Scallop AP and Committee Meetings

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February 26 & 27, 2020 Scallop AP Boston, MA



NEFMC Advisory Panel Policies

- Welcome and thank you for serving!
- <u>Role:</u> Support developing or amending an FMP or special issue or problem. All AP recommendations are advisory to the Committee, not binding for Committee or Council.
- Membership: Maximum of 15 individuals
 - I) Actively engaged in some aspect of commercial or recreational fisheries.
 - 2) Knowledgeable in the conservation and management of a fishery.
 - To the extent possible, membership shall reflect broad cross-section of interests and expertise from geographical distribution, user groups, etc.
 - The recreational fishing industry shall have at least one seat on the herring and habitat APs.
 - Other Councils may be invited to name advisors to serve.



Organization:

- AP Chair designated by Committee Chair, reviewed by Executive Committee and approved by Council Chair.
- AP Chair expected to routinely communicate meeting results to relevant committee.

AP Chair will be seated at the Committee table. They may not vote, but can freely enter the discussion. AP Chairs must identify comments as "discussed by the AP" or "personal input". AP Chairs must leave committee table when providing personal comments.

- A vice-Chair can be designated, but is not required. The vice-Chair may be authorized to attend committee meetings in place of the AP Chair with advance approval of the Executive Director.

Commitment:

- Number of meetings varies by panel and year - range of 0-5 per year.



Appointments:

- After three years performance and attendance will be reviewed. If needed, new members will be solicited to fill any vacancies.
- All members must apply for re-appointment at the end of each 3-year term.
- Neither proxies nor designees shall serve in place of appointed advisor.
- Prior to selection, nominees are subject to additional level of review by NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement.

Termination:

- The Council may replace an AP members at it's discretion if he/she:
- I) transfers employment or moves;
- 2) absent for two or more consecutive meetings without adequate notification;
- 3) appears unable or unwilling to fulfill obligations;
- 4) area of expertise no longer required; or
- 5) for just cause (e.g. marine violation, failure to show respect for other panel members, disruptive behavior, etc.).



<u>Travel Authorization and Reimbursement:</u>

- Eligible for reimbursement of travel expenses incurred while attending authorized meetings (e.g. mileage, hotel overnight, meals, etc.), subject to availability of funds.
- Reimbursed from APs primary residence, as reflected on application.
- To qualify for overnight lodging, your travel distance must be over 50 miles or requires your are available before 6 a.m. or after 8 p.m.
- Additional guidance found in Operations Handbook pages 38-40.
- Questions on travel? Contact us before travel takes place.

What to expect:

- Staff may send poll by email before a meeting to identify possible meeting dates, and sometimes a date will just be selected by the Committee Chair.
- Prior to a meeting staff will email memo from Chair with meeting purpose.
- Monitor you emails from staff and check website frequently.
- To the extent possible, come prepared with draft motions and discussion points.

Meeting Ground Rules

- Come to every meeting prepared, when possible review documents from staff before arriving at the meeting.
- Follow the agenda as managed by the Chair (i.e. stay on topic).
- Participate in the discussion! You are here for a reason share your knowledge.
- Listen respectfully to the comments of others; give other opinions honest consideration.
- Be open to points of view that may differ from your own.
- Discuss the issues avoid personal attacks.
- Avoid profane language.
- Sustain a professional meeting environment before, during and after meetings.



Behaviors that are unacceptable

- Ridicule of another person's opinions or suggestions.
- Threats aimed at anyone.
 (Council/AP/PDT member, staff, public).
- There is a zero tolerance harassment policy.
 - This includes verbal, non-verbal or physical harassment that has the purpose or effect of creating a hostile environment. It also includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal or physical conduct based on sex.
- Discrimination on the basis of: sex, race, religion, color, national origin, age, sexual orientation, disability, or reprisals for whistle blowers.
 - Council leadership is committed to these standards.
 - Please contact the Council Chair, Vice Chair, or Executive Director if you are concerned that these standards are not being upheld.

Thank you!

- The Council appreciates your time and effort.
- Your participation is a critical step in this overall process.
- Your input is important and valuable.
- We look forward to working with you.
- Any questions, contact our staff anytime.

(978) 465-0492





Today's Meeting:

Objectives:

- Review progress on A21 and recommend changes/ additions to draft alternatives. Looking for input through motions.
- Discuss 2019 Fishery Performance & 2020 Priorities.
- Receive updates and information on a range of issues.

Meeting Outlook:

- Scallop PDT, Mariners House, Boston, MA. March 17, 2020
- Scallop AP and Committee Meetings on March 26 & 27, 2020
- Scallop Report at the April Council meeting in Mystic, CT

FW32 Update

- Proposed Rule Published February 20, 2020.
 - Comments due by March 6.
 - https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=NOAA-NMFS-2019-0148
- Preliminary submission on February 7, 2020.
- Target Implementation: April I

2020 NGOM Fishery Update

- LAGC TAC overage in 2018 (3,718 lbs over)
- New 2020 LAGC TAC: 206,282 lbs

2020 Priorities and Vehicles

The Council took final action on 2020 priorities in December.

Each column represents a way to address the priority

Specs Package	Framework	Amendment	Other
Specifi	cations	Amendment 21	RSA Support Ongoing
			Tracking flatfish catch

2020 Priorities

New Council Policy on Adding Priorities Mid-Year

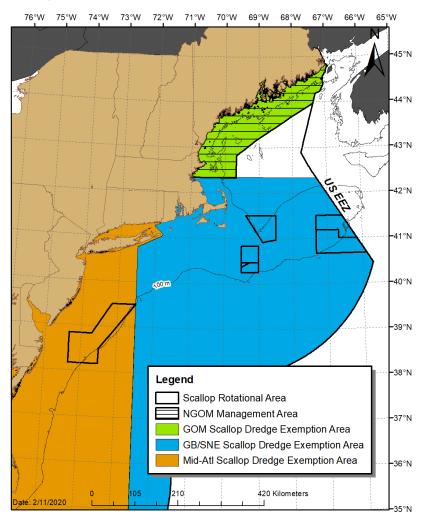
- In December 2019, the Council adopted a new procedure for adding work priorities mid-year.
 - First, changes must be taken up by the Committee before being brought to the full Council.
 - Second, to modify the priority list mid-year, the Council must approve the change by a 2/3 majority vote of members present.
- If the AP/CTE would like to modify the list of 2020 priorities, the Committee would need to recommend the change, and then the full Council could take up the recommendation at its next meeting.

Recent adjustments from NMFS rule

- NMFS implemented new regulations on February 14, 2020 to:
- modify dredge exemption areas to encompass all of the Channel and Eastern Georges Bank
 - Stemming from industry request in September
 2018
- 2. Require pre-land notification for LA vessels on open area DAS trips
 - outcome of 2018 scallop priority on monitoring and catch accounting

New dredge exemption areas

- Dredge exemption areas define where LAGC IFQ component can fish open trips
- Modifications made:
 - SNE and GSC areas combined, expanded east to include all of GB (blue area)
 - Inshore area off RI/CT/Long Island now part of GB/SNE area
 - GOM area now north of 42° 20'
- Same rules apply for GB/SNE area—10.5' dredge, retain only scallops and up to a limit of monkfish



LA open area pre-land

- New requirement for LA vessels—must submit a pre-landing notification at the end of each open area trip via VMS unit
- This was a Council request to NMFS in June 2018:
 - Create reporting parity with LA access area and LAGC IFQ trips
 - Assist monitoring efforts by OLE
 - Improve overall compliance

Amendment 21:

Documents for this meeting

Information available in:

- Doc. Ic Staff presentation
- Doc. 3a Draft Alternatives (looking for feedback)
 - Remove? Add? Modify? Motions or Consensus, please.
 - Will update again for March 26/27 meetings.
- Doc. 3b Draft Affected Environment (in progress)
 - More information will be added before the next meeting.
- Doc. 3c Gulf of Maine Appendix from SARC 65
 - Detailed information in surveys, landings, etc.
- Doc. 3d Amendment 21 Action Plan

Amendment 21:

Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan

for Amendment 21



(Northern Gulf of Maine and Limited Access General Category Amendment)

Prepared by the

New England Fishery Management Council

- Action is addressing:
 - I. NGOM Management
 - LAGC IFQ possession limits
 - One-way transfer of IFQ from LA to LAGC IFQ
- Council approved scoping document at January 2019 meeting.

Northern Gulf of Maine

Why is the Council proposing to take Action:

See page number "I" in Scoping Document

- Consider measures that will support a growing directed scallop fishery in federal waters in the NGOM.
 - Prevent unrestrained removals from the NGOM management area
 - Allow for orderly access to the scallop resource in this area by the LAGC and LA components.
 - Establish mechanisms to set allowable catches and accurately monitor catch and bycatch.

LAGC IFQ issues (2 & 3)

Why is the Council proposing to take Action:

See page number "I" for full text in Scoping Document

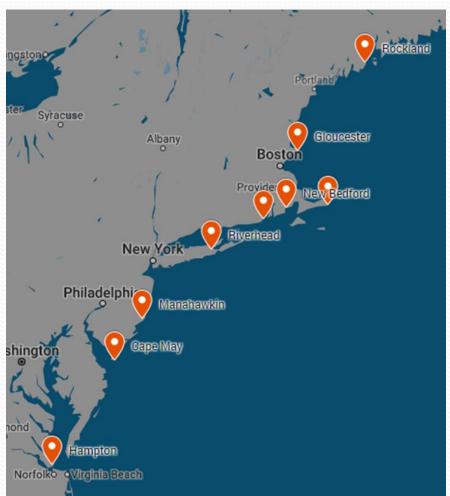
- Develop measures that will (2) increase the LAGC IFQ possession limit and (3) allow LA vessels to transfer quota to LAGC IFQ vessels as a way to improve overall economic performance of the LAGC IFQ component.
 - LAGC IFQ component remains profitable.
 - Continued participation in the GC fishery at varying levels.
 - Reduce the impacts of decreases in ex-vessel price and increases to fixed costs and variable costs on vessels and crews.

Description of Commenters

Home state of commenters

State	Number of commenters	% of Total Commenters
ME	20	27%
MA	24	33%
RI	3	4%
NY	2	3%
NJ	15	21%
DC	3	4%
VA	3	4%
Unk.	3	4%
Total	73	100%

A21 scoping meeting locations.



Amendment 21 Timelines

Short Term Outlook

- February 26/27, 2020 \rightarrow Provide input on range of alternatives
- March 26/27, 2020 \rightarrow Provide input on range of alternatives
- April 14 16, 2020 → Council votes on range of alternatives
- May AP/CTE → Select preferred alternatives, review DEIS
- June Council → Council approve DEIS, select preferred alternatives for scoping

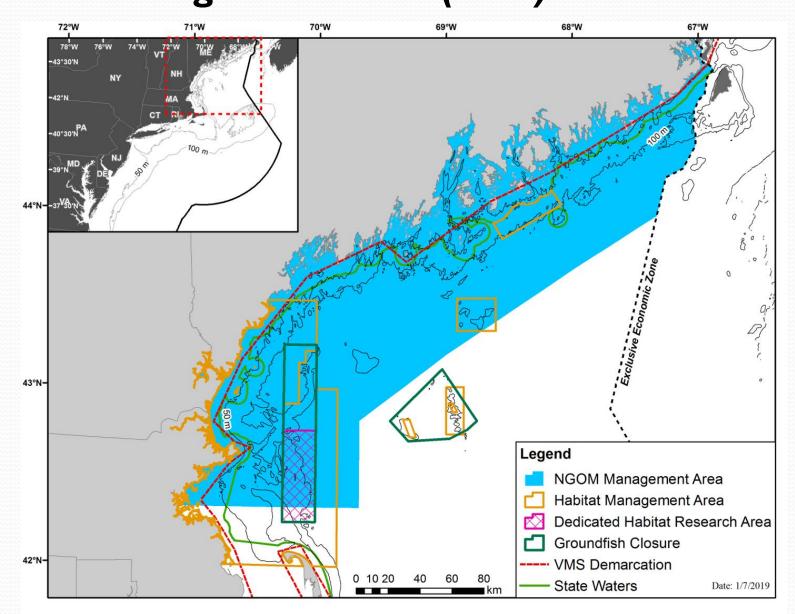
After June, begin to focus on FW development. Take final action on A21 in early 2021.

Northern Gulf of Maine

Amendment II Vision Statement

- "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 smaller coastal communities."
- The NGOM area was developed to enable continued fishing and address concerns related to conservation, administrative burden, and enforceability of scallop fishing within the Gulf of Maine.
- The initial measures were intended to allow directed scallop fishing in the NGOM, and the Council envisioned that management of this area would be reconsidered if the scallop population and fishery in the NGOM grew in the future.

Northern Gulf of Maine NGOM Management Area (blue)



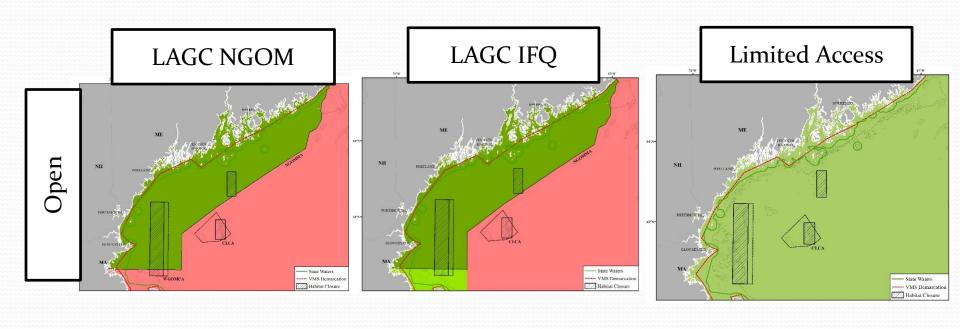
Northern Gulf of Maine:

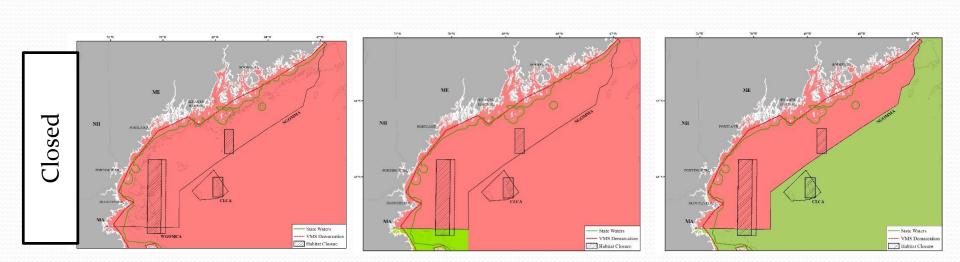
Original Measures Developed Through A11

The following measures were in place until the Council took temporary action through FW29. Some have remained in place.

- I. Hard TAC for LAGC Only
 - 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
- 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

NGOM: Comparison of Access By Permit Original Measures Developed Through AII





Northern Gulf of Maine

Recent Framework Actions: Temporary

- In response to the increase in effort and landings by both the LAGC and LA components in the NGOM area in 2016 and 2017, the Council developed a problem statement in Framework 29 for the federal scallop fishery in the NGOM management area.
- Recent high landings and unknown biomass in the Northern Gulf of Maine Scallop Management Area underscore the critical need to initiate surveys and develop additional tools to better manage the area and fully understand total removals.
- Measures in recent FW actions are considered temporary until a new, permanent management regime is put in place (i.e. via Amendment 21).

Northern Gulf of Maine

Evolution of Management Approaches

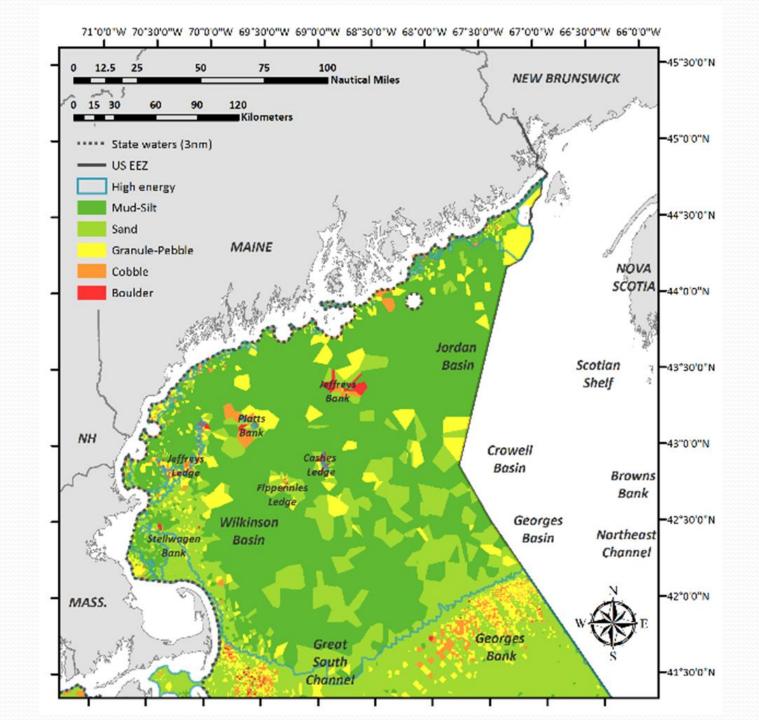
Initial Approach (FY 2008 – 2017)	Recent Council Actions (FY 2018 – 2020)		
One TAC for LAGC component	Separate TACs for LA and LAGC		
TAC based on historic catch, exploitation rates	TAC set using survey data and projection model		
LA fish DAS while area is open; LA can fish inside and outside on same trip	LA share used to support RSA in NGOM; RSA trips must declare into NGOM area		

200 pound possession limit for LAGC vessels (IFQ and NGOM)

Area closes when a TAC is reached

NGOM is data-poor relative to GB & MA

- NGOM has not been regularly surveyed, no time series
- Intermittent, focused surveys in areas likely to hold scallops
- Distribution of the resource in NGOM is patchy;
 majority of animals in federal waters found on ledges or banks
 - Recruitment in the area has also been intermittent.
- Removals from GOM have represented a small proportion of total landings



Outlook for modeling Scallops in the NGOM

- Work done through SARC 65 (2018) to assess data needs to identify ways to develop catch advice.
 - This TOR was a Council priority. Appendix in materials.
- Integrating the NGOM into the model used to set OFL/ABC & allocations for Georges Bank and the Mid-Atlantic is a possibility right now, but more area specific data should be collected.
 - Model uses estimates of shell-height meat-weight relationships, growth, natural mortality, fishing mortality, and recruitment.
 - In the past, the Council has used a mix of NGOM and GB specific assumptions to help set TAC in the area (2018, 2019, 2020)

Outlook for modeling Scallops in the NGOM

- The earliest the NGOM could be included in the current assessment models (CASA & SYM) for status determination is 2024 (Research Track Assessment).
- Based on available data, staff think that this optimistic.
 - SARC 65 addressed a situation in which scallops that were not modeled in CASA were accounted for in evaluation of status. (NLS-S-deep).

Mean biomass estimates for all areas of NGOM, Scallops greater than 75mm, UMaine/ME DMR dredge survey

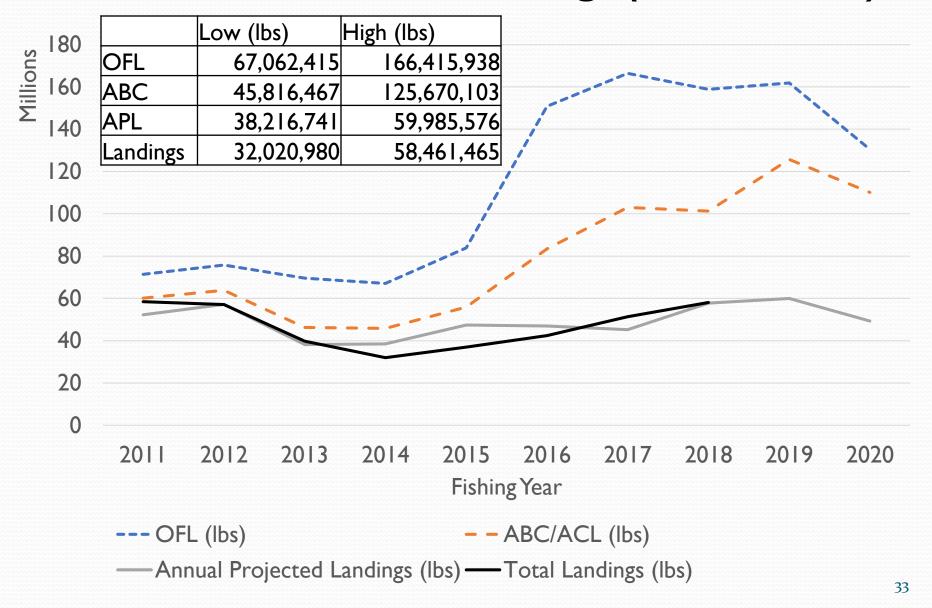
- 2012 Survey: ~600k pounds
- 2016 Survey: ~5.2 million pounds
- 2019 Survey: ~3.7 million pounds

By comparison, the TOTAL projected exploitable biomass for FY 2020 was:

- Northern Flank: ~2.8 million pounds
- Closed Area I Sliver: ~6.9 million pounds
- Hudson Canyon: ~16.6 million pounds

Scallop Fishery on GB and MA

Recent OFL, ABC, ACL, Landings (2011 - 2020)



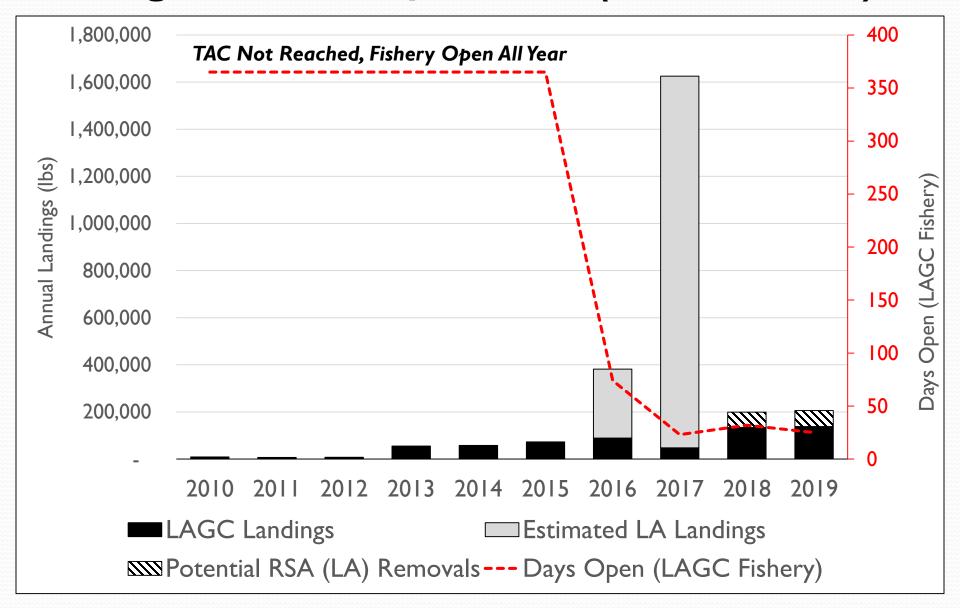
Scallop Resource in the NGOM Total NGOM Landings compared to GB & Mid

Fishing	Total	Total Fishery	% of Total
Year	NGOM	Landings	Landings
	Landings		
2011	6,908	58,461,465	0.01%
2012	7,440	57,098,684	0.01%
2013	55,450	39,807,589	0.14%
2014	57,842	32,020,980	0.18%
2015	72,546	36,974,195	0.20%
2016	381,600	42,423,177	0.90%
2017	1,625,457	51,325,269	3.17%
2018	133,882	58,100,342	0.23%
2019	138,246	TBD	TBD

- Totals reflect fishery allocations, and area specific F rates.
- Several factors that influence NGOM proportion of overall TAC.
- 2016 & 2017 NGOM landings include LA and LAGC harvest.

Northern Gulf of Maine

Landings: Recent Performance (LA and LAGC)



Scallop Permit Data

Permit Information

Limited Access: 347 Total

- 266 FT LA permits (11 can use trawls)
- 54 FT small dredge & 32 PT small dredge permits

LA Permits with LAGC B/C permits in 2019: 146

- 28 LA w/ NGOM (Cat. B)
- I 18 LA w/ Incidental (Cat. C)

There are roughly 340 total Cat. B/C Permits

~100 are currently issued as NGOM (Cat B.)

LAGC Activity in the NGOM Trends in Participation (2010 – 2019)

Both Cat. A (IFQ) and Cat. B (NGOM) permits

- Number of active vessels has increased from ~ 10 in 2010-2012 $\rightarrow \sim 40$ in 2016-2019.
- Average landings per trip has increased from ~70 lbs in 2010 to just shy of the 200lb trip limit in recent years.
- Increases in participation from vessels based in ME and MA, NH activity stable. Last two FY:
 - ME: ~25 Active vessels
 MA: ~12 Active vessels
 - ME: ~500 NGOM trips MA: ~175 NGOM Trips

LAGC Activity in the NGOM

Revenues from NGOM Scallop Fishing (LAGC B)

	Scallop	Percentage of
	Revenue from	total revenue
	NGOM	from NGOM
	scallop trips	scallops
2010	\$63,541	9.30%
2011	\$62,606	8.90%
2012	\$69,945	8.60%
2013	\$634,468	61.20%
2014	\$620,269	25.10%
2015	\$753,760	29.80%
2016	\$1,030,948	22.90%
2017	\$455,707	11.10%
2018	\$1,126,612	23.10%
Source: NOAA/GARFO/APSD July 23,		
2019.		

Cat. B (NGOM) permits only

- 84 total permits have been active from 2010-2019.
 - Roughly 60% have been active for either 1 or 2 years.
- Among active LAGC vessels that fished in the NGOM, revenue from directed scallop trips has accounted for between 8% and 61% of total revenues.

Activity in the NGOM

LAGC Landings Ports

Both Cat. A (IFQ) and Cat. B (NGOM) permits

- Number of landings ports has increased over time.
 - ~7 between 2010-2012 \rightarrow 15-19 between 2014-2019
- Landings in ME, MA, NH over time series.
- Over 100,000 lbs of scallops from NGOM trips landed in Gloucester, MA in 2018 and 2019 (both years).
- Landing port appears to be related to proximity to fishing grounds.

Approach for Alternaitve Developmentwith AP/Committee

- PDT referred to Committee Tasking (see next slides) and earlier discussions. Developed a range of options that would establish how the allocation in the NGOM is shared.
- 2. Looking for feedback and input at this meeting.
 - Motions or consensus.
- 3. PDT will incorporate Committee input, update documents for March meetings.

Amendment 21: NGOM

Steps taken in May, 2019:

- Reaffirmed AII vision statement, NGOM objectives
- Committee Tasking to Develop Alternatives that:
 - 1. Allocate to LA and LAGC, under range of biomass
 - 2. Minimize current derby style fishery, lengthen season
 - 3. Reliably monitor and report catch and bycatch
 - 4. Establish a NGOM RSA program
 - 5. GRA (10.5') in NGOM and GOM dredge exemption
 - Remove requirement for state licensed IFQ vessels to use IFQ when fishing NGOM during state season (New - state waters exemption issue)

Amendment 21: NGOM

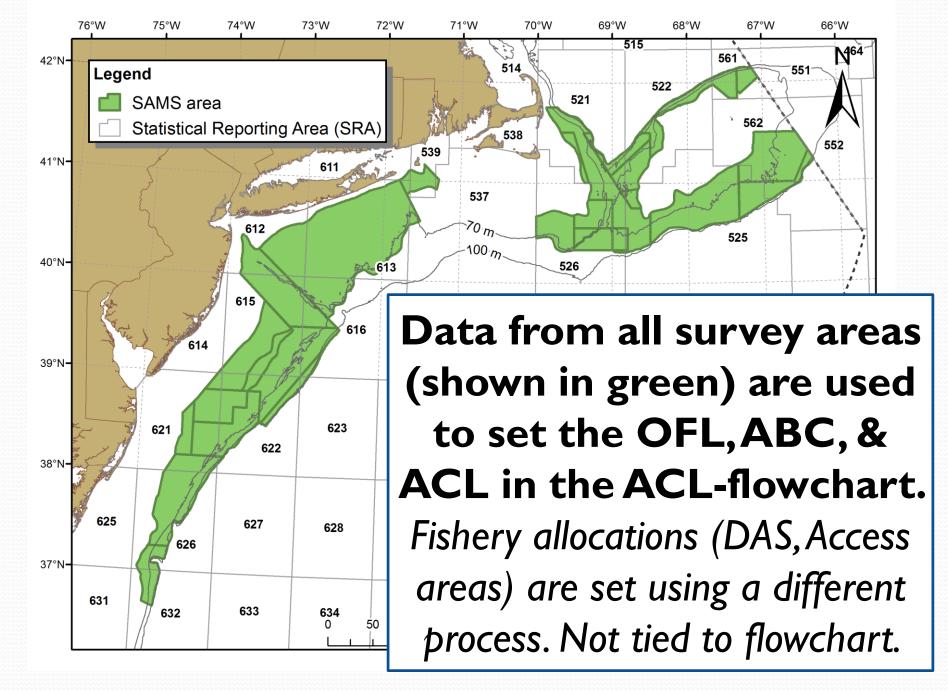
Steps taken in September 2019:

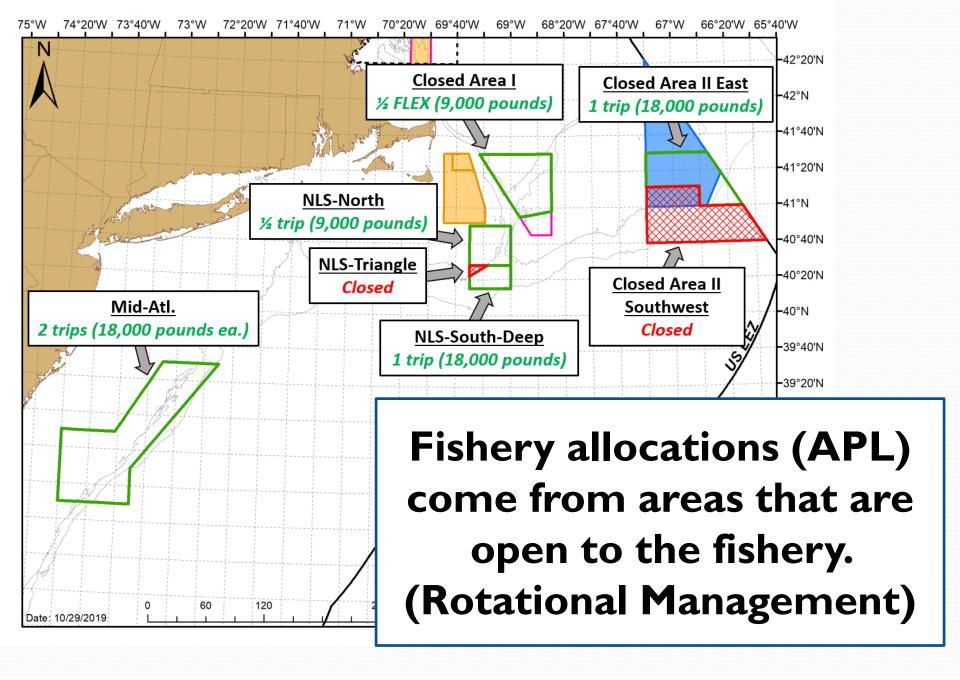
- Staff presented "Strawman" concept → now Alt. I
 (4.1.2.1 in Doc. 3a)
- Committee Tasking to develop alternatives that:
 - Allocate to LA and LAGC maintain a separate NGOM TAC for the rest of the fishery (outside the ACL flowchart)
- Committee Tasking: to analyze and delineate sub-areas in the NGOM with high levels of scallop biomass.

Scallop Allocations and ACL-Flowchart

How do we account for scallops in the FMP?

- The Council accounts for scallops using two sets of books.
 One set is to track the legal limits (ACL flowchart), the other tracks annual allocations to the fishery and vessels (APL).
 These are separate processes.
- The ACL-flowchart is used to set legal limits for scallop landings.
 This includes the OFL, ABC, ACL. Scallop from all areas (open and closed) on Georges Bank and in the Mid-Atlantic contribute to these values.
- Annual Projected Landings are the estimated harvest from areas that are open to the fishery on Georges Bank and the Mid-Atlantic. (Rotational management)
- At the end of the year, we compare the APL to ACL-flowchart values to determine in accountability measures are triggered.
- A21 is considering moving NGOM into the flowchart.



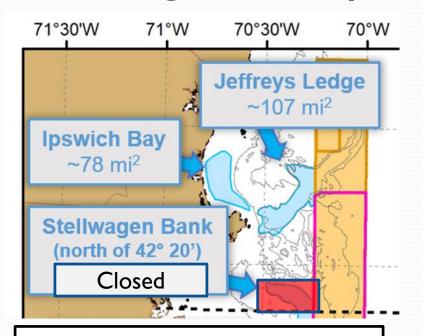


Scallop Fishery Management How are scallops in the NGOM accounted for?

- The Council currently uses a third process to determine harvest (TAC) in the NGOM management area.
- It is similar to the approach used for spatial management (setting the APL), and is only for the NGOM management unit. Survey data from specific areas, just like rotational management, is used to project scallop growth, then an F rate applied to set TAC.
- Currently, scallops in the NGOM do not count toward the ABC or ACL, and are not part of projected landings.
- Moving the NGOM into the flowchart would not change how TAC is set, it would include the NGOM in an existing process used to establish legal limits for GB & MA.

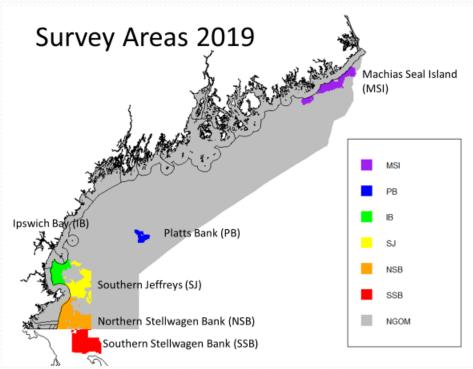
Northern Gulf of Maine Allocations

Accounting for Scallops "Inside the ACL flowchart"



Allocations are based on a sub-set of surveyed areas, like the rotational program for GB/MA. 2020 example.

If the NGOM is "Inside" the ACL flowchart, biomass from all surveyed areas would count toward the OFL, ABC, ACL.



Staff Input re: accounting for NGOM in flowchart

- At lower harvest levels, under the original management structure, and accounting for the NGOM as part of OFL (with state waters) has worked.
- Over the past five years, management in the area has become more complex, with more user groups accessing scallops.
- The lack on monitoring in the NGOM should be addressed, and inclusion in the ACL flowchart can help with this.
- If biomass in the area increases, legal limits should scale with actual allocations.
- Scallops are managed as a single stock throughout the range, currently no plans to change this (EX: Split GB/MA).

Committee asked for options that keep NGOM outside of the flowchart, and some that integrate the area in with the rest of the fishery.

- Scenario I Status Quo Do not add into flowchart.
- Scenario 2 Incorporate the NGOM into the ACL flowchart.
- This choice does not have a direct impact on allocation decisions, but it has implications for other decisions the Council is likely to make in Amendment 21. Such as:
 - How to fund research, fishery monitoring.
 - Range of options for allocating to the LA and LAGC.

What allocations can be changed in Amendment 21?

 Council has the discretion to set and change allocations. It recently adopted a policy that spells out how reviews of existing allocations will be conducted.

Scoping Document – A21 may consider:

- "An allocation split between the Limited Access and Limited Access General Category components for the NGOM management unit..."
- "The action may change how landings by IFQ vessels in the NGOM are accounted for..."

Allocations from Georges Bank and Mid-Atlantic are split 94.5% for LA and 5.5% for LAGC IFQ. The Council did not seek comment on this at scoping.

Current approach; unique allocation situation in this area

- Current approach developed in FW29 does not add to LAGC IFQ or LA allocations. NGOM TAC supports research and a directed common pool LAGC fishery.
- A21 should address how to allocate to three permit categories in this management area:
 - LAGC NGOM (no individual allocations, common pool area TAC)
 - LAGC IFQ (vessel level allocations)
 - LA (vessel level allocations)
- Not a "simple" split between the GC and LA.
 - IFQ boats operate using quota and need quota to go fishing.

Split: 50/50 between GC and LA

How would allocating 3 mil. Lb NGOM TAC work?

3 million lb NGOMTAC

Split TAC 50/50

Between GC and LA

GC NGOM TAC	LA	
1,500,000 lbs	1,500,000 lbs	

Framework 25
Fishing Year 2014
Annual Projected Landings
~38 million Ib allocation from GB and MA

LA (94.5%)	LAGC IFQ (5.5%)
35,910,000 lbs	2,090,000 lbs



Combined Fishery Allocations (NGOM + APL)

GC NGOM TAC	LA	LAGC IFQ
1,500,000 lbs	37,410,000 lbs	2,090,000 lbs

No individual allocations to NGOM (LAGC B vessels)



This scenario, NGOM allocation to the LAGC component is ~3/4 of the overall IFQ allocation



LA Share > 94.5%

LA = 94.7%

LAGC IFQ = 5.3%

No Additional Allocation to the IFQ

component from NGOM

Scenario: NGOM Set-Aside Approach

How would allocating 3 mil. Lb NGOM TAC work?

3 million lb NGOMTAC I.5 million lbs set-aside for Research and LAGC

Set-Aside	LA	LAGC IFQ	2
~1 500 000 lbs	1 417 500 lbs	82 500 lbs	

Roughly 50/50, and allocates to IFQ

Framework 25
Fishing Year 2014
Annual Projected Landings
~38 million Ib allocation from GB and MA

LA (94.5%)	LAGC IFQ (5.5%)	
35,910,000 lbs	2,090,000 lbs	



Combined Fishery Allocations (NGOM + APL)

"LAGC" NGOM	LA	LAGC IFQ
~1,500,000 lbs	37,327,500 lbs	2,172,500 lbs

No individual allocations to NGOM (LAGC B vessels)



This scenario, NGOM allocation to the LAGC component is ~3/4 of the overall IFQ allocation



LA Share = 94.5% LAGC IFQ = 5.5%

Additional Allocation to the IFQ component from NGOM

Accommodating the unique allocation situation in this area

- The "set-aside" is one way to allocate to all user groups (vessel level allocations and common pool TAC) that:
 - Allows the Council to use different allocation splits for the NGOM management area (EX: 50/50);
 - And can maintain allocation splits for LA/LAGC IFQ
- The set-aside can be scaled upward as biomass in the NGOM grows.
 - Could consider a "tiered approach" (Alternative 2).
 - This doesn't need to be as complex as the example that is used.
- The Council is currently allocating the first 70k lbs to the LAGC component, and then splitting the remaining TAC for additional LAGC harvest and research.
 - Set-aside approach formalizes concepts that the Council has used in the last three FWs.

Action I - NGOM Allocations Scenario 2, "Set-Aside Approach"

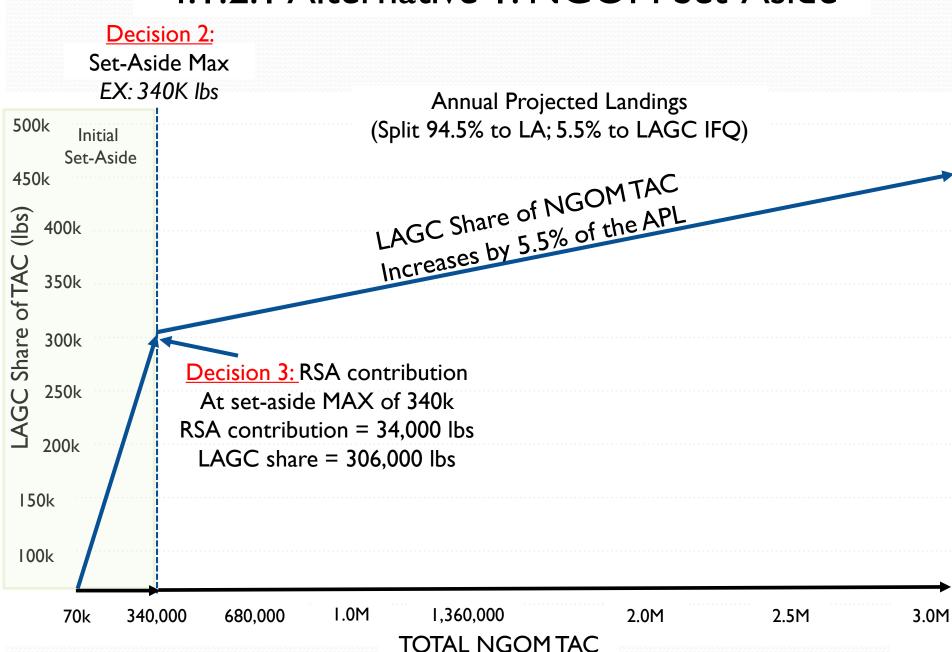
The architecture of the "set-aside" is intended to address Committee tasking by:

- Supporting Research: Pounds for the Scallop RSA
- Support directed General Category fishery
- Access for IFQ and LA at higher level of biomass
 It also:
- Reflects existing management approaches on GB/MA;
- Can be administratively efficient
 - Fund monitoring in the NGOM (observers, EM?) using existing processes

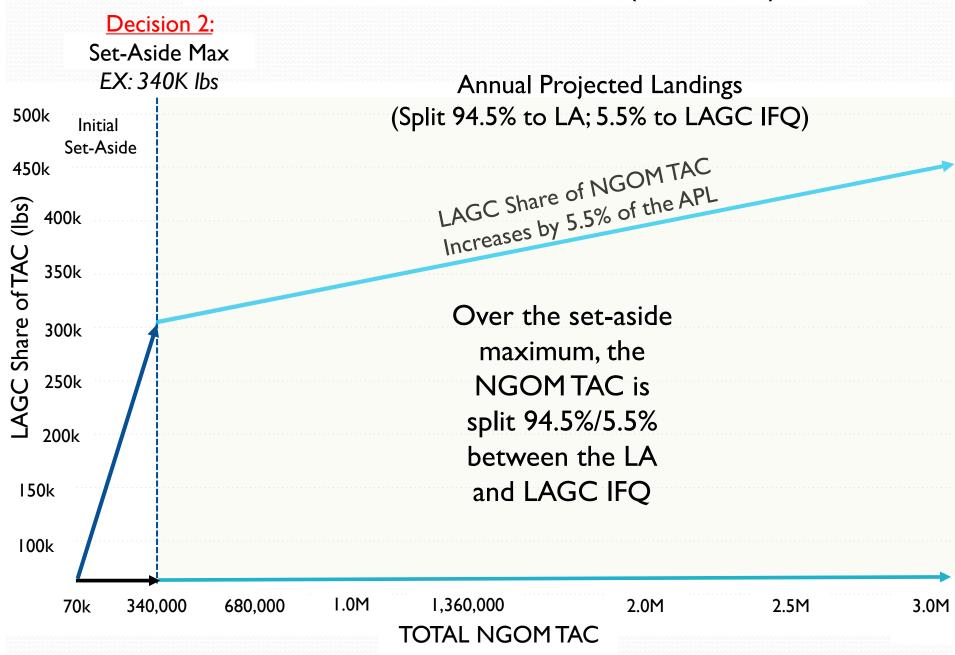
Create a NGOM Set-Aside (former strawman) Scenario 2, Alternative I (4.1.2.1)

- Exploitable biomass in the NGOM would contribute to the overall OFL and ABC.
 - Biomass would contribute observer set-aside (e.g. 1% of the ABC).
 - Could leverage infrastructure of existing observer program.
- Create a formal "set-aside" for the NGOM management area.
 - Decision Point I: What is the default F rate for setting the target TAC in the NGOM, which would be based on exploitable biomass of open areas?
 - <u>Decision point 2</u>: What is the maximum amount that should be set-aside for LAGC harvest and RSA?
 - At or below this value, the set-aside is shared for LAGC harvest and research.
 - Decision point 3: How much of set-aside to contribute to the RSA (%)?
 - Decision point 4: Determine harvest rules for LA and LAGC IFQ.

4.1.2.1 Alternative 1: NGOM Set-Aside



4.1.2.1 Alternative I (Doc. 3a)

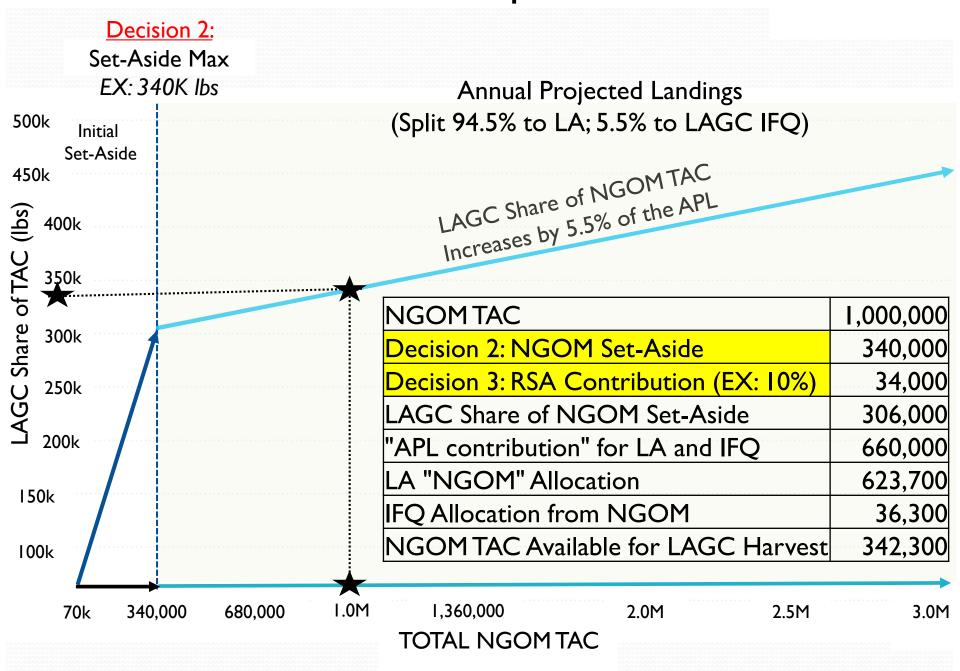


Example from Doc. 3a

Scenario 2, Alternaitve I (4.1.2.1.1)

- Decision I: Set the TAC using F=0.2, and assume the NGOMTAC is I million pounds. (F=0.2 is consistent with the F rate used to set the NGOMTAC in FW32)
- Decision 2: Set the "maximum" NGOM set-aside at 340,000 pounds, which is the LAGC IFQ share of a 6 million pound access area trip.
- Decision 3: Allocate 10% of the NGOM set-aside to the RSA.
 (Maximum 34,000 lbs to RSA)
- Decision 4: Determine access for LAGC IFQ and LA during Framework action.
- Decision 5: Cap the LAGC allocation in the NGOM at 3% of the APL. (This was the percentage of landings that came from the NGOM in 2017, both LA and LAGC)

4.1.2.1.1 Alternative I Example: I million lb NGOM TAC



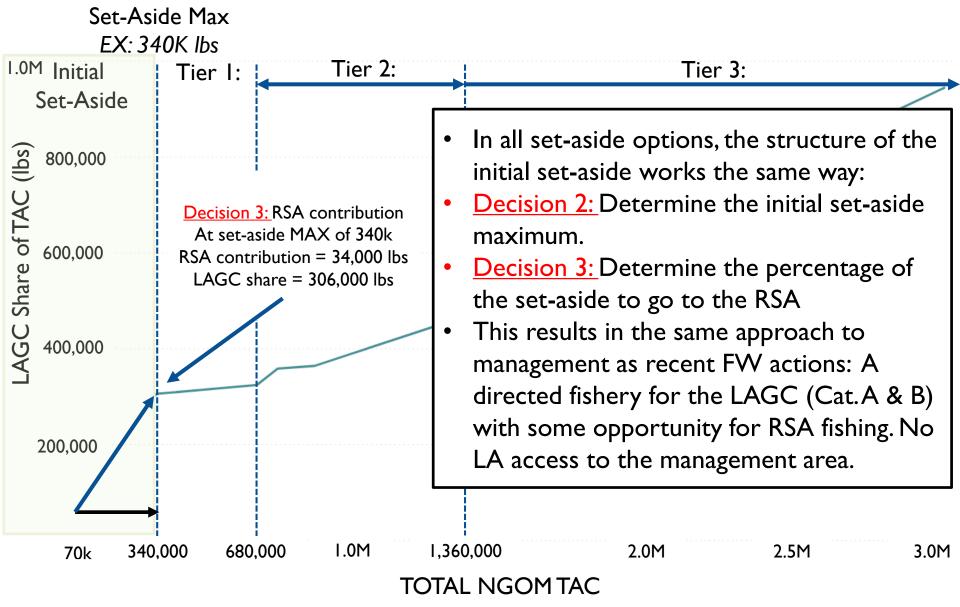
NGOM Set-Aside with Tiered Approach

Scenario 2, Alternative 2 (4.1.2.2)

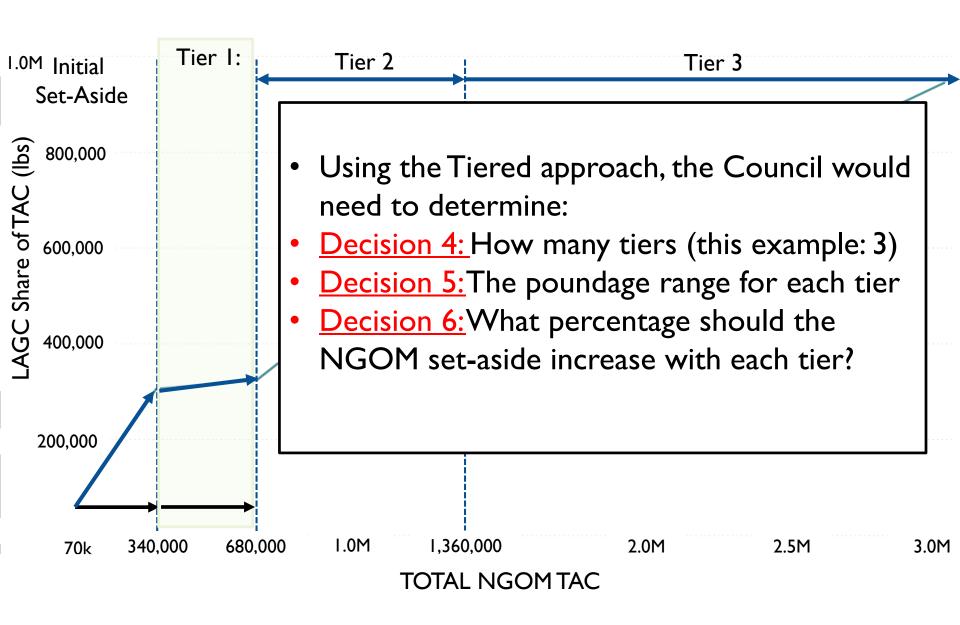
- Same concepts as Alternative I, but allowing the share of the NGOM TAC that is available for LAGC common-pool harvest to increase as biomass in the area changes.
- Additional decision points, such as how many tiers to use, and how much set-aside would increase in each tier.
- Following example is a more complicated approach to show what is possible. PDT also discussed using one tier as a way to scale up biomass.

4.1.2.2 Alternative 2: Tiered NGOM Set-Aside





4.1.2.2 Alternative 2: Tiered NGOM Set-Aside



4.1.2.2 Alternative 2: Tiered NGOM Set-Aside

Assume 3 million lb NGOM TAC (based on an F)

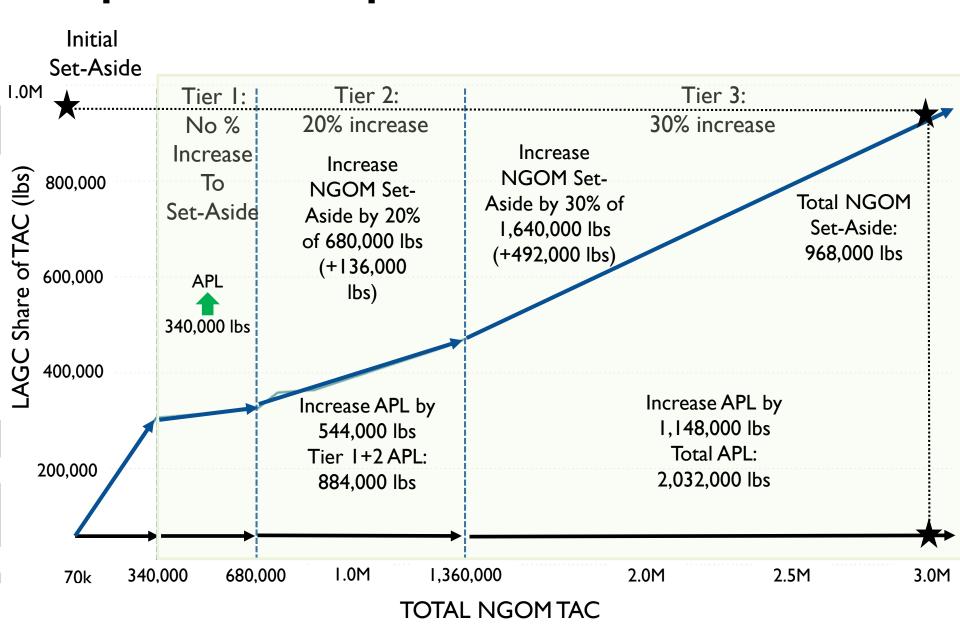
- Decision 2: Initial set-aside at 340,000 lbs
- Decision 3: Contribute 10% of NGOM set-aside to the RSA
- Decision 4: Create 3 tiers for scaling up set-aside
- Decisions 5 & 6:

	Poundage Range	% increase
Tier I	340k – 680k lbs	0%, no scaling
Tier 2	680k – 1.36 mil lbs	20% scaling
Tier 3	Greater than 1.36 mil.	30% scaling

4.1.2.2.1 Alternative 2: Example of Tiered NGOM Set-Aside

- Rationale for increasing the NGOM set-aside as the biomass in the NGOM increases:
 - Allows a directed fishery for LAGC at lower levels of biomass.
 - Allows access to all fishery components when biomass begins to increase above the set-aside MAX. (Tier I % < Tier 2 & Tier 3%)
 - Increases the % to the NGOM set-aside when biomass in the management unit increases.
 - Create additional opportunity when fishery can support directed effort by all permit categories.
 - Current structure only allows GC Cat. B permits to fish the management area. If the scallops episodically show up in this part of the stock area, accommodate some level of additional access.

Option 4 Example: 3 million lb NGOM TAC



Tiered Approach, distribute TAC to GC and LA Scenario 2, Alternative 3 (4.1.2.3)

- Similar concepts as Alternative 2, but does not create a set-aside to support research and LAGC fishing.
- Instead, the Council would establish access programs for the LA, LAGC NGOM, and LAGC IFQ in each tier.
- Included in the document to show a wider range of options for allocating the NGOM.
 - EX: Does not include pounds to support research

Status Quo

Scenario I, Alternative I (4.1.1.1)

- Revert to original NGOM measures.
- I. Possession limit of 200 lbs for all LAGC IFQ and NGOM boats
- 2. LAGC IFQ catch applied against NGOM TAC and individual IFQ
- 3. LAGC Incidental catch is not applied against TAC, 40 lb possession limit
- 4. Landings from NGOM vessels fishing exclusively in state waters are not deducted from TAC
- 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
- 7. NGOM landings not included in annual projected landings used to set overall allocations for LA and LAGC IFQ components

First 70k to GC, then 50/50 split GC and LA Scenario I, Alternative 2 (4.1.1.2)

- The LAGC share would be calculated by applying the first 70,000 lbs of the allocation to LAGC TAC, and then splitting the remaining pounds 50/50 between the LAGC and LA component.
- The LAGC and LA would operate under separate TACs.
 The NGOM management area would remain open for each component until their TAC is projected to be harvested, even if the other component has reached its TAC.
- This option would not add to the LAGC IFQ quota. All GC allocation would be for the common pool in the NGOM.

Monitoring the directed NGOM fishery

Current Status & Outlook

- The PDT did not develop any specific monitoring options in this version of the draft alternatives, but we plan to...
- Currently no mechanism to put observers on NGOM declared trips.
- Staff suggestion is for the Council to develop:
 - Short term options of addressing the lack of observer coverage in the NGOM.
 - Long(er) term options that would support data needs for managing the NGOM.
 - Options that would allow the use of electronic monitoring (camera systems) in lieu of at-sea observers in the NGOM management area.

NGOM Season – Section 4.2 (Action 2)

Tasking: Options to minimize the NGOM derby.

Rationale: Expand opportunities across fishing year.

PDT Developed Four Options for Discussion (4.2)

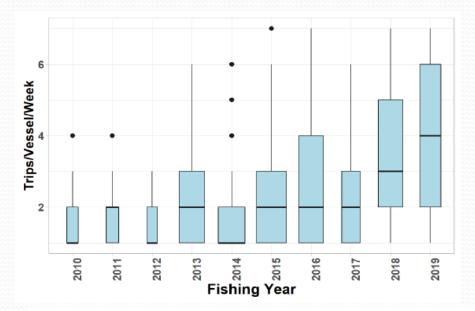
- No Action
- 2. Limit the number of landings per week
- 3. Limit vessels to one sailing per day
- 4. Partition the NGOM into multiple areas with TACs
- 5. Partition the NGOM into multiple seasons

AP/CTE: Do these options address the tasking?

NGOM Season - data

Tasking to develop options to minimize the derby.

- 2. Limit the number of sailings per week
- 3. Limit vessels to one sailing per day



Trips per week, per vessel. In general, number of trips per week has increased for fleet. Some vessels fishing 7 days a week. Number of LAGC vessels with multiple sailings per day in the NGOM Management Area, and the total number of times this occurred

V				
FY	Vessels with	Total number of		
	more than I	occurrences		
	trip/day			
	Did not occur 2010 – 2013			
2014	3	3		
2015	1	I		
2016	2	2		
2017	4	4		
2018	7	9		
2019	6	13		
Source: NOAA/GARFO/APSD				

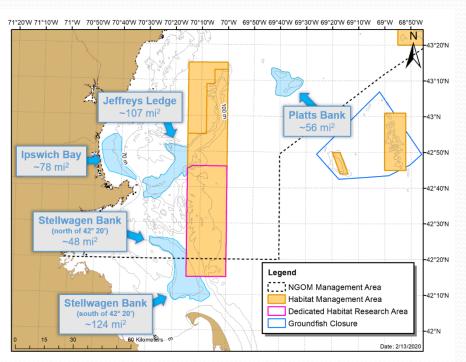
NGOM Season - data

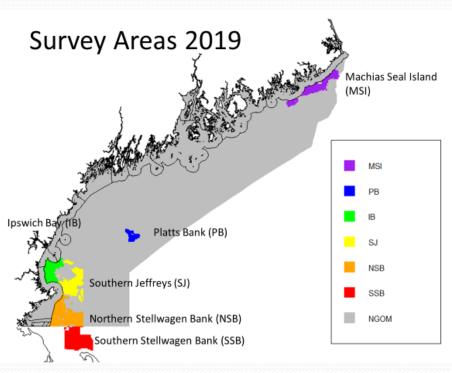
Tasking to develop options to minimize the derby.

PDT: delineate sub-areas in the NGOM with high levels of scallop biomass

4. Partition the NGOM into multiple areas with TACs

Approximate size comparison of recently surveyed scallop fishing areas of the NGOM relative to proposed access areas on Georges Bank for FY2020.



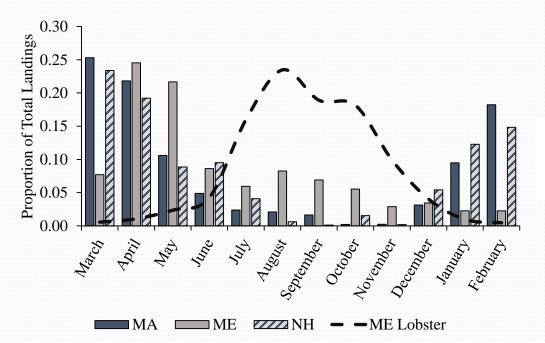


Surveys have focused on areas of scallop biomass in recent years.

NGOM Season

Tasking to develop options to minimize the derby.

5. Partition the NGOM TAC into multiple seasons



The monthly proportion of cumulative annual NGOM scallop landings (FY2010-FY2016) vs. monthly proportion of cumulative annual Maine lobster landings (FY2010-FY2015) (ME DMR). NGOM landings are ordered by homeported state of active vessels.

- From 2010 2015 (March 1 start to FY), fishery open year-round.
- Vessels from ME, MA, NH dispersed effort across the year, with limited landings during the summer.
- Recent increase in biomass has fostered derby fishery, with NGOM open for ~ one month (April).

NGOM Season – AP/Committee Input Looking for guidance on options to include in A21

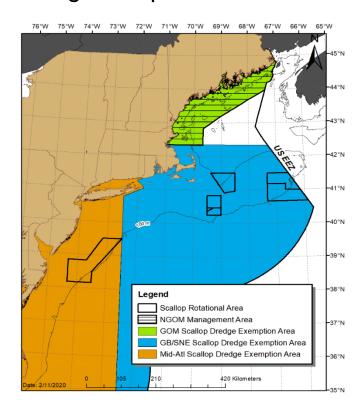
- The PDT is looking for feedback on the alternatives that have been proposed in response to Committee tasking.
- The AP and Committee should be ready to weigh in if they agree/disagree with the measures that have been developed.
- The Committee may wish to include several of the following alternatives in the Amendment and could select multiple items as preferred.
 - EX: Limit sailings per day and landings per week
- Some options could be identified for future development in a Framework Action (NGOM seasons, areas) vs. specifying this in Amendment 21.
- Looking for feedback by consensus/motions on Action 2.

NGOM Gear Restricted Area

Task the PDT to develop options for GRA in GOM

- Three options for consideration:
 - I. No Action
 - 10.5' GRA for all scallop vessels in NGOM management area
 - I5.5' GRA for all scallop vessels in NGOM management area
- 2 and 3 would limit the FT LA component that can currently fish a combined maximum dredge width of 31'.
- Looking for input on rationale for these options; what are the objectives and/or problem?

Scallop Dredge Exemption Areas as of February 14, 2020. Gear restricted area Options 2 and 3 would cover the entire green area, which is the GOM Scallop Dredge Exemption Area.



Northern Gulf of Maine Underlying Assumptions

Survey data is available for the NGOM management area.

AP and Committee: Do these reflect your thinking?

- There southern boundary of NGOM remains at 42°20' N.
- Trip limits in the NGOM for GC vessels remain at 200 lbs.
- IFQ counts against the NGOMTAC and individual quotas.
- LAGC IFQ vessels would have the flexibility to fish allocations outside the NGOM (like access area allocations).
- RSA pounds from the NGOM would be part of the existing scallop RSA program (not creating a new RSA program).
- Pounds from the observer set-aside would be available to support monitoring in the NGOM area (if part of flowchart).

Amendment 21: IFQ

Steps taken in May 2019:

- Reaffirmed AII vision statement
- Committee Tasking to Develop Alternatives that:
 - I. Increase the IFQ trip limit in all areas (up to 1,200 lbs)
 - 2. Increase IFQ trip limit in only access areas
 - 3. Allow permanent and temporary transfer of IFQ from LA to LAGC IFQ (added at Jan. Council)

Update on A21 LAGC IFQ items

Committee tasking in May 2019 to develop:

- Range of alternatives for increasing LAGC IFQ possession limit
 - From 800 pounds to 1,200 pounds
 - Alternatives for open/access area trips and access area trips only
- Range of alternatives for one-way transfer of quota from LA with IFQ to LAGC IFQ-only:
 - Permanent and temporary transfers
 - Temporary transfers only

see Doc.3a, section 4.3 & 4.4 for draft alternatives in progress

LAGC IFQ possession limit

- Committee was prescriptive in tasking (identified range of alternatives to be included in A21), so not much else needed at this time:
 - 800 pounds, 1,000 pounds, 1,200 pounds—suboptions for 1) open and access area trips, or 2) only access area trips
- 2018 trip limit analyses remain relevant and will be revisited at next step of A21 development

One-way transfer from LA with IFQ to LAGC IFQ-only

- Committee prescriptive in tasking alternatives to be included in A21 re: one-way transfer of quota from LA with IFQ to LAGC IFQ-only
 - Allow 1) permanent and temporary transfer or 2) temporary transfer only
- <u>Temporary transfer-only option:</u> most straightforward, does not require changes to how allocations are estimated
- <u>Permanent transfer option:</u> pretty straightforward, but some tweaking in contribution factor calculation would be necessary
- Potential decision point related to quota accumulation caps that AP/CTE may wish to weigh-in on

Mechanics of IFQ allocations

- LAGC IFQ program established through A11
- Allocations to LAGC IFQ qualifiers based on contribution factor (CF):
 - $CF = vessel's best year \times years active index$
- Contribution factor translated to percentage:

$$contribution \ percentage = \left(\frac{vessel's \ CF}{sum \ of \ all \ CF}\right) \times 100$$

- Vessel level allocation proportional to total allocation to LAGC IFQ (5% of APL):
 - $vessel\ allocation = CP \times total\ LAGC\ IFQ\ allocation$

Scaling to LAGC IFQ fleet allocation

- Contribution factors remain constant, but LAGC IFQ allocation (5% of APL) scales from year to year—see Table 2
- When permanent transfers happen between LAGC IFQ permits, it is the underlying contribution factor that is being bought or sold (i.e. not necessarily the pounds...)

Table 2. Example of allocations to an IFQ vessel with a contribution factor proportional to 1% of overall IFQ

allocation		Vessel A		
FY	total LAGC IFQ allocation (5% of APL)	contribution percentage = 1% of LAGC IFQ allocation		
2011	2,910,102	29,101		
2012	3,095,450	30,955		
2013	2,227,142	22,271		
2014	2,202,859	22,029		
2015	2,700,663	27,007		
2016	4,067,529	40,675		
2017	2,261,943	22,619		
2018	2,805,500	28,055		
2019	2,998,287	29,983		

Temporary transfers only

- This alternative would allow one-way transfer from LA with IFQ to LAGC IFQ-only on temporary basis (i.e. annually)
- Everything would look the same, but more quota could be available to LAGC IFQ-only (i.e. LA with IFQ quota allocation, 0.5% of APL)

Table 1. FY2019 allocations to the LAGC IFQ-only and LA with IFQ fleets through FW30

Fleet	FY2019 Allocation	% of APL
LAGC IFQ ONLY	2,998,287	5.0%
LA with LAGC IFQ	299,829	0.5%
Tota	3,298,116	5.5%

Accounting for permanent transfers

- Permanent transfer of quota from LA with IFQ to LAGC IFQ-only means that contribution factors are moving from different pools of quota (i.e. o.5% APL → 5% of APL)
- Solution: estimate contribution percentages of both components together (i.e. out of 5.5% of APL instead of 5% and 0.5% separately)
 - This doesn't change allocations at the vessel level for either component, but does allow for quota to be permanently transferred to LAGC IFQ-only

LAGC IFQ Quota Caps

- quota accumulation caps:
 - Maximum per permit: 2.5%
 - Maximum per owner: 5%
- Does not include allocation to LA with IFQ (0.5% of APL)
- If more quota is available to LAGC IFQ-only, should existing caps apply to 5% of APL, or scale upward to account for LA with IFQ share (0.5% of APL)?
- See example in Table 3—cap would scale up by 10%

Table 3. Example of current quota accumulation caps and adjusted caps to include LA with IFQ share of

allocation.				Vessel Maximum		Owner Maximum	
FY	LAGC IFQ (5% of APL)	LA with IFQ (0.5% of APL)	total LAGC IFQ (5.5% of APL)	2.5% of LAGC IFQ-only	2.5% of total LAGC IFQ	5% of LAGC IFQ- only	5% of total LAGC IFQ
2017	2,261,943	226,195	2,488,138	56,549	62,203	113,097	124,407
2018	2,805,500	280,550	3,086,050	70,138	77,151	140,275	154,303
2019	2,998,287	299,829	3,298,116	74,957	82,453	149,914	164,906

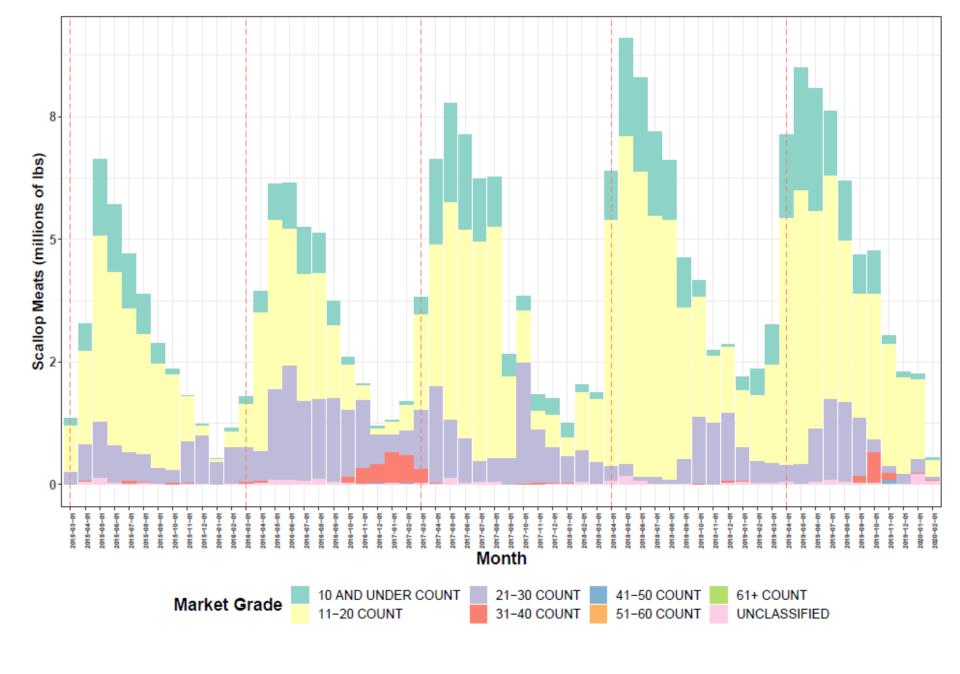


Figure 3: Monthly landings by grade (All areas combined)

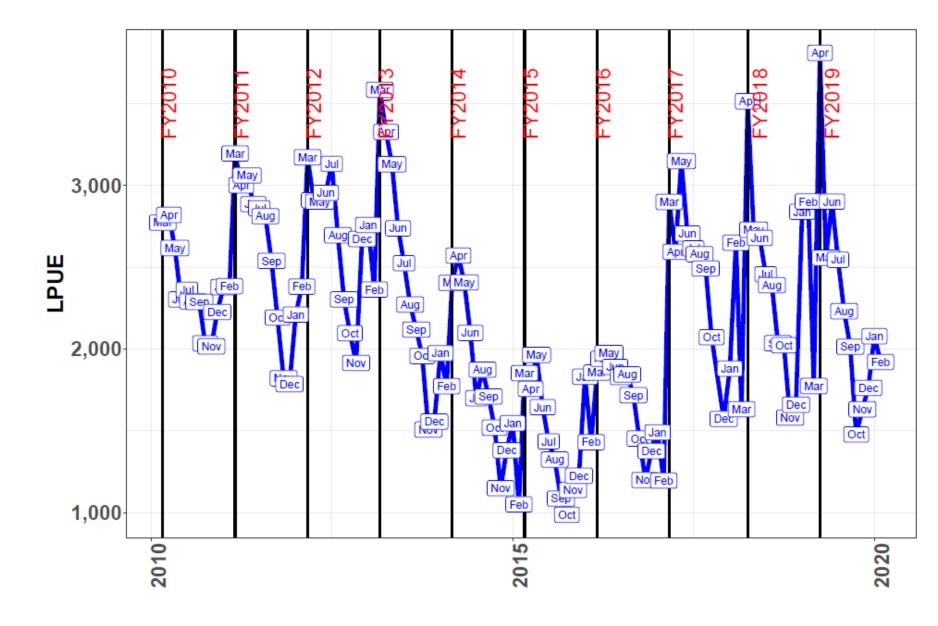
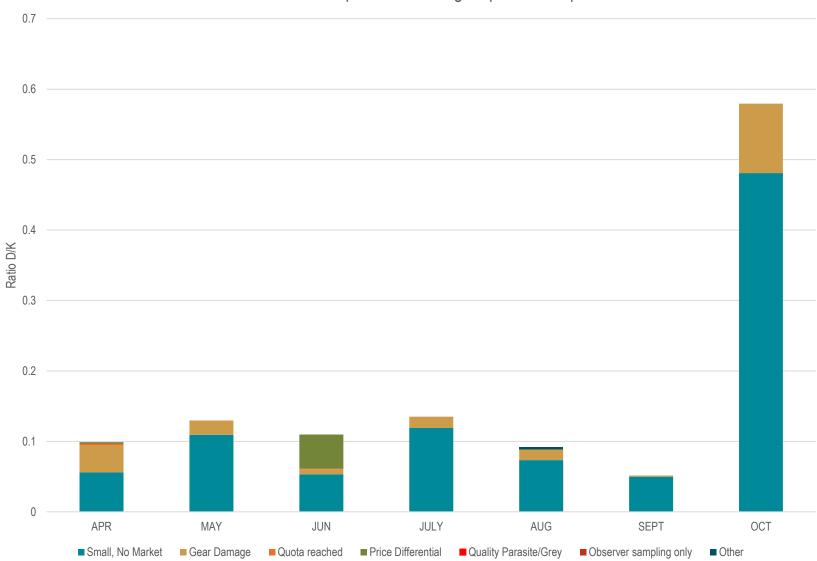
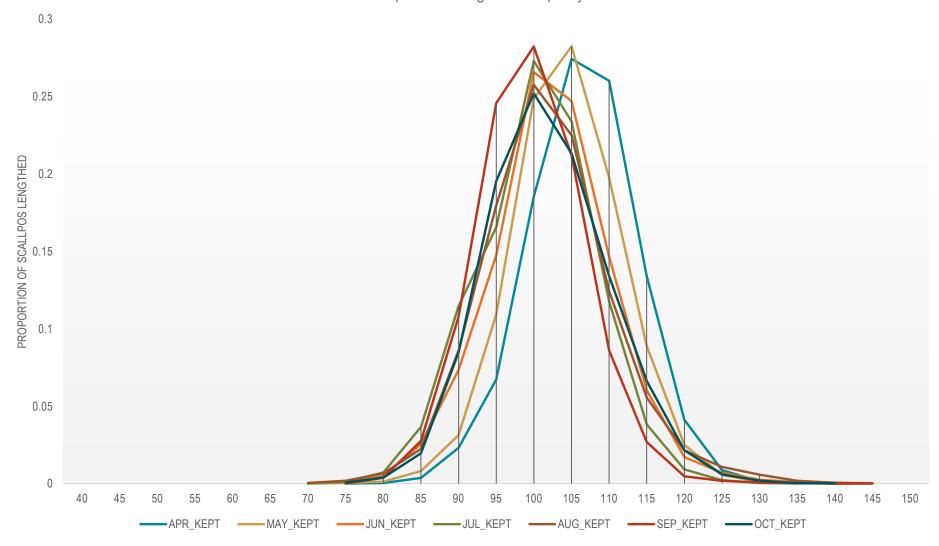


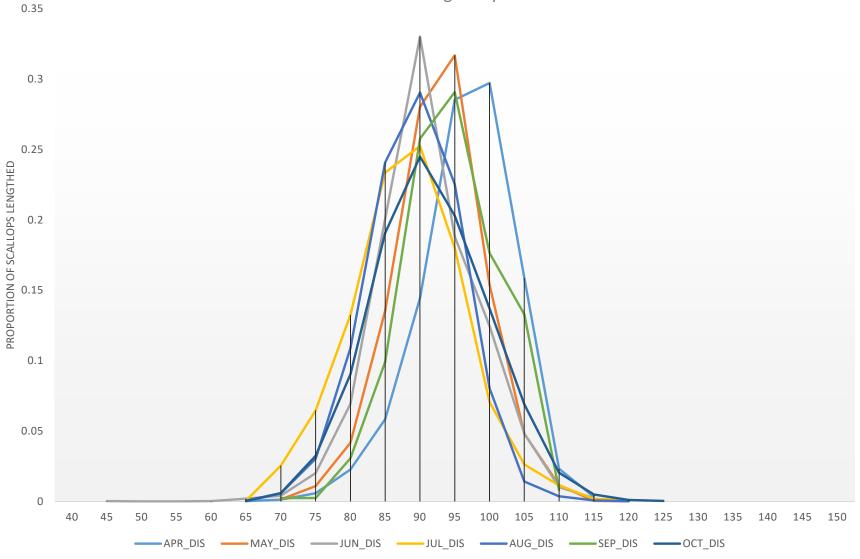
Figure 8: LPUE by month for Open Area Limited Access fishing. LPUE was calculated by dividing monthly scallop meat total landings by the days-at-sea charged.

NLS-W Discard to Kept Ratio including Disposition Proportion





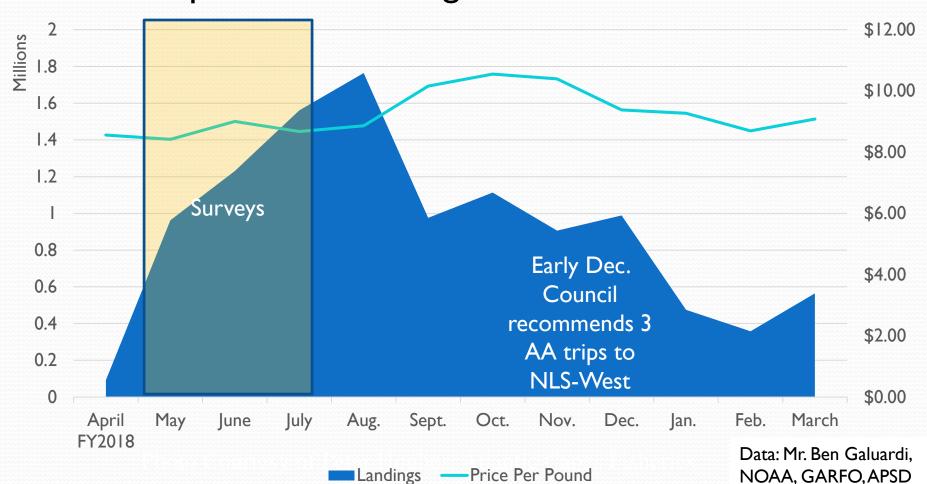
FY 2019 Discarded Shell Heights by Month



Fishing Year 2018 Harvest

NLS WEST Area: Allocated ~12 million lbs (meat weight)

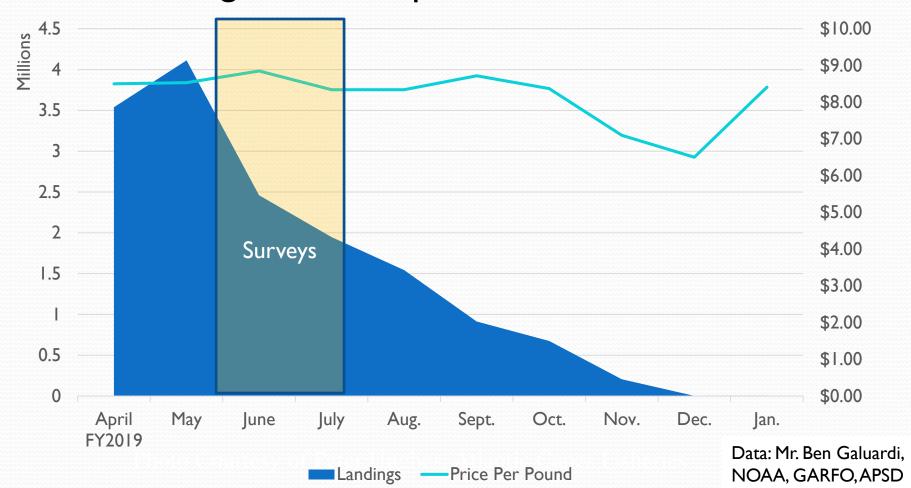
- Harvest ranged from 10-20 count to 30-40 count
- ex-vessel price \$7-\$10 range, total FY revenue ~\$102 mil



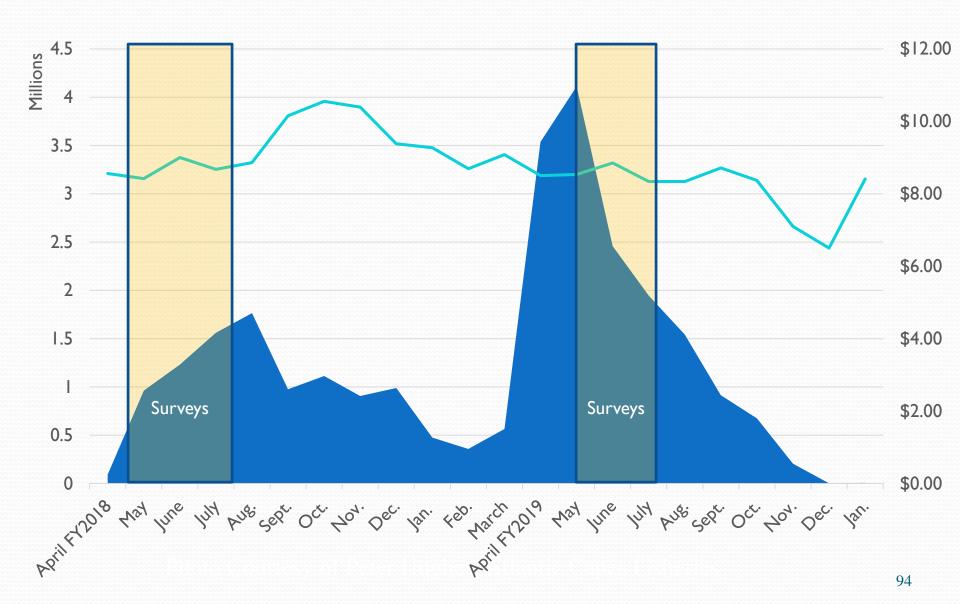
Fishing Year 2019 Harvest

NLS WEST Area: Allocated ~18 million lbs (meat weight)

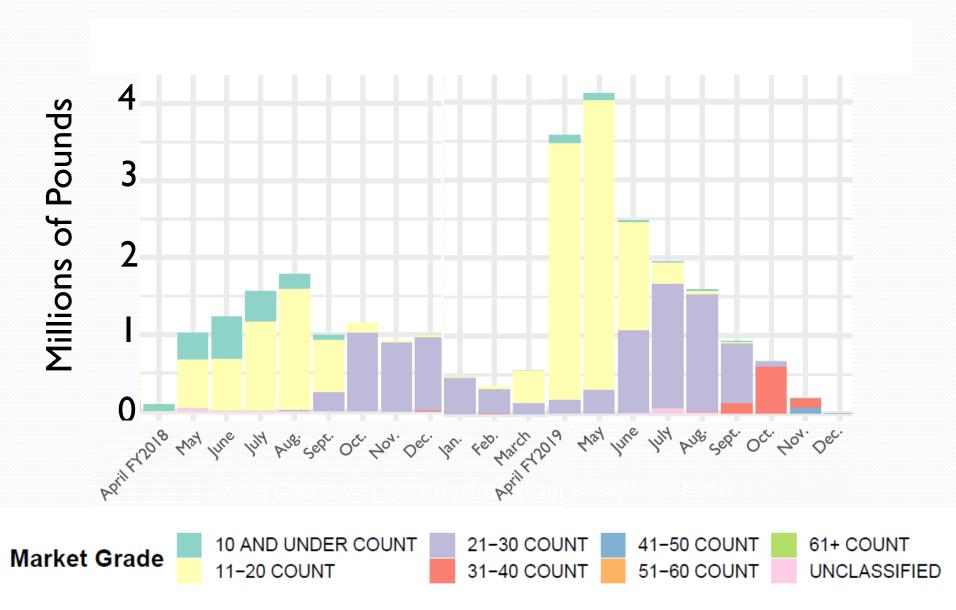
- Access Area Carryover: Over I million pounds
- Lower average ex-vessel price, revenue ~\$131 mil. USD



2018 & 2019 Harvest from NLS-West



Market Grades from the NLS-West



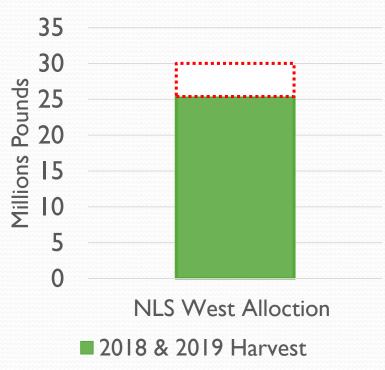
Current Situation in the NLS-West

Not what managers expected:

- Vessels reporting catch rates of 900 500 lbs per day.
- Roughly 4.2 million lbs of allocation remaining.
- Some vessels have over 50,000 pounds left to catch from this access area.

2020 Management:

- Vessels have 60 days in subsequent FY to harvest previous year's allocations.
- Area is scheduled to revert to open bottom on June 1, 2020.



Next Steps for NLS-West

Gather information

- Determine unharvested allocation from NLS-West after the area closes to access area fishing (May 31, 2020).
- Evaluate remaining vessel level allocations,
- Resource Surveys (dredge, optical).
- PDT sub-group to report on 2019 downturn.

Council can evaluate options

- By September, managers should have complete picture of the 2021 fishery outlook.
- Shifting pounds between access areas takes a Council action. Need a clear rationale.
- This would be a new priority, 2/3 Council vote required

Advisory Panel and Committee Input

Feedback of FY 2019:

- Thoughts on how the fishing year is progressing?
 - NLS-West
 - Closed Area I
 - Mid-Atlantic Access Area.
- AP: Any feedback to the Committee on potential approaches to address the remaining allocation in the NLS-West area if it is not harvested by May 31, 2020.
 - This would be as a motion or consensus statement.

Stellwagen Bank NMS Shipwreck Sites

