



New England Fishery Management Council

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 11, 2020
TO: Scallop Advisory Panel and Scallop Committee
FROM: Vincent Balzano, Scallop Committee Chair
SUBJECT: Purpose for Scallop AP and Committee meetings on June 18 & 19, 2020

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council will be holding Scallop AP and Committee meetings by webinar on June 18 and June 19, 2020. Documents for this meeting will be e-mailed to you and posted to the Council's website as they become available.

Purpose: The main objectives of the Advisory Panel meeting are to:

- 1) Review Amendment 21 Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), approve the EA for public hearings, and select preliminary preferred alternatives.
- 2) Discuss the impact the COVID-19 pandemic will have on the timing of 2021/2022 Scallop fishery specifications, RSA projects, other 2020 work priorities.
- 3) Continue discussions around President Trump's Executive Order on Promoting Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth.
- 4) Other Business

Webinar: In order to participate in the meeting, you will need to register for the webinar. Please register before the meeting begins. You can use the following links to register.

AP webinar: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8315070286252690191>

Committee webinar: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6883593008306980879>

If you do not register for the meeting you will not be able to participate in the meeting. The Council has developed an instruction guide for GoToWebinar remote participation. It can be found at [this link](#).

1. **Participating in the meeting:** To participate, you **MUST** register for the meeting. If you don't, staff will not be able unmute you.

The public and AP/Committee members will be able to participate in the webinar. Council staff will be working closely with the Chair to accommodate remote participation during the meeting. Staff will review how individuals can participate during the meeting. As with in-person meetings, questions about presentations will be entertained before taking comments. The AP and Committee will have the first opportunity to weigh in, followed by the public. Individuals interested in speaking should raise their hand on the webinar.

2. **Motions via Webinar:**
 - a. **Making Motions:** There are multiple ways to submit a motion for discussion:

- i. E-mail the motions to Jonathon Peros (jperos@nefmc.org) and Sam Asci (sasci@nefmc.org) on Council staff, and cc the Committee Chair (*preferred approach*).
 - ii. When called upon by the Chair, make a motion over the webinar (*be prepared to watch staff type*).
- b. **Seconding Motions:** You can raise your hand in the webinar to second the motion. Council staff will confirm this by voice over the webinar so it is clear who the maker and seconder of each motion are.
- c. **Discussion on each Motion:** The AP and Committee will have an opportunity to discuss each motion, followed by an opportunity for the public to comment. Please raise your hand on the webinar if you would like to speak to a motion. The Committee Chair will call on individuals who would like to address the motion. After the AP/Committee have a chance to discuss this motion, the Chair will call on members of the public.
- d. **Voting:** When the Chair is ready to call the vote, Council staff will do a roll call vote. Staff will provide the vote count, which will be confirmed by the Committee chair. At the discretion of the Chair, motions can also be approved by unanimous consent in lieu of a roll call vote.

Meeting Materials: A PDF of each document will be posted to www.nefmc.org. If you have any questions about the documents, please contact Jonathon Peros (jperos@nefmc.org; 978-465-0492 ext. 117).

MEETING MATERIALS – Subject to Change

1. Meeting Information
 - a. Meeting Agenda
 - b. Meeting Memo from Committee Chair, Mr. Vincent Balzano
 - c. Staff presentation
 - d. Remote Participation Guide
2. 2021/2022 Scallop RSA Research Priorities
 - a. Summary of Recent RSA Awards
 - b. Scallop Committee's Research Recommendations with Staff input re: COVID-19
3. Amendment 21 to the Scallop FMP
 - a. Amendment 21 Decision Document for Preliminary Preferred Alternatives
 - b. Draft Amendment 21 Environmental Assessment (EA)
 - c. Draft Appendix – LAGC IFQ Lease Cost Model and Scenario Analyses
 - d. Amendment 21 Action Plan
4. Executive Order on Promoting Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth
 - a. Staff Presentation
 - b. Executive Order on Promoting Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth
5. Relevant Meeting Summaries:
 - a. May 12, 2020 Scallop PDT meeting summary
 - b. May 19, 2020 RSA Share Day meeting summary
 - c. May 21, 2020 Scallop PDT meeting summary
 - d. May 26, 2020 Scallop AP meeting summary
 - e. May 28, 2020 Scallop Committee meeting summary
6. Correspondence

Amendment 21 to the Scallop FMP

Recent Activity: At its April 2020 meeting the Council approved the range of alternatives for Amendment 21. Council staff will provide an overview of the Amendment 21 draft environmental assessment and discuss timelines for completing this action.

Anticipated Outcomes from this Meeting:

- Select preliminary preferred alternatives.
- Approve the draft Amendment 21 Environmental Assessment for public hearings.
- Provide input to the Council regarding public hearings for this action if in-person meetings may be limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Impact of COVID-19: Outlook for 2021/2022 Specifications Process, RSA Projects

Recent Activity: As the number of confirmed cases of has increased in the United State, federal and state governments have taken steps to promote public safety and reduce the transmission of the virus. Public health policies and restrictions have had impacts on the ability for survey groups to conduct research as planned. The PDT has discussed alternative timing scenarios for the 2021/2022 specifications process at recent meetings. At this point in time, the most likely scenario is that the specifications process will be delayed by 6-8 weeks, and the Council would vote on them in January 2021. Council staff will update the AP and Committee on the status of the 2020 scallop surveys, and options for completing specifications for the 2021/2022 fishing season. As the situation for several survey groups is evolving daily, staff may have more updates by the start of your meeting.

Anticipated Outcomes:

- No action needed at this meeting. Review staff suggestions for language to the 2021/2022 Scallop RSA priorities that addresses scenarios in which survey work is delayed for a year (see Doc. 2b).

Executive Order on Promoting Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth

Recent Activity: President Trump recently signed an Executive Order on Promoting Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth. Section 4 of the Executive Order highlights that Regional Fishery Management Councils are requested to take several steps within 180 days to identify actions that would “reduce burdens on domestic fishing and to increase production with sustainable fisheries...” Staff introduced this Executive Order at your last meeting, and the AP and Committee will receive an update on guidance.

Anticipated Outcomes:

- No action is required. Consider developing an initial list of Council actions aimed at reducing burdens on domestic fishing and to increasing production with sustainable fisheries

Other Business

Anticipated Outcomes: Additional items and issues may be taken up under other business.

Please review all documents before the meeting.

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