-92	-360	531	310	-3	-360	-196
c	BASE36	4.4.2.1	2,852	-1,362	271		-243	179	-89	802	581	268	-89	75
d	BASE40	4.4.2.2	3,095	-1,119	514	243		422	154	1,045	824	511	154	318
e	5BOTH36	4.4.3.1	2,673	-1,541	92	-179	-422		-268	623	402	89	-268	-104
f	5BOTH40	4.4.3.2	2,941	-1,273	360	89	-154	268		891	670	357	0	164
g	6BOTH26	4.4.4.1	2,050	-2,164	-531	-802	-1,045	-623	-891		-221	-534	-891	-727
h	6BOTH295	4.4.4.2	2,271	-1,943	-310	-581	-824	-402	-670	221		-313	-670	-506
i	NLSW36	4.4.5.1	2,584	-1,630	3	-268	-511	-89	-357	534	313		-357	-193
j	NLSW40	4.4.5.2	2,941	-1,273	360	89	-154	268	0	891	670	357		164
k	CAIF36	4.4.6	2,777	-1,437	196	-75	-318	104	-164	727	506	193	-164	

Table 6 - FW29 Flatfish Catch Projections for stocks with sub-ACLs, values in metric tons.

Scenario	SAMS Run	NWP	GBYT	SNEYT	SWP	SUM Total of Projections
No Action	na	44.96	6.06	4.47	33.73	89.22
Status Quo	sq	74.79	67.95	5.96	236.53	385.23
1	Base36	57.18	36.46	4.16	236.53	334.33
	Base40	60.54	36.92	4.51	250.57	352.54
	Base44	63.74	37.36	4.84	263.5	369.44
2	NLSW36	46.69	5.57	4.89	294.1	351.25
	NLSW40	50.64	6.04	5.25	308.23	370.16
3	5BOTH36	57.59	12.55	4.64	264.14	338.92
	5BOTH40	61.54	13.02	5	278.27	357.83
	6BOTH295	50.68	11.72	4.2	261.74	328.34
	6BOTH26	46.72	11.25	3.84	246.34	308.15
4	CA136	68.08	43.44	4.15	228.6	344.27