

Upcoming Meetings (2019)

- May 22/23 – Scallop AP and CTE (Providence, RI)
- June 11 – Council meeting (S. Portland, ME)
- June 27 – PDT Conference Call (10am – noon)
- July 23, 2019 – In-person PDT meeting at Mariners House (Boston, MA – Mariners House)
- August 27 & 28, 2019 – In-person PDT meeting (Falmouth, MA - TBD)
- October 17 & 18 – SSC Meeting (Location TBD)
- Oct & Nov – AP and CTE meetings (1 each month)

Scallop RSA Share Day

May 21, 2019
Scallop AP and PDT
Providence, RI



New England
Fishery Management Council

Today's Meeting:

Objectives:

1. Provide input: potential harvest of scallops in the NLS-S-deep
2. Develop Input: next steps for RSA Program review
3. Receive updates on funded RSA projects
4. Develop Input: 2020/2021 RSA research priorities

Introductions.

Be back on time after lunch. Tight schedule this afternoon.

Share Day Project Selection:

How were projects selected to present at Share Day?

Staff decision, based on several factors:

1. Council's 2019 priorities and other work items.
2. Balancing research presentations with other issues the Council may take up June.
3. Number of organizations presenting –allow time for a range of projects and organizations to present.
4. Relevance of research to specification setting





I. NLS-S-deep discussion

NLS-S Deep

FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES

- Anticipate busy agendas in Sept/Oct/Nov during the development of A2I & FW32.
- **Key Question: Do we want to harvest these scallops?**



YES

Or



NO:
STOP

- Potential consideration for FW32:
 - I. Allocate through 2020/2021 specifications action following the 2019 surveys. Consider in the context of all areas/allocations.
- OBJECTIVE: Create space for subsequent discussions. Then...
- Council could identify a range of measures to support harvest in NLS-S-Deep (i.e. crew limits, trip limits, etc.).

NLS-S-deep

- Dr. Dave Rudders Presentation

NLS-S-deep: Strawman

FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES; see document 2b.

- Allocate to everyone (LA and LAGC IFQ) as part of the ACL (before the split to the LA and LAGC IFQ sub-ACL).
- Manage allocation like NGOM TAC – available to all LA and LAGC IFQ permit holders on first come, first serve basis.
 - Develop trip limits? Area closes when TAC is met.
- Require increase in VMS pings when fishing and transiting.
- If this is about harvesting the small animals that are 50/60 count, draw a conservative boundary that focuses on the highest density areas that hold high counts of scallops (vs. “working around the edges” to catch 20/30 counts).

Ideas from Correspondence

FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES

- Allow a calico shucker vessel to operate as buy boat at sea
 - Increase shell-stock possession limits in this area
 - Allow small(er) mesh nets to harvest scallops (vs. 4" ring)
- Increase the number of crew to process scallops
 - Allow shell stocking for shore-side processing; several issues were identified with this.
- Allow vessels with LAGC Incidental permits to catch scallops with nets.

Management Outlook

FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES

- Anticipate busy agendas in Sept/Oct/Nov during the development of A2I & FW32.
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2. RSA Program Review

(Scallops, Herring, Monkfish)

RSA Program Review Discussion

- D. Boelke Presentation & Review Panel Comments
- Scallop PDT input (Doc. 3d & Matrix responses)

For Today - Group Discussion: What Next?

- Which recommendations do you agree with?
- Which ones do you disagree with?
- Which ones should the Council try to address first?
(Matrix provided in Doc. 3d)

Following the meeting: Staff report to Scallop Committee

1. Agree/Disagree with initial input?
2. Broader discussion



What recommendations do you agree with?

PDT Input – See Doc.3a

- “**Finding 1.** The New England Council’s Research Set Aside programs are performing well, and are generally regarded as highly successful, especially the Scallop RSA program.”
 - Agree.
- **Recommendation 3.** To clarify the role of RSA, the NEFMC should adopt a mission statement for RSA.
 - Agree:Very Important/Short Term
 - PDT had questions around review panel input about what that statement might exclude.

Agree?

Disagree?

Administrative Burden

PDT Input via Recommendation Matrix

- **Finding:** Implementing RSA programs generates a substantial administrative workload
- **Rec 5.** NMFS, in consultation with the Council, should evaluate and document RSA program administrative capacity to determine where support is sufficient and where it could or should be increased; the RSA review panel supports a dedicated evaluation of resources
 - Very important (n=3)

Agree?

Disagree?

Recommendation 2.6: Priority Setting

PDT Input via Recommendation Matrix

- **2.6.a** NMFS and NEFMC should prepare a detailed time table for steps from priority setting to awarding RSA grants
 - Important (n=1), Very Important (n=4)
- **2.6.b** NEFMC should consider initiating the priority setting process earlier in the year esp. if the priority setting process becomes more intensive
 - None (n=4)

Agree?

Disagree?

Recommendation 2.4: Price Estimates

PDT Input via Recommendation Matrix

- **2.4.a.1** Establish standard procedures on how to specify value estimated for each program.
 - Important (n=2), Very Important (n=2)
- **2.4.a.2** Identify mechanisms to respond to inaccurate price estimates, develop guidelines for when and how these would be used, and guidelines for multi-year grants.
 - Less-important (n=1), Important (n=2), Very Important (n=2)

Agree?

Disagree?

Recommendation 2: Tracking, process

PDT Input via Recommendation Matrix

- **2.1.b.** PDTs with NEFSC identify status of each priority, continued need, specific deliverable needed, and when it may be time to remove items from the list.
 - Very Important (n=3)
- **2.2.a** NMFS should improve communications about RSA process.
 - Important (n=2), Very Important (n=3)

Agree?

Disagree?

Increase value of RSA Program 2.4.a/b

PDT Input via Recommendation Matrix

- **2.4.b.1** Scallops - Transfer between years or extend the 3 months RSA carryover provision
 - None (n=2), Less-important (n=1), Important (n=1)
- **Mixed input** for RSA reserve, transfer between years, additional compensation for fishing incentives.
 - None → Important

Agree?

Disagree?

2.8: Feedback into management

PDT Input via Recommendation Matrix

- **2.8.b** Advisory Committee could be established for each award with NMFS/Council staff, etc. to provide input throughout the project on ways to increase utility of the project and to identify ways the results can be integrated more effectively; at a minimum 1 NEFSC staff could be assigned to each project to ID if there are ways to enhance results utility
 - No support (n=3)
- **2.8.d** More formal communication of progress reports could be shared with PDT, Advisory Panels, and Committees to improve monitoring/accountability or RSA awards
 - Important → Very important

Agree?

Disagree?

Scallop Surveys: Findings & Recommendations

Finding: Sea scallop surveys, which are the largest and most enduring RSA activity, lack an overall design, which likely does not optimize resources and scientific potential

Rec. 4: A series of options for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of resource surveys for scallops should be considered (next slide)

Agree?

Disagree?

Scallop Surveys: Recommendation 4

- **4.1.a** Annual meeting to coordinate survey activity after selection or awards, between NMFS and grantees
- **4.1.b** Expand role of scallop survey technical review panel to consider design and implementation
- **4.1.c** Extend duration of multi-year grants (up to 5-years) to facilitate stability in sea scallop survey design
- **4.2** Re-establish the scallop survey advisory panel with the primary charge of designing an overall strategic approach
- **4.3** Cooperative agreement to prepare a statistically rigorous (i.e. model based) design for Scallop Surveys
- **4.4** Use a relatively long term cooperative agreement to design and implement Sea Scallop Surveys
- **4.5** Establish a long term Cooperative Agreement for Research Set Aside Programs (CARSAP)

Additional Discussion

- General Comments
- Specific recommendations to pursue? Not take up?



Scallop RSA Awards Announcements

Year	Date
2014	14-May
2015	4-May
2016	7-Apr
2017	17-Mar
2018	16-May
2019	7-May



New England Fishery Management Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 16, 2018

PRESS CONTACT: Janice Plante
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Scallop RSA Program: Council and Northeast Fisheries Science Center Announce 15 Awards Selected for 2018-2019 funding

The New England Fishery Management Council and NOAA Fisheries' Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) are pleased to announce that 15 projects have been selected for 2018-2019 funding through the Sea Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program.

"The Scallop RSA Program truly has become one of the flagships of the scallop fishery," said New England Council Chairman Dr. John Quinn. "The collaborative efforts that take place at sea between fishermen and researchers go a long way toward enhancing our understanding of what's happening with the resource. The results of this RSA work funnel back to the Council and support stock assessments. Without a doubt, the RSA program helps us better manage our extremely valuable scallop fishery."

Projects will address research priorities established by the Council, with a particular focus on resource surveys. The awards are expected to generate more than \$12 million: \$3 million to fund research; and \$9 million to compensate industry partners who harvest set-aside quota.

"We are excited to be able to work with the New England Fishery Management Council, industry, and scientists to fund sea scallop science through the Research Set-Aside Program," said NEFSC Science and Research Director Dr. Jon Hare. "The projects funded support surveys, bycatch mitigation, and biological studies, all with the purpose of improving the information used in the management of the sea scallop resource."

The New England Council established the Sea Scallop RSA Program to address research questions that support management of the scallop resource. The Council sets the research priorities and researchers compete for funding through a federal grant competition managed by NOAA Fisheries.



— Virginia Institute of Marine Science photo

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3. Presentation of RSA Projects

Presentations

- Eight (8) presentations
- 20 minute time slots: ~15 minute talk, then questions
- Thank you to PIs for preparing short reports



4. Scallop RSA

2019/2020 RSA Awards



New England Fishery Management Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 7, 2019

PRESS CONTACT: Janice Plante
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Scallop Research Set-Aside Program Supports 13 Projects for 2019-2020; Resource Surveys Once Again Top the List

The Atlantic Sea Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program will support 13 projects during the 2019-2020 award cycle that address resource surveys, dredge efficiency, bycatch reduction, fishery impacts on loggerhead turtles, potential offshore wind development impacts on larval and juvenile scallop transport, and more (see table on page 2 for full list). The projects focus on scallop research priorities identified by the New England Fishery Management Council, which ranked resource surveys as the highest priority.

The awards were announced [today](#) by the NOAA Fisheries Northeast Fisheries Science Center. Collectively, these awards are expected to generate more than \$14 million. This includes an estimated \$2.8 million to fund the research and \$11.4 million to compensate industry partners who harvest set-aside quota. No federal money is involved, making this a true industry-funded program.

- The New England Council approved research priorities in June 2018 for the [2019-2020 RSA projects](#).
- The Council will develop a new list of priorities at its June 2019 meeting for 2020-2021 projects.

The Council established the Scallop RSA Program to address research questions that support management of the scallop resource. Each year during the specification-setting process, the Council “sets aside” 1.25 million pounds of scallops to carry out RSA projects. The work is conducted collaboratively between

fishermen and scientists. Research results directly contribute to stock assessments and help the Council better manage the fishery overall.

While the Council sets the annual research priorities, NOAA Fisheries manages the RSA competition and administers the program.



The Barnegat Light, NJ-based F/V Kathy Ann is a long-time contributor to cooperative research under the Scallop RSA Program. — Jonathan Peros/NEFMC photo

Learn More on the
[NEFSC RSA Webpage](#)
and View the
[Award Announcement](#)

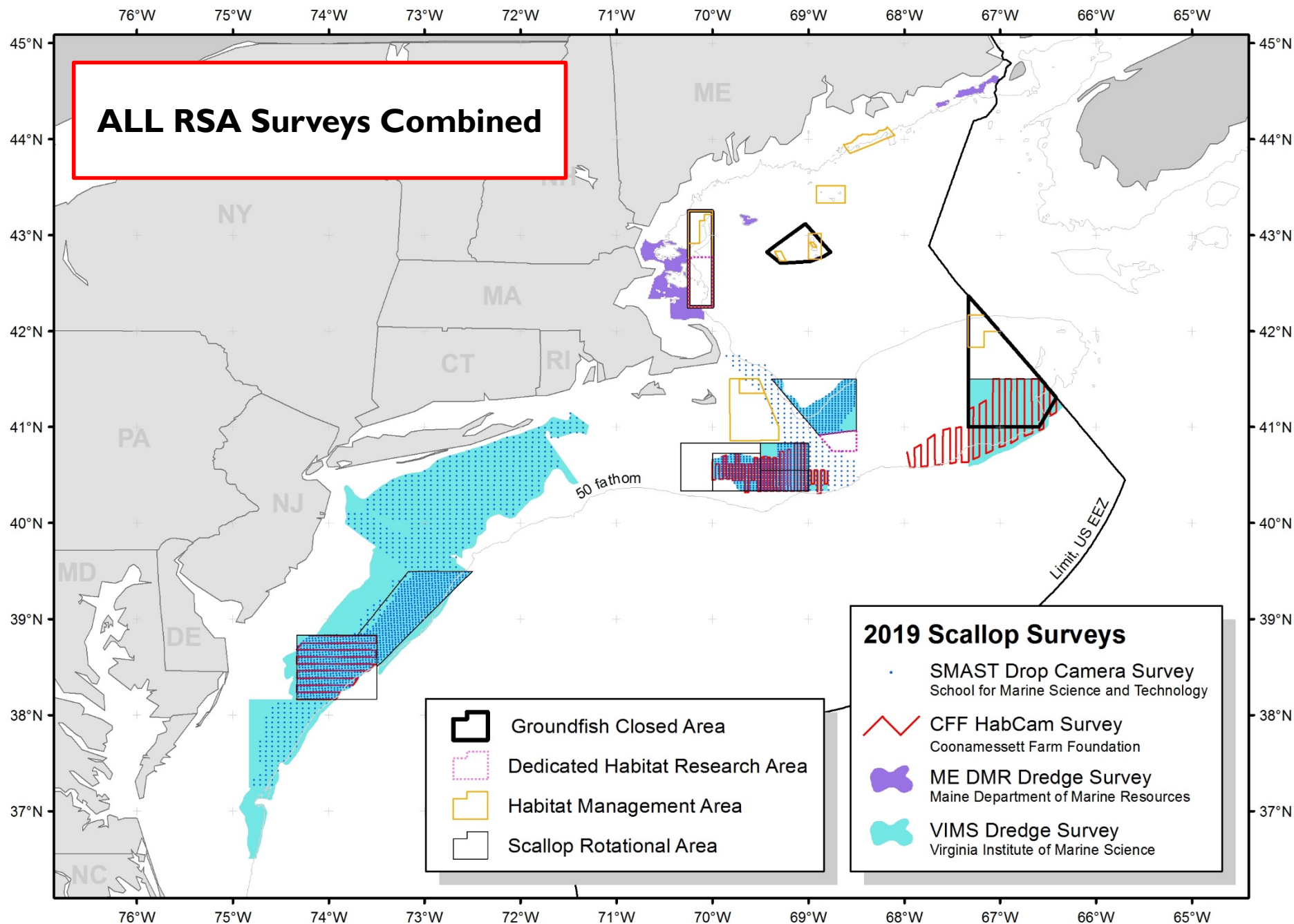
- Announced on May 7, 2019
- 13 projects recommended for funding, PIs from 6 organizations
 - Surveys (dredge, drop camera, HabCam)
- 1.25+ mil. lb set-aside expected to generate ~\$14 million dollars - ~\$2.8 to fund research, ~\$11.4 in compensation fishing (\$9.50)
- 3 projects funded for two years

2019/2020 Scallop RSA Awards

Priority	Priority Rank	Projects Funded	Research Cost
Survey*	Highest	8	\$1,680,542
Bycatch	General	3	\$728,589
Wind	General	1	\$276,573
Turtle	General	1	\$146,104
Total		13	\$2,831,808

*Survey values include dredge efficiency and deep learning/image annotation projects





2018 Council RSA Recommendations

- **FULL TEXT: Document 4d (2019/2020 FFO)**
- **HIGH** – *In order of importance (Surveys highest priority)*
 - 1a & 1b: access areas and areas of interest
 - 1c: Broadscale surveys of Mid-Atlantic and Georges Bank
 - 2: Variability in survey dredge efficiency
- **General Research Topics – *Of Equal Importance***
 - 3. Impact of offshore wind development on scallop resource
 - 4. Turtle behavior in the Mid-Atlantic & Georges Bank
 - 5. Bycatch: small scallops and non-target species
 - 6. Scallop Meat Quality
 - 7. Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) Research
 - 8. Scallop Biology Research: age and growth, M, GOM

Scallop Surveys: PDT Input

- See Document 4c
- **Surveys remain a high(est) priority –**
- Ia. Cut duplicative text
- Ib: “areas of interest” → areas where recruitment observed in 2019 surveys; keep GOM surveys in this section
- Ic: Broadscale surveys of Mid-Atlantic and Georges Bank
- 2: Variability in survey dredge efficiency → NOT HIGH
 - Several projects have been funded in recent years (2017, 2018, 2019)
 - Results can support management, but time to re-evaluate?
- New language suggested:

“An evaluation and synthesis of dredge efficiency research to support scallop fishery management. Research may focus on analyses of existing data sets.”

General Research: PDT Input

- See Doc. 4c
- **General Research Topics** – Support for this grouping vs. H, M, O
 - 3. Impact of offshore wind development on scallop resource
 - 4. Turtle behavior in the Mid-Atlantic & Georges Bank
 - 5. Bycatch: small scallops and non-target species
 - 6. Scallop Meat Quality
 - 7. Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) Research
 - 8. Scallop Biology Research: age and growth, M, GOM

General Research: PDT Input

- See Doc. 4c
- **General Research Topics** – Support for this grouping vs. H, M, O
- **3. Impact of offshore wind development on scallops**
 - New, expanded language was suggested for this FFO
 - One project funded in 2019 – Larval dispersal FVCOM
 - Against: Developers or BOEM should pay for this work. RSA should be for scallop specific work
 - Opportunity to do in-depth research, developers doing minimum
 - Council is following wind energy closely through Habitat CTE
 - 5/9 PDT call: Example of need to determine role of RSA.

Management Areas with WEAs

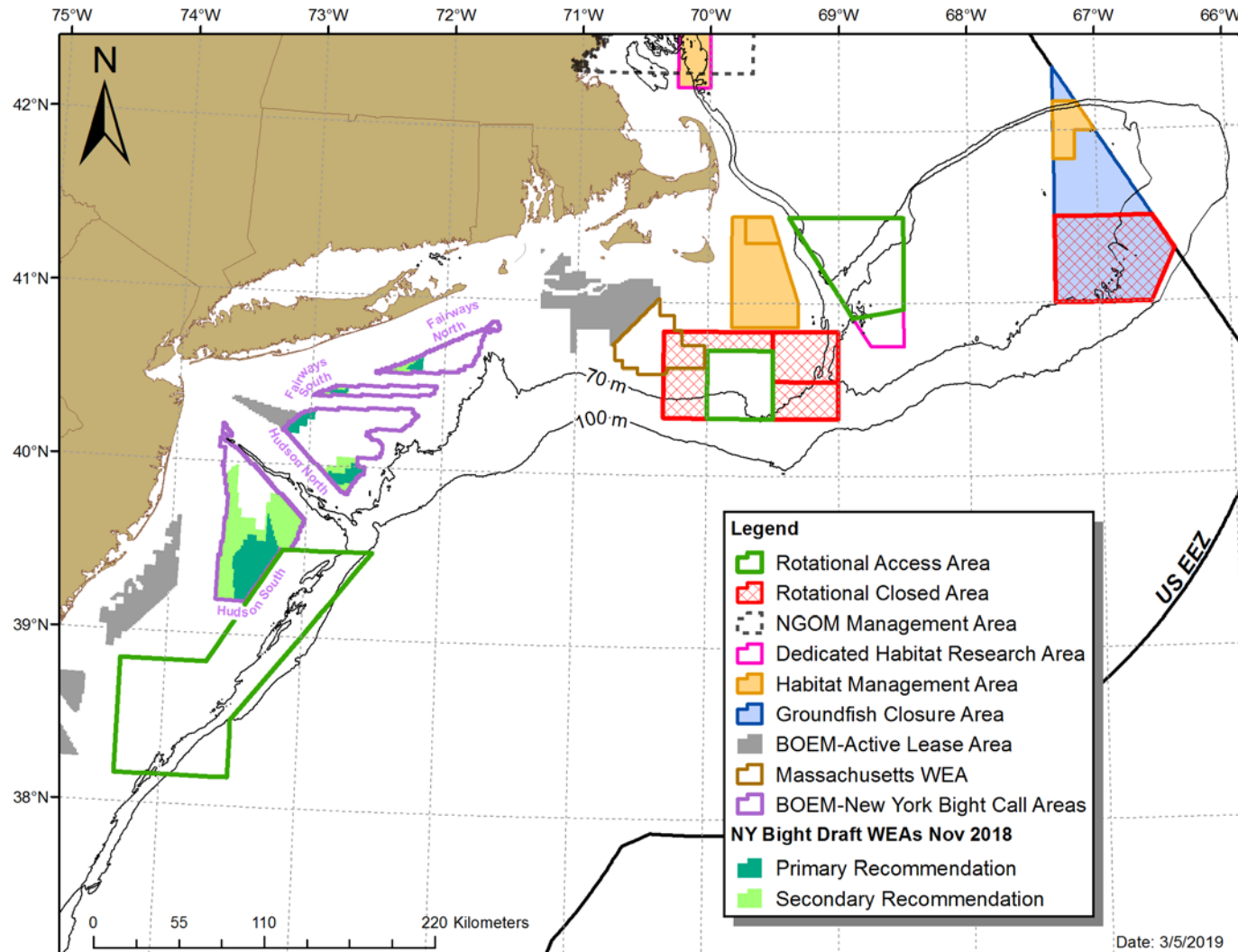
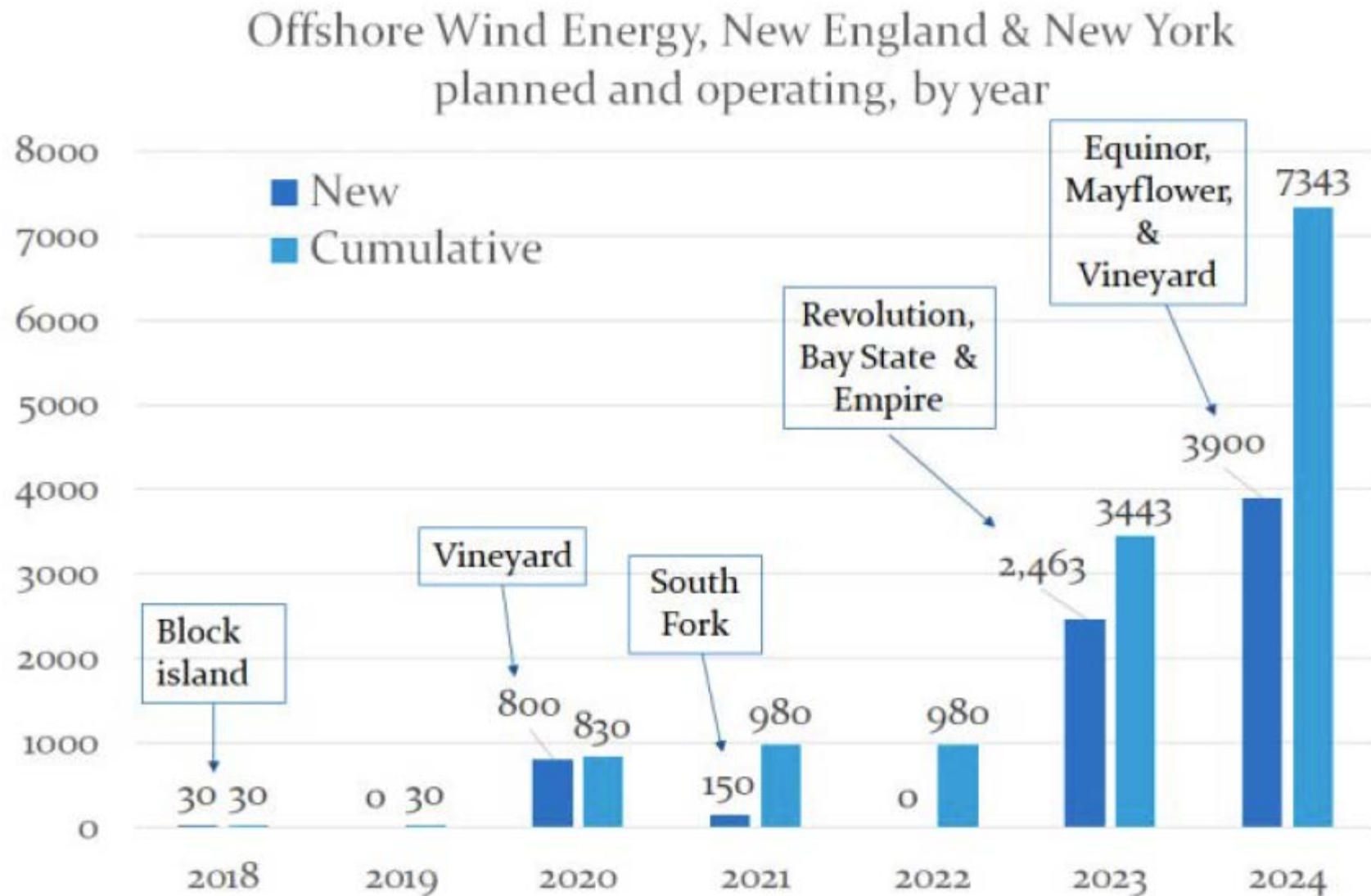


Figure 2 - Offshore wind energy planned off New York and New England



Source: MW and estimated operation timelines for projects based on U.S. Department of Energy, Offshore Wind Market Update (Sept 2018), Business Network for Offshore Wind, Market Update and Insights (March 2019), and individual developer websites.

Impacts on Surveys

Affected Center surveys

- Nearly all long-term fishery-independent surveys will be affected.
 - Integrated benthic/Atlantic sea scallop
 - Spring and autumn bottom trawl
 - Surf clam
 - Ocean quahog
 - EcoMon (plankton, physical oceanography)
 - North Atlantic Right Whale

Vessel Operation Impacts

- We should not necessarily expect the Bigelow to operate in a wind energy area.
- The Sharp and current chartered clam vessel are also not likely to operate in a wind energy area.
- Proposed medium-sized NOAA vessel or smaller platform may be appropriate, but has implications for productivity and standardization.

General Research: PDT Input

- See Doc. 4c
- 4. Turtle behavior in the Mid-Atlantic & Georges Bank
 - Area of focus: Shifts in distribution due to climate change.
 - Research being presented at RSA Share Day.
 - Interest in how data is being used in management → BiOp?
- 5. Bycatch: small scallops and non-target species
 - Interest in understanding what has been tried and tested
 - Bycatch 2nd highest funded priority area behind surveys
- 6. Scallop Meat Quality
 - Support through RSA & SK
 - Refine priority to focus on density dependence.
- 7. Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) Research
- 8. Scallop Biology Research: age and growth, M, GOM

General Research: PDT Input

- See Doc. 4c
- 7. Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) Research
 - Suggestion to take out this cycle, re-evaluate in the future
- 8. Scallop Biology Research: age and growth, M, GOM
 - Several research tracks embedded in this priority
 - Reorganize?
 - Add “Discard mortality” to be consistent with 2019-2023 priorities

General Research: PDT Input

- See Doc. 4c
- **NEW? Data collection in the Gulf of Maine:** This priority includes research aimed at developing approaches for determining optimal survey coverage, frequency, and design in Gulf of Maine. This may include research that evaluates past and current approaches to survey design in the Gulf of Maine (not just the NGOM management unit). This priority may also include projects that evaluate the cost-benefits of research survey design including coverage, frequency, timing, and survey gear, and monitoring the fishery (landings and discards) relative to the net socioeconomic benefits. Possible research includes, but is not limited to, evaluation of past and current approaches to survey design in the Gulf of Maine (not just the NGOM management unit) and simulation modelling.

Share Day Input

- Seeking input from Share Day participants on priorities
 - Staff will present input to AP and Committee
- NOT seeking consensus → Individual opinions
- **3** more public meetings to provide input.
 - Council will consider Committee recommendations during the Scallop Report on June 11, 2019





Other Business