

Scallop Report

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NEFMC Webinar



Today's Meeting

- **Framework 34 - final action**
- **Scallop Survey Working Group update**
- **Evaluation of Rotational Management – draft report**

- **Outlook:**
 - Delay in Final Action by adding new measures will delay the Framework.
 - “Decision Draft” submission of FW34 in December.
 - FW34 Implementation with Amendment 21 for start of 2022 fishing year



FW 34 Overview – 5 actions

- 4.1 – OFL and ABC for 2022/2023
- 4.2 – Northern Gulf of Maine Management and TAL
- 4.3 – Specifications for FY 2022 and FY 2023 (default)
- 4.4 – LAGC IFQ fishing in Access Areas
- 4.5 – Where RSA compensation fishing can occur

Framework 34: Purpose and Need

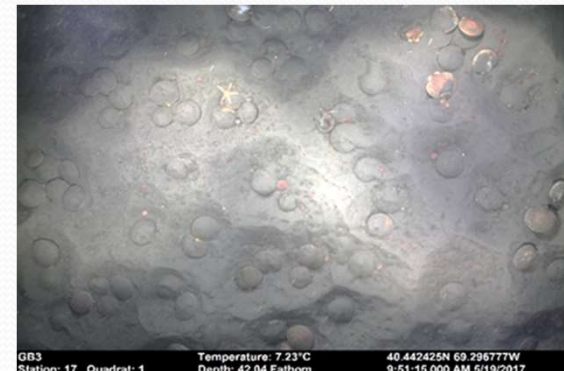
- **Need:**

- Prevent overfishing
- Improve yield per recruit
- Manage total removals from NGOM



- **Purpose:**

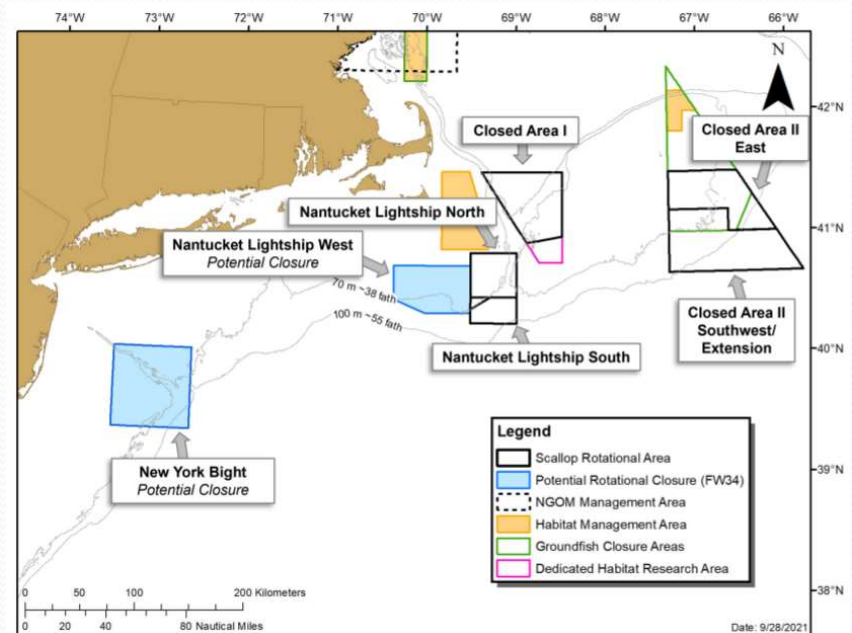
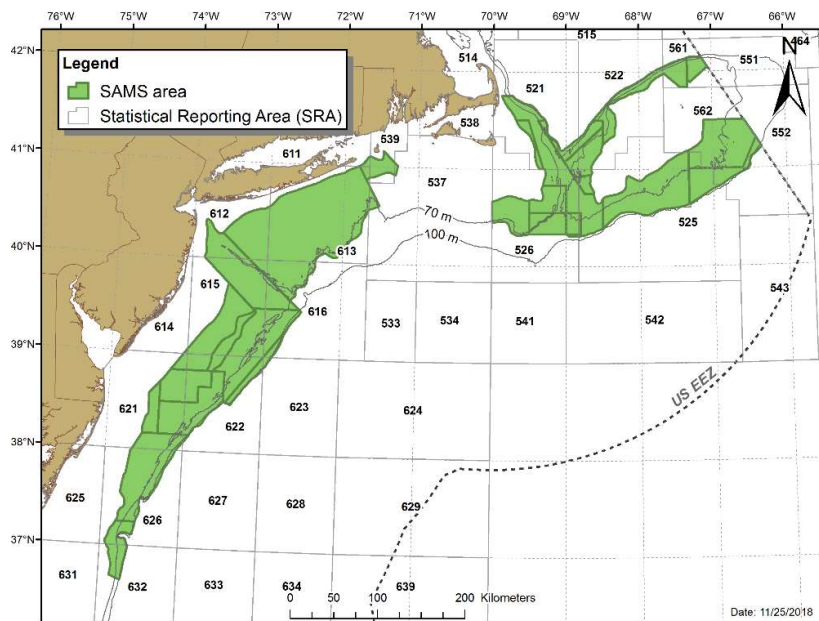
- Set Specifications, including Annual Projected Landings
- Set landings limits from NGOM based on biomass



High Density in Nantucket Lightship.
Photo Credit: SMAST

**Proposed FY 2022
ACL
(F=0.45)
56.7 million pounds**

**“Spatial Management”
FY 2022 Possible
Landings
31.6 – 36 million pounds**



Biological Considerations

- The Atlantic sea scallop resource is considered healthy; the stock is not overfished, and overfishing is not occurring.
- OFL & ABC estimates now include biomass from NGOM/GOM areas.
- Overall F for all options \leq than $F=0.27$ (ABC set at $F=0.45$).
- Risk of overfishing is low for all alternatives under consideration.
- Recent years: decline in biomass from record highs, below-average recruitment in Mid- since 2013, average on GB in recent years. Harvest levels in 2022 will have impacts on available biomass for 2023 and beyond.
- High density areas in CAII, NLS-South, pre-recruits found in NLS-West
- 2019, 2020, 2021 projections were overly optimistic in most areas. Adjusted growth expectations downward.
- Changing dynamics of fishery, with majority of biomass now found on Georges Bank. Twilight and end of exceptional 2012- and 2013-year classes.
- Highest open area F rates for open bottom fishing projected to be for Southern Flank, Northern Flank, and Great South Channel.

Actions I: Overfishing Limit and Acceptable Biological Catch

Committee Preferred Alternatives (Dec 2021)

Action I. OFL and ABC (Sec. 4.1)

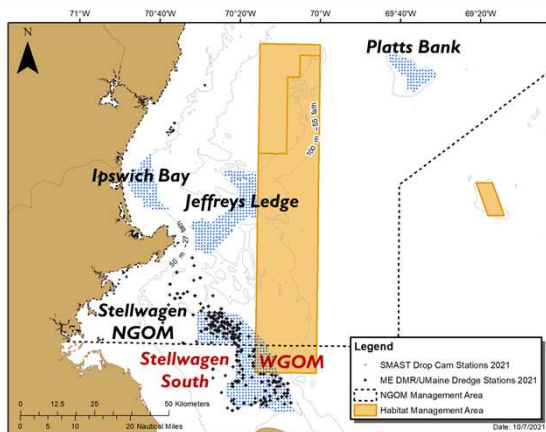
Alternative 1:
No Action
Default OFL and ABC for FY 2022

Alternative 2:
Updated OFL and ABC for FY 2022 and
FY 2023

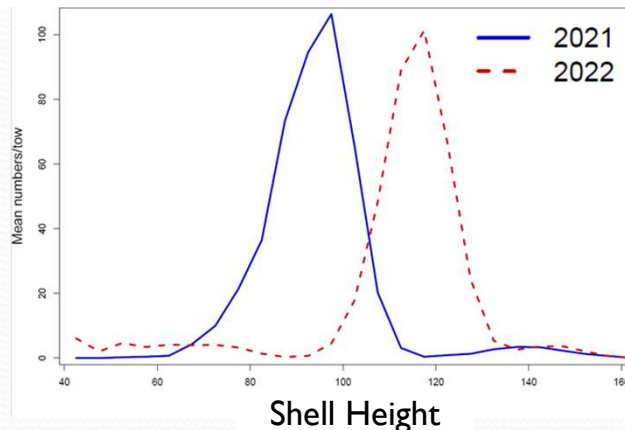


Action 2: Northern Gulf of Maine Management and TAL (2022 & 2023)

- **NEW** management approach approved in Amendment 21.
 - New TAL sharing arrangement
 - Set-asides for observers and research
- Alt 2 Options: Based on projected exploitable biomass on Stellwagen Bank, which would reopen after a two-year closure to improve YPR.
- Default measures based on 75% of 2022 NGOM Set-Aside.



Forecasted Growth for Stellwagen Area



Committee Preferred Alternatives (Dec 2021)

Action 2. Northern Gulf of Maine TAC Setting (Sec. 4.2)

Alternative 1:
No Action
FW33 Default TAC: 74,000 lbs
LAGC Share: 72,000 lbs

Alternative 2:
Re-open Stellwagen Bank, set TAL using A21 approach

4.2.2 – Select Target F rate for NGOM TAL

Option 1:
TAL at F=0.15 559,974 lbs
NGOM Set-Aside: 519,895 lbs

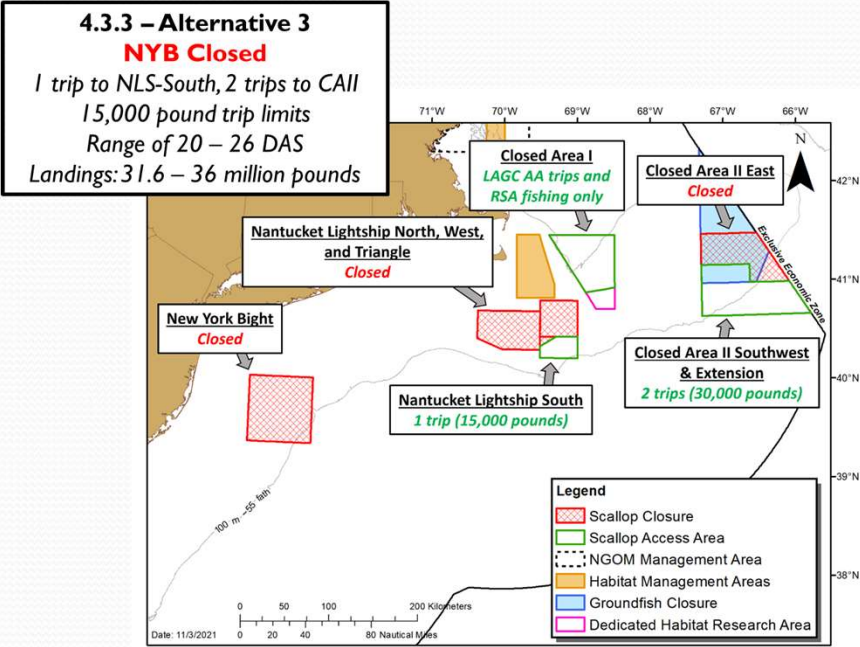
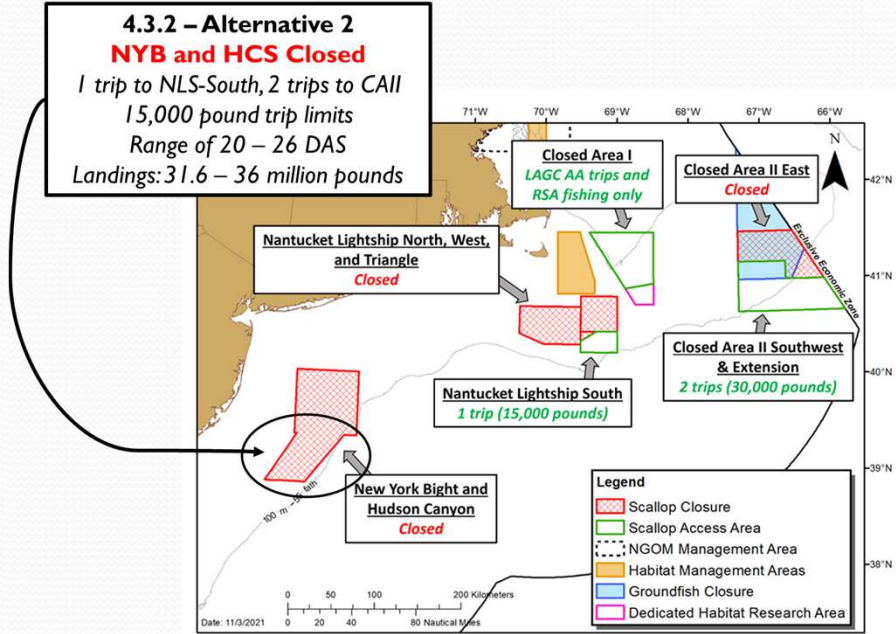
Option 2:
TAL at F=0.18, 661,387 lbs
NGOM Set-Aside: 621,307 lbs

Option 3:
TAL at F=0.2, 727,525 lbs
NGOM Set-Aside: 687,446 lbs

Specification Alternatives

Document 3a, p.5

- **5 Total Options developed in the action, including No Action.**
 - **2 Spatial Management Options – HCS closed vs. open**
 - **2 DAS options (20 or 26) fully analyzed, plus sensitivity analyses for 22 and 24 DAS for both alternatives.**
- Access area trips in two regions: Closed Area II, NLS-South. Lower trip limits proposed (15,000 pounds).
- LAGC IFQ and RSA compensation fishing in CAI.



Opportunity to finish 2022 MAAA trips

- The MAAA will not revert to open bottom until May 31, 2022 (after the first 60 days of the 2022 FY). This is to allow vessels to finish up any remaining allocations before open bottom fishing begins.

FY 2023 Default Measures

- LA – 75% of DAS, plus one access area trip in CAII
- LAGC IFQ – 75% of 2021 allocations, LAGC access area trips would be available in the CAI based on Action 4 preferred

Opportunity to Fish AA Trips in FY 2023

- Like previous actions, LA access area trips allocated for FY 2022 would be available for the first 60 days of FY 2023, even if the area is scheduled to close in FY 2023.

Action 3: Specifications

Committee Preferred Alternatives (Dec 2021)

Action 3. Specifications (Sec. 4.3)

Alternative 1: No Action
Default Measures from FW33

Alternative 2: Hudson Canyon CLOSED

20 DAS

26 DAS

Alternative 3: Hudson Canyon OPEN

20 DAS

26 DAS

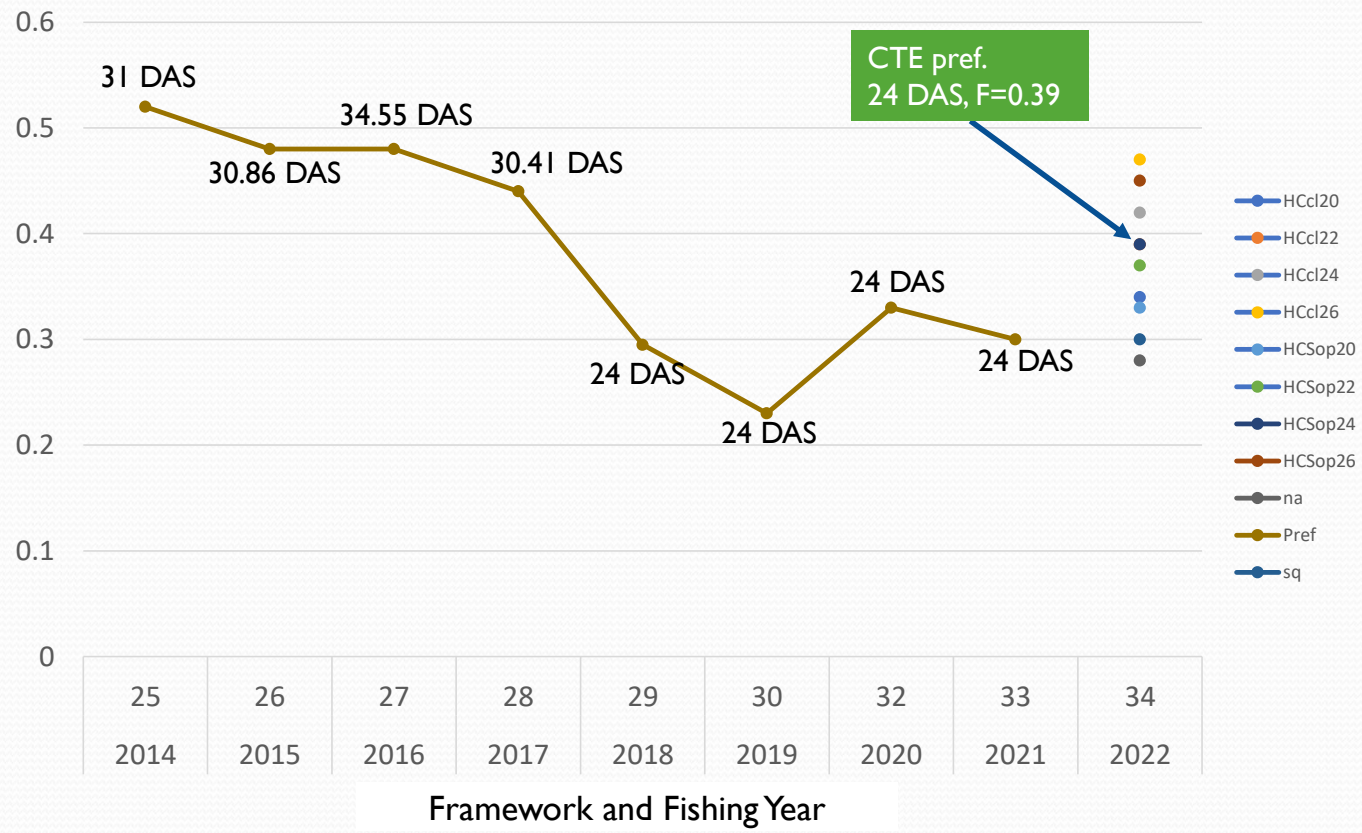
Add 24 DAS option

Alt. 2&3, CAI rotational area for RSA & GC IFQ trips

PT DAS allocations – 9.6 DAS with Committee Preferred PT Access Areas - one (1) 9,000-pound trip to NLS-S, one (1) 9,000-pound trip to CAII

If a vessel fishes any of their 2022 MAAA default trip, they will lose both trips to CAII in 2022.

Open Area F rate comparisons



- Committee preferred of 24 DAS, open area F=0.39.
- Anticipate most open area fishing on Georges Bank, F rates > 0.39 in SF, NF, GSC
- Higher F rates for GB open bottom when HCS is closed – effort redirects.
- Impacts of 22 and 24 DAS analyzed.

Summary of Economic, Social, and EFH Impacts

Committee Preferred Alternatives (Dec 2021)

Alternatives/Runs	Alt1 NA 4.3.1	Alt2 20das 4.3.2.1	Alt2 22das	Alt2 24das	Alt2 26das 4.3.2.2	Alt3 20das 4.3.3.1	Alt3 22das	Alt3 24das	Alt3 26das 4.3.3.2
Landings (mil lbs)	19.9	31.6	33.1	34.6	36	31.6	33.1	34	36
Revenue (mil.\$)	\$269.63	\$409.61	\$427.02	\$443.91	\$460.18	\$409.33	\$426.91	\$437.37	\$460.40

- Revenue estimates range from \$409 to \$460 million dollars across Alternatives 2 – 3 using price estimates from 2021 data.
- Difference in landings, revenue, total benefits driven by DAS allocations.
- Differences in benefits of specification alternatives would be small in the long-term.
- Positive social impacts relative to No Action, and with continued flexibility.
- Spatial management focuses harvest on high densities in two access areas.
- Habitat efficiency declines from recent years, likely lowest since 2014.

Protected Resources

- There are fewer PR interaction concerns in GB access areas (turtles or sturgeon) vs. Mid-Atlantic.
- Harvest in Mid-Atlantic is expected to lower in 2022 compared to recent levels.
- More DAS fishing on GB, options keep DAS effort similar to recent levels (24 DAS)
- NGOM fishery harvest levels higher than in recent years, season could extend beyond mid-May.

Flatfish Bycatch Estimates

- The projections are forecasts (with error) and should not be taken as precise estimates.
- Significant observer data limitations due to pandemic, especially on Georges Bank.
- Preliminary estimates are around or below expected sub-ACLs for FY 2021, except for NWP.

	NWP	SWP	SNE MAYT	GBYT
2022 sub-ACL	31 mt	129 mt	2 mt	19 mt
Range (Alt 2 - 3) 20 DAS – 26 DAS	86 – 115 mt	73 – 82 mt	2 – 3 mt	15-19 mt
Alt. 3 24 DAS CTE Pref.	99.02 mt	77.27 mt	2.53 mt	17.02 mt

Action 4: LAGC IFQ AA Trip Allocations

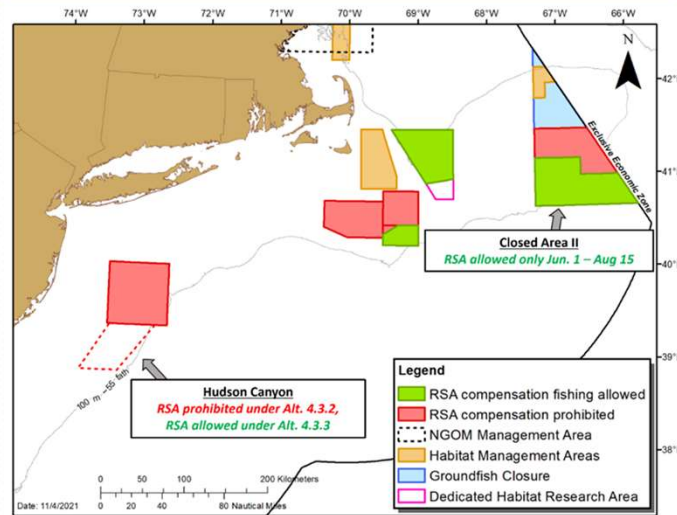
Action 4. Access Area Trip Allocations to the LAGC IFQ Component (Sec. 4.4)

Alternative 1: No Action
Default Measures from FW32
MAAA: 571 trips

Alternative 2: Closed Area II allocation to Closed Area I only.
Total allocated trips:
NLS-South: 357
CAI: 714

Alternative 3: Distribute Closed Area II Access Area Allocation evenly across the NLS-South, and Closed Area I
Total allocated trips:
NLS-South: 714
CAI: 357

Committee Preferred Alternatives (Dec 2021)



Areas where RSA Compensation fishing can and cannot occur under Alternative 2 (4.5.2)

Action 5: RSA Fishing

Action 5. Measures to Reduce Fishery Impacts: RSA Compensation Fishing (Sec. 4.5)

Alternative 1: No Action
RSA compensation fishing in open bottom only.

Alternative 2:
Open areas, plus NLS-South, Closed Area II (June 1 – Aug. 15), and Closed Area I, with limited RSA compensation fishing in the NGOM Management Area



Questions?