

# Scallop AP and Committee

**Scallop AP and Committee**  
**March 21 & 22, 2022**  
**Webinar**



New England  
Fishery Management Council

# Today's Meeting:

- **Updates**
- **Scoping for Limited Access Leasing**
- **Evaluation of Rotational Management Final Report**
- **2022-2026 Council Research Priorities**
- **Other Business: Stellwagen Bank Shipwreck Avoidance, NGOM observer coverage**

# Amendment 21

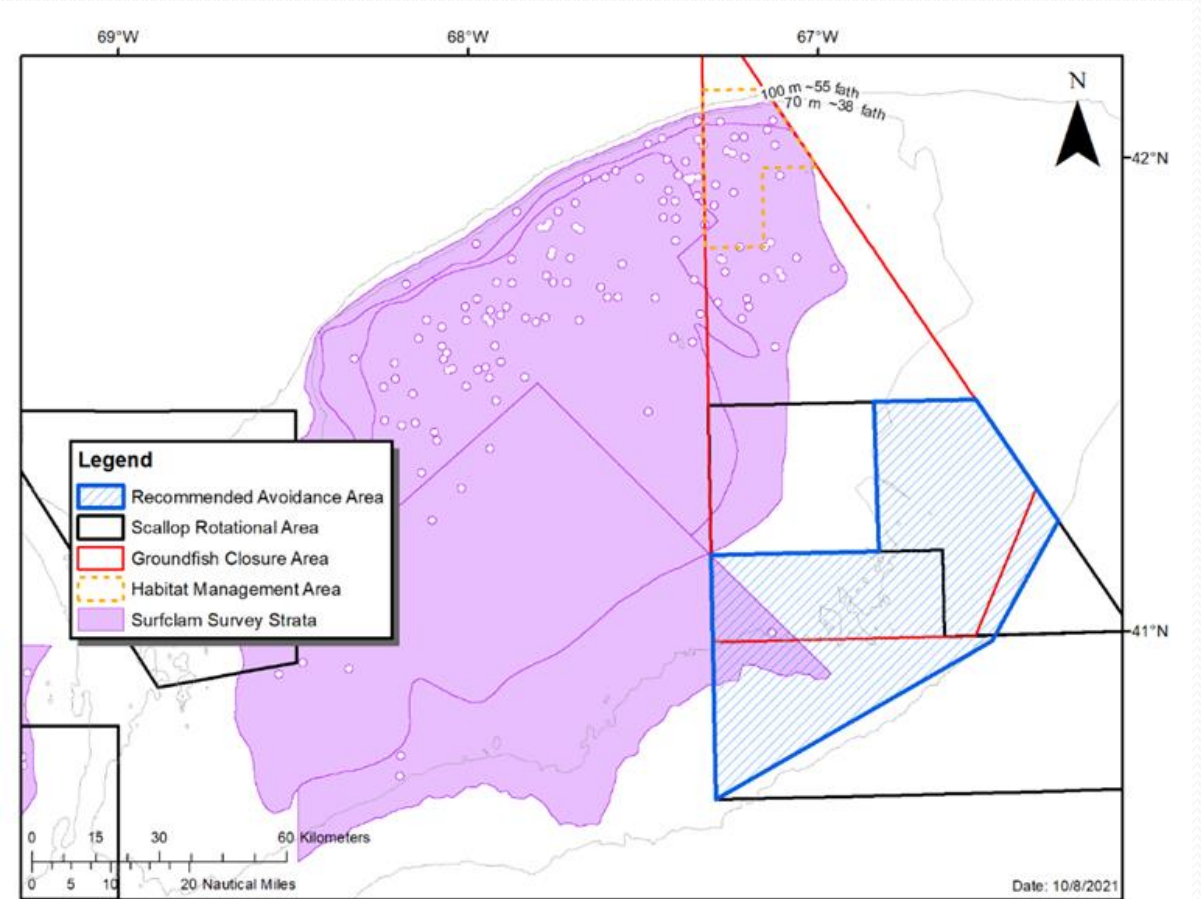
- **Final rule published on January 12, 2022**
- **Action will become effective on March 31, 2022**
- <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/01/12/2022-00367/fisheries-of-the-northeastern-united-states-atlantic-sea-scallop-fishery-amendment-21>

# Scallop Framework 34

- Final Action on December 9, 2021
- Council submitted the decision draft on January 3, 2022
- Deemed the regulation changes on January 12, 2022
- NMFS published the proposed rule on February 15, 2022
  - Comment period ended March 2, 2022
- Preliminary submission on February 15, 2022
- Final submission on March 10, 2022
  
- Next steps:
  - Final rule and implementation – before April 1.

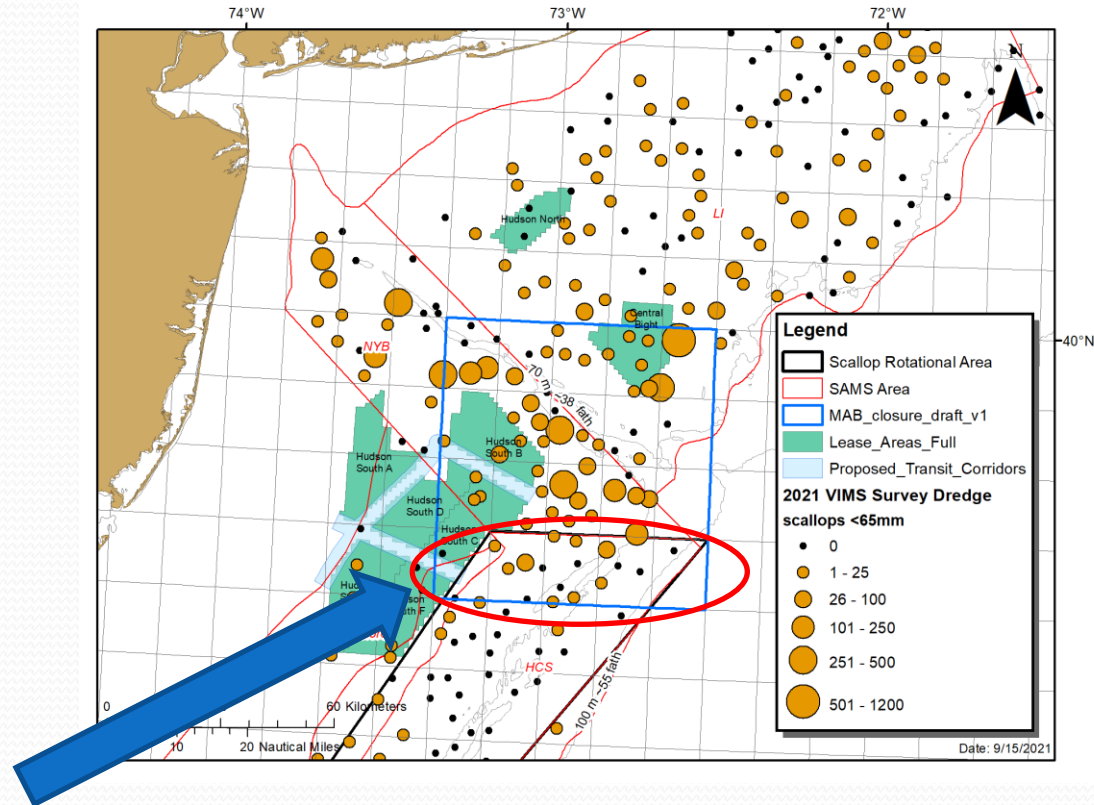
# Sea Watch Letter

- See Correspondence
- Third letter from the Council to NMFS commenting on EFP request for access to Closed Area II.
  - Requesting modifications to the EFP to reduce overlap between surf clam fishing and scallop biomass on CAII.
- Comment period closed on March 17, 2022.



# New MAB Closure & MAAA

- Regulations that are in place allow Limited Access vessels until May 30, 2022 to finish access area fishing in the MAAA.
- The northern part of the MAAA overlaps with the southern extent of the new New York Bight closure.
- Between the time when FW34 is implemented, and May 30, 2022, FT LA vessels will be able to fish their 2021 MAAA allocations inside of the new closure.
- All other parts of the New York Bight closure will be off limits when the FW is implemented.
- The red circle below identifies this overlapping area.



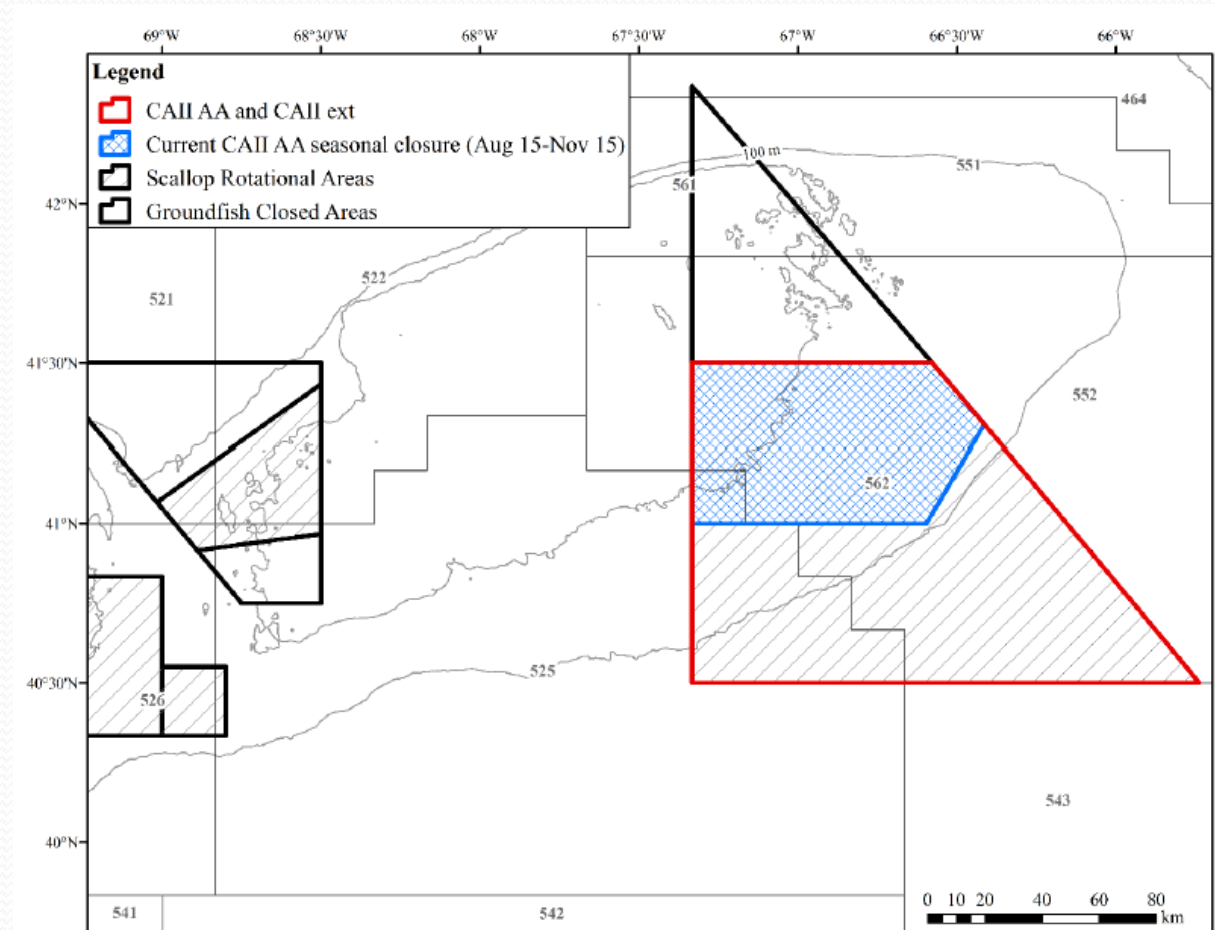
# Northern Windowpane Large AM

- AM Triggered by 2020 overage

- Year-round GRA

## Gear

- 5 row apron
- Max 1.5:1 hanging ratio
- Must use the gear inside the area shown in red (CAII and CAII-EXT)





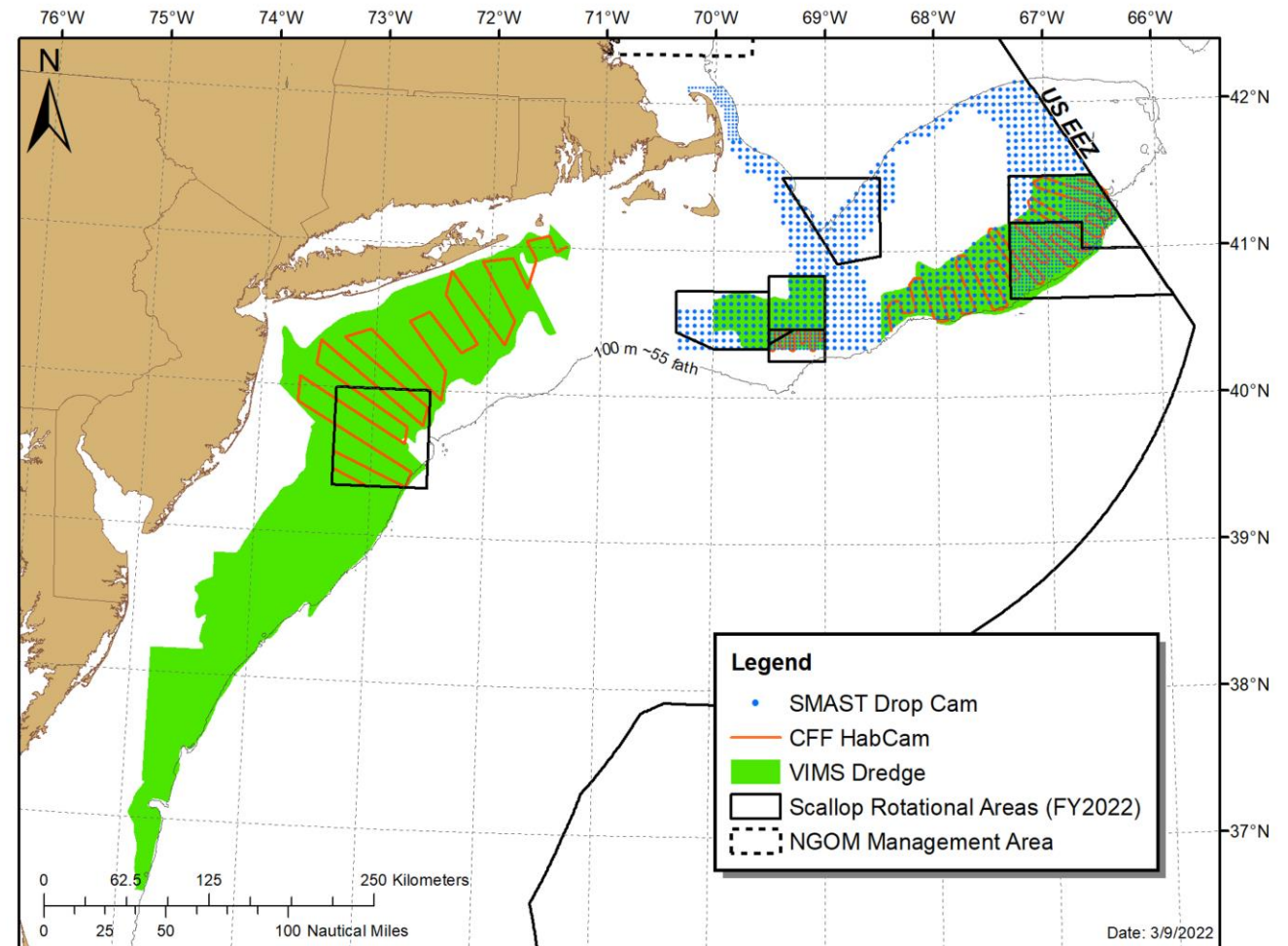
# Flatfish Bycatch in 2021

- Lag in observer data processing → very limited observer data from FY 2021 to informing current bycatch estimates
- These numbers will change as more data is processed and audited.
  - Latest report run on Feb. 17, 2022 using observed trips reported through June 2021.
- Right now....
  - Georges Bank yellowtail estimated bycatch is 71,068 pounds (269% of sub-ACL)
  - Northern windowpane estimated bycatch is 291,716 pounds (427% of sub-ACL)
- [Link](#) to bycatch reports.



# 2022/2023 RSA Awards Announced

- [Link to Press Release.](#)
- 15 projects funded
- \$3.8 million in research
- \$12.5 million generated from comp fishing
- Survey coverage across the entire resource, including Gulf of Maine
- Six different institutions will lead the projects, partnering with fishermen, fishing businesses, and non-profit fishery research organizations
- More in May and June!



# Committee Tasking & Research Share Day

- **Tasking Motion from Committee re: Industry funded scallop transplanting update**
  - Assess the utility of the NLS-Triangle as a closed area in 2023
  - Examine the application of transplanting scallops in future Council actions
- **Next steps:**
  - Enhancement themed session as part of the Scallop Research Share Day(s), with additional time for PDT review of projects, including CFF work
  - Based on Share Day Discussion → Brief memo from the PDT in May or June, 2022 addressing:
    1. Recommendation for use of NLS-Triangle in the scallop rotational program
    2. Any PDT recommendations on RSA priorities related to scallop enhancement
    3. PDT feedback on CFF report

# Research Share Day

- Aiming for May 5<sup>th</sup> (Thursday - confirmed) or May 6<sup>th</sup> (Friday - tentative)
  - Half day webinars
- Inviting research from CFF on transplanting, NMFS-Milford Lab on aquaculture for May 5, 2022



New England  
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# SSWG Update

- Extension through summer with final report available for September Council meeting
- Progress
  - Data and wind sub-groups drafted recommendations for new ideas and implementation strategies
  - Survey Guiding Principles document with draft recommendations
  - Survey Coordination Strategies to consider changes to the RSA program
    - “Effort-based” approach for longer-term RSA survey awards
    - Details to be developed alongside the 2022 RSA process with final recommendations from the SSWG to possibly implement for 2023 process (2024 and beyond awards)
- SSWG Meeting Schedule
  - Next meeting – May 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Likely two additional meetings over the summer



# Free Health Exams!

- Northeast Center for Occupational Health and Safety will be in New Bedford offering the free health exams to scallopers.
- When: March 25, March 28-31
- What: Free comprehensive health exam, including cholesterol, cardiac, respiratory screenings, 1 hour, receive \$100 Visa gift card
- Where: Wharfinger Building, Pier 3 in New Bedford.
- Who: contact Rebecca | 607-221-4448 cell to schedule
- More info: [www.necenter.org](http://www.necenter.org)



## Free & Comprehensive Health Exams for fishermen



Wharfinger Building, Pier 3, New Bedford: March 25th, 28th, 29th, 30th & 31st

Schedule an appointment with Rebecca Weil | 607-221-4448

### Who is eligible?

Commercial fishermen from the following states and fisheries:

- MA—Scallop
- MA—Lobster (in-shore)
- AK—Gillnet Salmon
- OR—Dungeness Crab

### About

Free health exams are being offered as part of the Northeast Center and partners' two-year project with fishermen in Alaska, Oregon and Mass. to better understand fishermen's sleep patterns and the possible side effects of sleep deprivation on their health. For more information, visit our web page at [necenter.org/fishing/](http://necenter.org/fishing/)



### What's included?



Musculoskeletal Exam



Cholesterol & Blood Sugar Tests



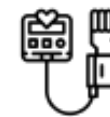
Cardiac Screening



Vision Exam



Lung Capacity Test



Blood Pressure

### Why sign up?

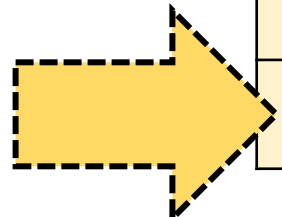
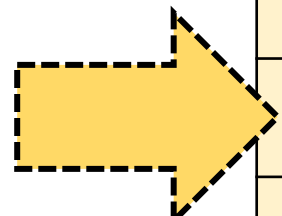
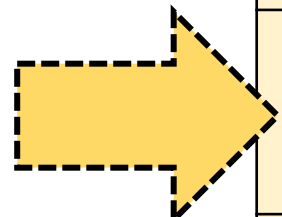
- It's free.
- Appointments are conveniently located close to piers.
- Results are confidential.
- The exams are comprehensive. A health provider will look at health risks related specifically to commercial fishermen.
- You get a \$125 Visa gift certificate for participating.

"My life is my health is my life."  
- Commercial fisherman



# Scallop outlook by quarter in 2022. How might we spend our time this year? Major Projects

Key: Scallop led project Center led project, with Staff involvement Possible follow-up and/or implementation



Calendar Year	Jan – Mar	Apr - Jun	July - Sept	Oct - Dec
Scallop Survey Working Group	Sub-Group work and Third SSWG Meeting	Fourth/Fifth SSWG Meetings Project Wrap-Up		
Evaluation of Rotational Management	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="background-color: #4a7ebb; color: white; padding: 5px;">Final Report Complete</div> <div style="background-color: #fff9c4; padding: 5px;">Discuss results with Scallop Committee</div> </div>			
Framework 34	Preliminary and Final Submission			
LA Leasing	Draft and Finalize Scoping Document	Public Process – Scoping Meetings	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="background-color: #4a7ebb; color: white; padding: 5px;">Summarize Comments</div> <div style="background-color: #4a7ebb; color: white; padding: 5px;">Step Two: Decide to move ahead or stop work</div> </div>	
Framework 35 (just specs?)		2022 Field Season	2023/2024 (default) Specifications	
SAMS Model Review		Agree to TORS, format		Staff Support
Scallop RSA		Share Day and Set Priorities		Support RSA Program
	2022-2026 Work Priorities			

# Draft Scoping Document

See Doc.2 for updated draft scoping document (version 2)

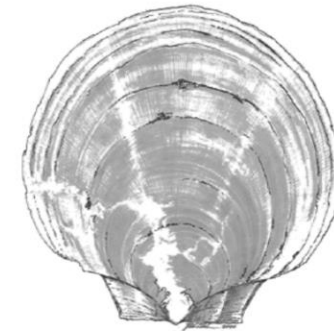
- Updates based on January AP/CTE input, PDT
- Purpose of scoping document:
  - inform public about the process
  - provide background information on the LA fishery
  - prompt comments from scallop fishery stakeholders

Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan

## SCOPING DOCUMENT

for

Limited Access Leasing



Prepared by the

New England Fishery Management Council

**Version 2 – March 15, 2022**



# Approach for LA leasing priority

January - April

May - June

July - August

Council Approves  
Scoping Document

8am July 5<sup>th</sup>:  
Comment period closes

Develop Scoping  
Document

Scoping Meetings

Scoping Summary  
Report

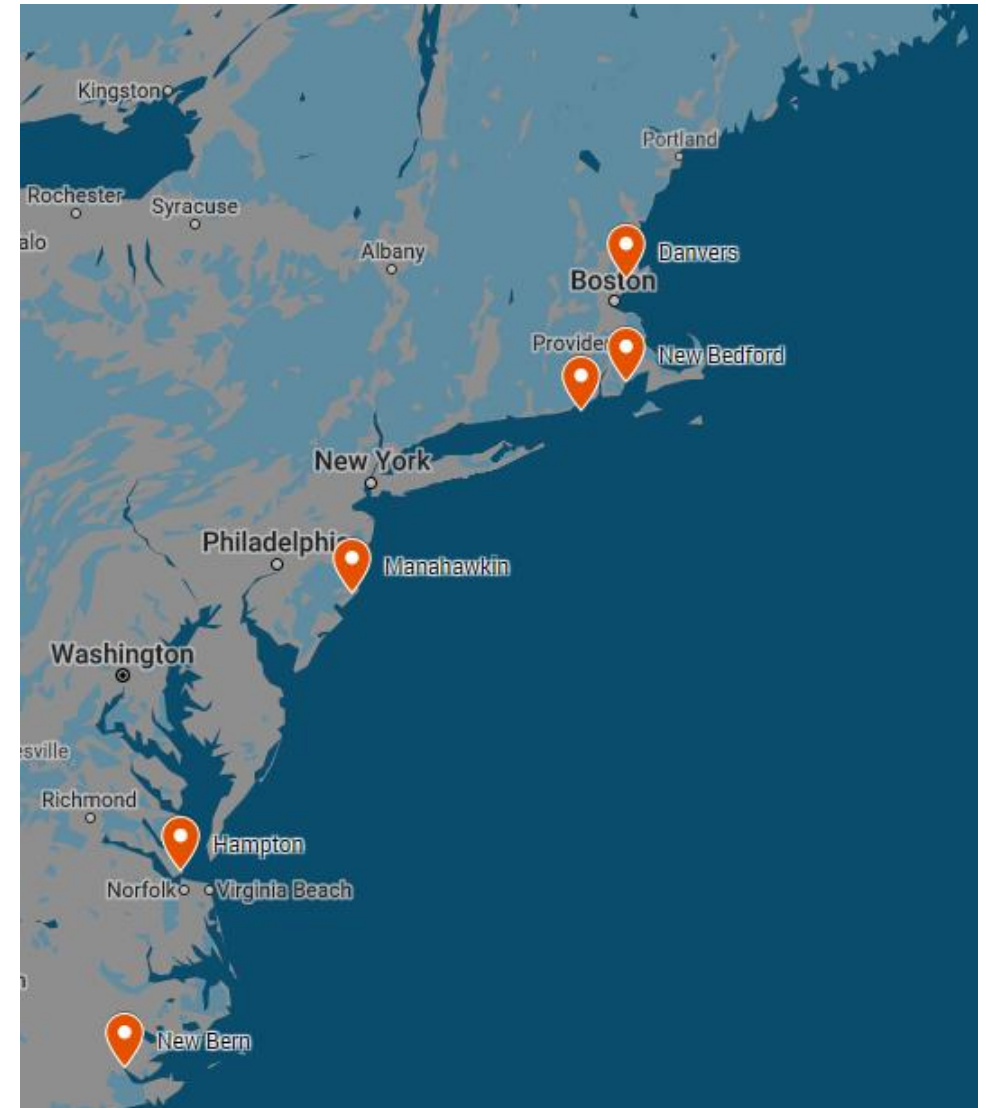
September  
2022:  
Decision

Council accepting public comment on LA leasing

- Goal: Decision on moving forward with a leasing amendment (yes/no) in September 2022.
- Approve scoping document in April 2022.
- Public comment now – July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022

# Scoping Meetings:

- **Timing:** May and June, after scoping document is finalized in April.
- Still working to finalize dates/venues
- **Locations:**
  - Northshore MA location
  - New Bedford, MA (2 meetings)
  - Point Judith, RI
  - Manahawkin, NJ
  - Hampton, VA
  - New Bern, NC
  - Webinars (no more than 2)
- 9 total meetings



# Prompt Questions

- Questions in three categories:
  - Is a leasing program needed?
  - Who/what would be affected?
  - What should a leasing program look like?
- Committee guidance from Jan '22:
  - Keep questions short; focused.
  - Use more bullets to improve readability.
  - Additional questions to add to the scoping document.

## *What should my comments address?*

During this scoping process, the Council is seeking comments on leasing in the Limited Access portion of the scallop fishery. While your comments may address any aspect of the specific issues identified during scoping, the Council is seeking your input on the following questions.

### *In your opinion...:*

- Is a leasing program needed in the LA fishery? Why or why not?
- What issues in the scallop fishery would a leasing program address?
- What are the benefits and(or) drawbacks of a leasing program?
- Are there other approaches or tools the Council should consider that would provide flexibility?

### *Who/what would be affected by a leasing program...:*

- How could a leasing program affect the scallop resource?
- How could a leasing program affect permit holders?
- How could a leasing program affect shoreside businesses?
- How could a leasing program affect captains and crews?
- How could a leasing program affect the environment?
- If a leasing program is allowed, how could scallop vessels affect other fisheries?

### *If a leasing program were developed...:*

- What should the program consider?
- What should the goals and objectives of the action be?

# Limited Access Background, Fishery Performance

- Description of LA fishery established through Amendment 4:
  - reasons for establishing LA component (i.e., effort reduction)
  - Qualifying criteria for LA permit
  - Allocation structure, ownership caps
  - Vessel baseline restrictions
- Distribution of LA permits by state
- Landings by port

*Table 1 – The distribution of Limited Access vessels and scallop landings by homeport state (source: 2021 GARFO permit data).*

<b>State</b>	<b>Principal Port State</b>	<b>Homeport State</b>
MA	154	150
NJ	104	98
VA	55	52
NC	30	38
CT	4	4
RI	2	2
ME	1	1
FL	0	3
PA	0	2

# Captains/Crew Information

***Committee input: characterize captains/crews/shoreside operations that could be affected by leasing***

- Limited data available on scallop captains/crews, shoreside businesses
- [2018/2019 NEFSC crew survey](#) – basic demographic info, job characteristics, job satisfaction, etc.
  - Brief description of responses from scallop fishermen included in scoping doc

# Captain Information (Cont'd)

- Captains of scallop vessels required to hold operator permit – operator ID is required when submitting VTRs
  - Number of active operators summarized by number of vessels they were active on per year
  - Not a direct measure, but included as a rough proxy to understand how many vessels captains are working on

Table 2 – Count of distinct operators that were active in the Limited Access fishery by the number of vessels they were active on, fishing years 2010 through 2020 (source: dealer reports and VTRs).

FY	number of operators active by number of vessels				Grand Total
	1	2	3	4+	
2010	179	122	17	4	322
2011	205	106	16	4	331
2012	188	105	23	3	319
2013	153	102	17	6	278
2014	139	96	20	6	261
2015	140	106	18	7	271
2016	164	113	21	8	306
2017	160	114	26	7	307
2018	170	119	20	8	317
2019	170	105	32	10	317
2020	124	131	25	6	286



# Activity in Other Fisheries

## How could leasing program affect other fisheries?

- Limited Access Permit holdings for other fisheries are described in scoping document → rough idea of the potential for activity outside of scallop fishery

Table 5 – The number of limited access scallop vessels that also held permits for other fisheries in 2021. Permit holdings are shown for all permit types (open and limited access, second column), limited access only (third column), and notes describing permit types (fourth column) (data source: 2021 GARFO permit data).

Permit type	LA scallop vessel permit holdings (all permits)	LA scallop vessel permit holdings (limited access only)	notes
Bluefish	336	n/a	there is no limited access bluefish permit
Black Sea Bass	150	148	two LA scallop vessels hold BSB charter/party open access permits, remainder are LA BSB moratorium
Spiny Dogfish	344	n/a	there is no limited access dogfish permit
Summer Flounder	302	302	all commercial summer flounder permits are limited access
Incidental HMS Squid Trawl	31	n/a	there is no limited access incidental HMS squid trawl permit
Herring	315	18*	*includes 11 limited access herring incidental permits, 7 all area LA permits (Cat A)
Lobster	226	226*	*220 commercial non-trap permits, 6 commercial trap permits
Monkfish	345	186	159 LA scallop vessels with open access incidental monkfish permits
NE Multispecies	345	57*	*includes 10 individual DAS groundfish permits, 47 combo vessel permits
Ocean Quahog	304	1	1 mahogany quahog limited access permit, remainder open access ocean quahog
Red Crab	307	0	all permits held by LA scallop vessels are open access incidental red crab
Scup	141	139	2 vessels with open access charter/party scup, 139 with limited access scup moratorium
Surfclam	303	n/a	there is no limited access surfclam permit
Skate	330	n/a	there is no limited access skate permit
Squid Mackerel Butterfish	341	97	open access SMB permits include incidental, charter/party, and Atlantic mackerel
Tilefish	326	n/a	there is no limited access tilefish permit



# Activity in Other Fisheries (Cont'd)

- Landings/value of scallop fishing vs. landings/value from other fisheries
- Active permits, number of days fishing for scallop vs. non-scallop trips
- Top “other” species landed by value

Table 6 – Scallop landings (lbs)/value (unadjusted USD\$), days fished, and active limited access vessels on directed scallop trips compared to non-scallop landings/value and days fished by limited access vessels active in other fisheries.

FY	scallop landings/value on directed scallop trips				non-scallop landings/value on non-scallop trips			
	scallop landings (lbs)	scallop value	days fished	active LA vessels	other landings (lbs)	other value	days fished	active LA vessels
2010	54,441,351	\$423,097,936	44,403	352	28,042,801	\$14,798,265	19,352	113
2011	55,932,795	\$541,993,807	37,320	355	33,156,127	\$18,079,919	23,261	106
2012	53,632,889	\$515,138,597	39,756	356	37,245,501	\$17,644,559	19,227	95
2013	37,360,091	\$423,379,154	28,812	348	22,876,141	\$34,383,046	22,134	82
2014	29,767,984	\$367,565,700	26,120	349	21,209,164	\$19,613,914	23,673	90
2015	33,261,328	\$403,166,433	27,124	349	14,641,913	\$21,867,009	23,761	98
2016	37,416,817	\$443,400,786	33,380	345	25,501,749	\$18,808,828	19,263	95
2017	50,445,495	\$483,480,334	31,091	346	39,333,702	\$28,395,453	19,395	87
2018	56,842,405	\$519,855,392	32,568	344	22,555,213	\$24,201,921	14,155	82
2019	57,289,023	\$520,850,717	31,401	347	21,812,032	\$15,598,374	11,350	74
2020	43,194,915	\$438,079,861	29,227	346	17,494,503	\$9,516,489	10,312	72

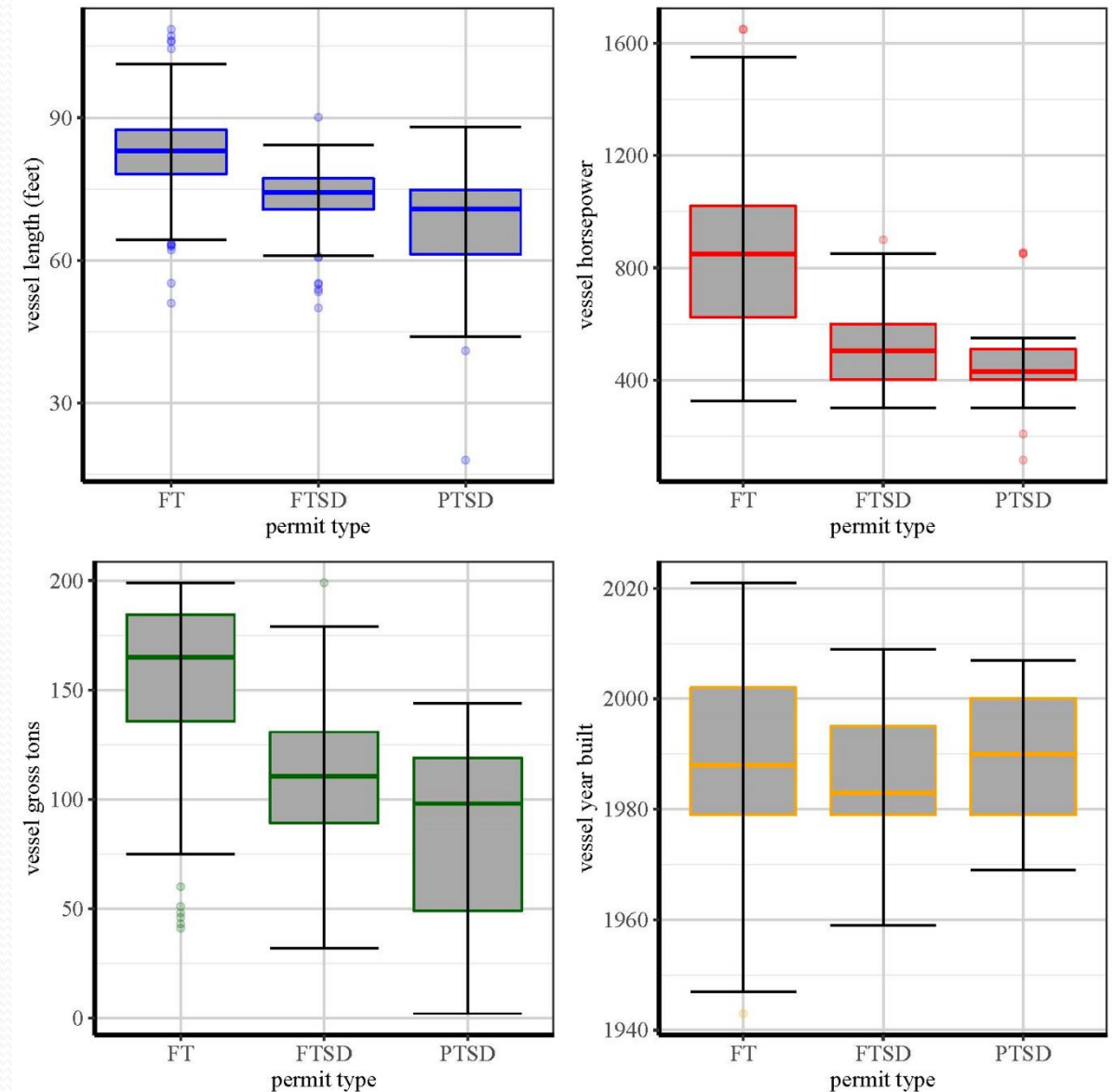
Table 7 – Value of the top four species landed by Limited Access scallop vessels on non-scallop trips in fishing years 2018 through 2020

species	2018	2019	2020
summer flounder	\$5,060,262	\$4,543,922	\$3,326,328
black sea bass	\$3,431,004	\$2,861,826	\$2,037,791
longfin squid	\$5,395,903	\$4,194,535	\$1,534,668
illex squid	\$1,702,514	\$1,593,162	\$ 891,675

# Vessel ownership, vessel characteristics

- Summary of ownership interest in terms of the number of single or multiple vessels owners in LA fishery (Table 8)
- Vessel length, HP, gross tons, vessel age summarized by LA permit type (Figure 2, Table 9)

Figure 2 – The distribution of Limited Access scallop vessels (full-time,  $n = 263$ ; full-time small dredge,  $n = 54$ ; part-time small dredge,  $n = 33$ ) in terms of vessel characteristics (length, horsepower, gross tons). The distribution of vessels by year built is shown in the bottom right pane (data source: GARFO, 2021 permit data).



# Stacking and Permanent Transfers: What's the difference?

*Description of leasing vs. stacking added to scoping doc (see p.11)*

## **Permanent Transfer:**

- Transaction that splits (“sells”) allocation off of a scallop permit.
- A permit that permanently transfers its scallop allocation can still be used to access scallop allocation in the future because the scallop permit stayed with the vessel.
- The permit holder retains the other non-scallop permits (e.g. monkfish).

## **Stacking:**

- Transaction combines scallop access privileges from several permits into one permit, on one vessel.
- Multiple permits become one permit, with a larger scallop allocation.
- Multiples of other permits (e.g., monkfish) are relinquished.
- Fewer vessels can assess scallop fishery.

# Outreach Plan

- Council staff working to spread word to stakeholders that might not follow Council on-goings closely
  - Communicating with port agents, industry leaders
  - Distributing posters/fliers around major fishing ports
  - Notice to permit holders, operators
  - Looking into non-traditional ways to advertise scoping meeting dates/locations (i.e., billboards)...





# Next Steps for Scoping:

## Document:

- **AP/CTE input needed today.**
- Next step → Approve scoping document at the April Council meeting.



# Evaluation of Rotational Management



- Draft report presented in December (Dr. Cate O'Keefe)
- Final report reviewed by Scallop PDT
- Recommendations presented to Council in February
- Today: Discuss recommendations and possible next steps
- March/April: Present to CTE and Council



# Evaluation Goals and Objectives

- **Goals**

1. Evaluate how original objectives (A10) of the rotational program have been met;
2. Evaluate how current rotational management meets expected outcomes

Today: Discuss next steps

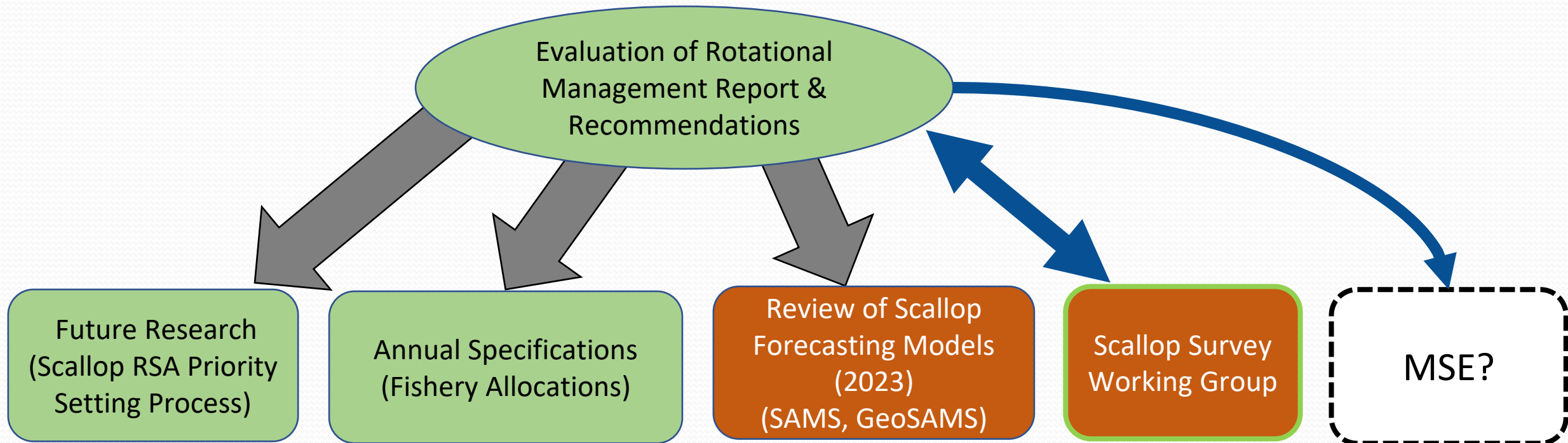
- **Objectives**

1. Document the use of rotational management, specifically 2015-2021;
2. Assess performance relative to A10 objectives → Bycatch and Habitat Impacts
3. Describe current rotational program compared to original approach and describe outcomes and rationale for alternative approaches;
4. Document two-year specifications and evaluate outcomes and trade-offs;
5. Identify possible changes or areas for improvement of the rotational program



# ERM: Next Steps

- Discuss Next Steps with the AP and Committee in March.



# Obj. 5 – Alternatives and Improvements

- **Evaluate scallop biomass projection models and associated uncertainty.**
  - The Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) has committed to assessing the performance of the Scallop Area Management Simulator (SAMS) projection model and the newly-developed GeoSAMS projection model through the 2023 scallop management track stock assessment process.
  - Results from this report may be useful to inform future iterations of scallop projection models and should be
- **PDT Input:**
  - *Upcoming Specifications:* Close tracking of the performance of the NLS-South (Peter Pan scallops).
  - *Scallop Survey Working Group:* Sampling frequency and intensity of surveys (a topic being addressed by the SSWG) may have impacts on the performance of the current projection model, and associated uncertainty.
  - *Future Research:* Examine the entire cycle of rotational area performance, from surveys to harvest. Isolate events or processes that led to outcomes, such as dramatic swings in biomass. Research that seeks to better understand the impacts of fishing in areas with high densities of scallops, including scenarios with heavy fishing pressure.

# Obj. 5 – Alternatives and Improvements

- **Consider the performance of flexibility measures for future scallop management actions.**
  - Conclusions from this evaluation indicate that measures to increase flexibility of rotational management have provided benefits to the fishery, but cumulative impacts from combined measures should continue to be considered.
  - Flex trip options should include an assessment of area-specific LPUE projections, characterization of market categories of landings, and scallop price per pound information to inform potential fishery utilization within flex area options.
  - A description of scallop catch accounting methods for all allocations should be documented and areas of uncertainty or potential improvement should be identified.
  - An evaluation of the DAS carry over provisions, similar to the one provided for access area carry over in this report, should be conducted to determine if there are potential improvements to current regulations.

# Obj. 5 – Alternatives and Improvements

- **Consider the performance of flexibility measures for future scallop management actions.**
- **PDT Input:**
  - *Upcoming Specifications:* Evaluate DAS carryover from 2021 to 2022 as an additional source of uncertainty. If flex trips are considered as part of the 2022/2023 specifications, the PDT recommends using the ERM recommendations and documentation of flex fishing to characterize uncertainty for the Council.

# Obj. 5 – Alternatives and Improvements

- **Consider seasonal measures to improve scallop yield and minimize mortality in access areas.**
  - Establishing area-specific seasonal restrictions could limit fishing and associated mortality during:
    - peak scallop spawning when meat yields are low;
    - summer months when surface water and deck temperatures may exceed lethal limits;
    - periods of overlap with bycatch species of concern.
  - An evaluation of potential seasonal restrictions should be conducted to assess the positive and negative impacts to the scallop fishery, resource, and bycatch species of concern.
- **PDT Input:**
  - *Upcoming Specifications:* Consider the use of seasonal closures in the upcoming specifications action to improve yield-per-recruit and to reduce mortality. Dr. Hart indicated that she could reduce the predicted meat weights to reflect different patterns in the fishery (recent example: more fishing in the MAAA in October).
  - *Future Research:* As was recommended in the full report, research to understand current and future changes of seasonal meat weights.

# Obj. 5 – Alternatives and Improvements

- **Consider appropriate spatial scale of future access area configurations.**
  - The optimal size and boundary configuration for rotational management areas were assessed during the development of Amendment 10, but ultimately the fully adaptive rotational scheme was adopted.
  - Based on this evaluation and recent performance of specific access areas, review of the Amendment 10 guidance for optimal access area size and configuration is warranted to consider Best Management Practices for the rotational management program.
- **PDT Input:**
  - *Upcoming Specifications:* Consider in the development of the Closed Area II rotational areas for the 2022/2023 specifications. Areas should be management for the fishery and enforcement. Council operations handbook is a resource for guidance on enforcement considerations.



# Obj. 5 – Alternatives and Improvements

- **Evaluate the performance of access areas in the initial and final years of opening.**
  - This report highlighted uncertainties associated with the initial reopening of previously closed rotational areas, including anomalous growth, poor meat quality, and unforeseen fishing behaviors.
  - The final years of access to rotational areas also have increased uncertainty related to decreased catch rates, which can increase tow time and area swept resulting in habitat and bycatch impacts, low LPUE, and the need for management interventions.
  - Evaluations of area-specific allocation decisions and fishing mortality projections should continue to consider the increased uncertainty associated with the initial and final years of rotational access.
- **PDT Input:**
  - *Upcoming Specifications:* Look at the performance of CAI over the past two years. Projections have been overly optimistic, and there may be some challenges with biomass estimates. If biomass estimates are 20% off of the truth (or more), this will cause issues with the projections for 2023.
  - *Future Research:* Focus on the Mid-Atlantic Access Area and continue work on the Nantucket Lightship West. There is value in understanding the entire process of both areas.



# Obj. 5 – Alternatives and Improvements

- **Assess options for streamlining the Council process to facilitate annual specification actions.**
  - Conclusions from this evaluation indicate that maintaining annual scallop specifications based on annual scallop survey information provides benefits to the resource and fishery.
  - AI9, Supplemental Information Reports (SIR)
  - The Scallop Survey Working Group recommendations can streamline and potentially reduce the timeline to incorporate annual survey information into management actions.
  - An assessment of available management tools to maintain annual specifications with reduced process and regulatory burdens should be conducted to assist the Council in developing an adaptive approach that allows time and opportunity to focus management and scientific resources on topics beyond annual specifications.
- **PDT Input:** Council staff and NMFS staff need to follow-up on this and report back to the Committee and PDT.

# Obj. 5 – Alternatives and Improvements

- **Consider the use of MSE to simulate future scenarios of scallop resource and fishery characteristics to optimize the scallop management regime.**
  - This report provides baseline information about the performance of the rotational management program since implementation of Amendment 10 and suggests that the program has been successful based on objectives set in 2004.
  - An MSE based on understanding of scallop population dynamics, biological and oceanographic conditions, and fishery behaviors could inform Best Management Practices for the scallop fishery in the future, including addressing ocean use conflict (e.g., offshore wind farms), changing resource distribution (e.g., related to climate change), and allocation scenarios (e.g., consolidated fishing fleets).
- **PDT Input:**
  - *Future Research Work:* Supportive of using MSE as a tool to evaluate management objectives in the scallop fishery. The timing of this effort should be aligned with relevant processes. There are several ongoing or planned projects that should be considered, like a research track assessment in 2024, and a review of the projection model in 2023.
  - The group discussed mechanisms for completing this work, contract preferable over competitive grant (RSA) so that the Council and its Scallop Committee can drive an MSE process for it to be successful.
  - A next step for this recommendation could be a Committee discussion on ways to identify management objectives and performance metrics. The management strategy should be defined by fishery stakeholders.

# Obj. 5 – Alternatives and Improvements

- **Consider updating the names of rotational management areas to reference current management regime.**
  - Post-OHA2 rotational management has expanded the number of access areas in places that were formerly a single access area (e.g., Nantucket Lightship and Closed Area II).
  - Use plain language to describe rotational areas. For example, the use of “Closed Area” in the naming scheme for access areas can be confusing.
- **PDT Input:**
  - *Upcoming Specifications:* Consider renaming rotational areas in the Fall of 2022.

# Additional PDT input

- Early in the Rotational Management Program, the Council would only allocate trips when there was enough biomass to support a “full trip” for all Limited Access vessels in a rotational area.
  - This practice has changed as the Council has used management tools to improve flexibility, such as “flex trips” and partial trip allocations.
  - One future consideration for the Council is how much risk/uncertainty is it willing to accept with access for partial trips.
- Try to characterize potential uncertainty during specification setting process when fishing is occurring in both “allocated” and “flex” areas.
- A goal of seasonal closures should be to reduce mortality while harvesting full allocations. Discussed some management options for reducing mortality in rotational areas, noting that there is no time limit on access area trips.

# Conclusions

- Based on the scope of information considered, the evaluation indicates that the scallop rotational management program has been extremely successful in meeting intended objectives and adapting to changing expectations.
- There is room for continued improvement in the rotational management program and the suggested recommendations may provide useful next step actions for the Council and fishing industry.
- Continued periodic review of the rotational management program could be useful to inform Council decisions in the future.

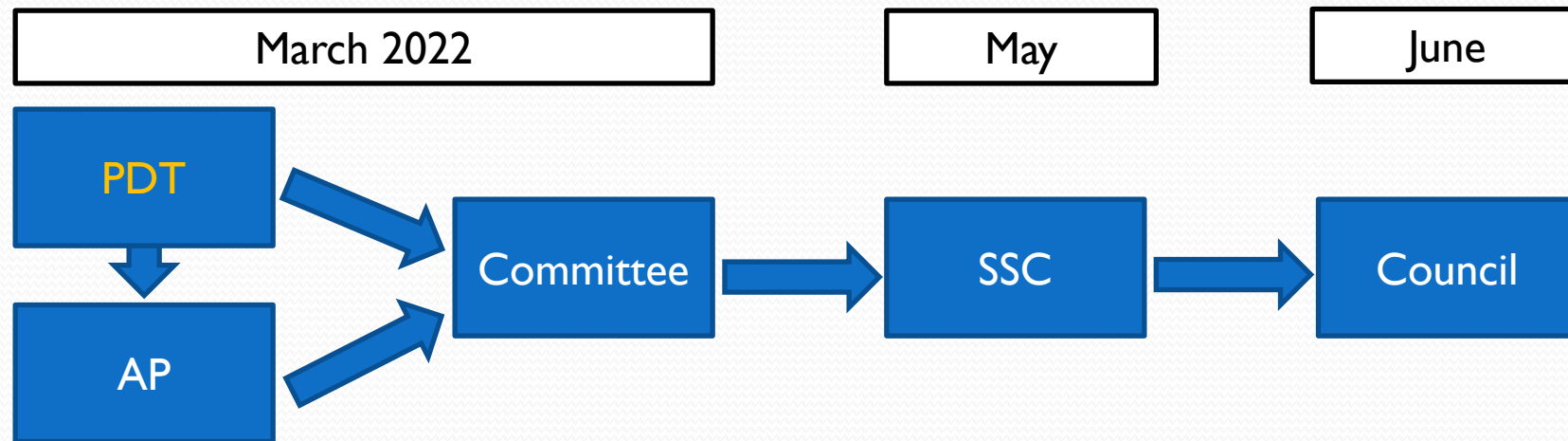


# Council 2022 – 2026 Research Priorities

- **THIS IS NOT THE SCALLOP RSA RESEARCH SETTING PROCESS.** That process begins in April/May.
- Per the Magnuson Stevens Reauthorization Act of 2006, Councils are required to develop five-year research priority plans and submit them to the Secretary of Commerce.
- NEFMC completes a research priority setting process on an annual basis.
- The priority list can also be used by Center, GARFO, and other organizations/institutions to direct research.

# Council 2022 – 2026 Research Priorities

- Council is expected to update “5-year” research priorities at their June 2022 meeting.
- What is the process going forward?
  - Expect the Council to annually approve research, allowing the list to evolve as issues are identified and addressed.



# Process:

## **Revisions that do not need Committee/Council approval:**

- Clarifications to existing priorities and updates to information in the columns (e.g., notes on whether work is underway) made by a PDT.
- Adding in current (Council-approved since June 2021) RSA priorities, since they were already approved by the Council.
- All current RSA priorities approved by the Council should also live on the five-year list, as an additional way to highlight the needs and use the five-year list as a master list.

## **Revisions needing Committee/Council approval:**

- Adding or deleting priorities or other substantial changes.

## **Approval process:**

- The SSC will be reviewing the priorities prior to the June 2022 Council meeting. For SSC consideration, any additions, revisions or deletions to the priorities need to be approved by the Scallop Committee by the end of March 2022.

# Council Recommendations for RSA Priorities

[2022/2023 RSA Priorities](#) – Link to full RSA priorities

- **Highest Priority - Surveys**
- **High Priority Non-survey research (equal priority)**
  - 2. Scallop Biology
  - 3. Turtle behavior
- **General Research Needs (not in rank order)**
  - 4. Scallop Recruitment Supplementation (Focus on federal fishery, added development of standards and best practices, evaluation on economic feasibility).
  - 5. Bycatch: small scallops and non-target species.
  - 6. Gear: Commercial dredge research.

# AP and Committee Input Needed

- **Document 4 and Document 4a in the meeting materials.**
  - Several suggestions shown in red and green in Doc. 4a.
- **Modifications include:**
  - Updating and clarifying existing priorities
  - Combining priorities
  - New priorities based on the recommendations from the evaluation of rotational management.



# Other Business



# Shipwreck Avoidance Pilot Program



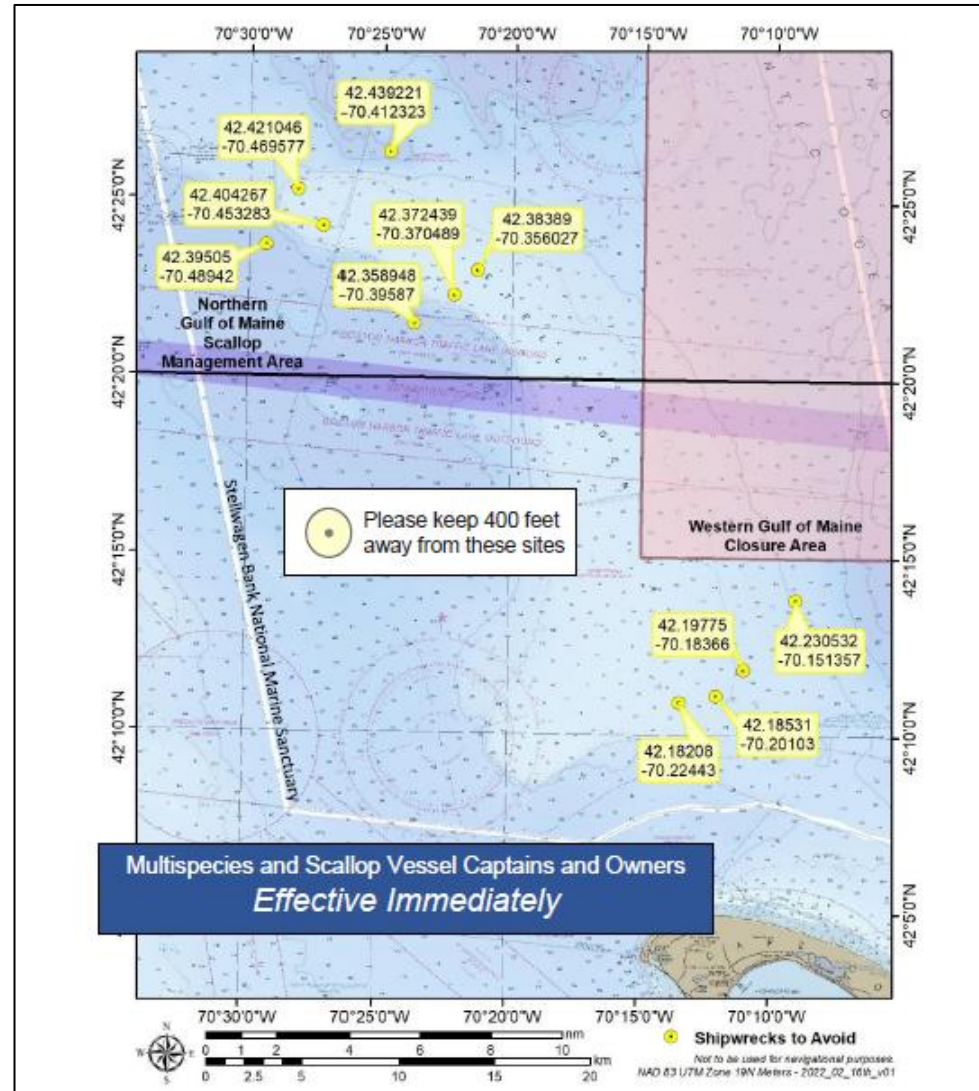
*A voluntary program to increase fishing vessel safety and protect maritime heritage resources*

A Collaboration between  
NOAA/Stellwagen Bank National  
Marine Sanctuary and  
NMFS/Greater Atlantic Region  
Office

Contact:  
Ben Haskell  
Deputy Superintendent  
And  
Maritime Heritage Coordinator

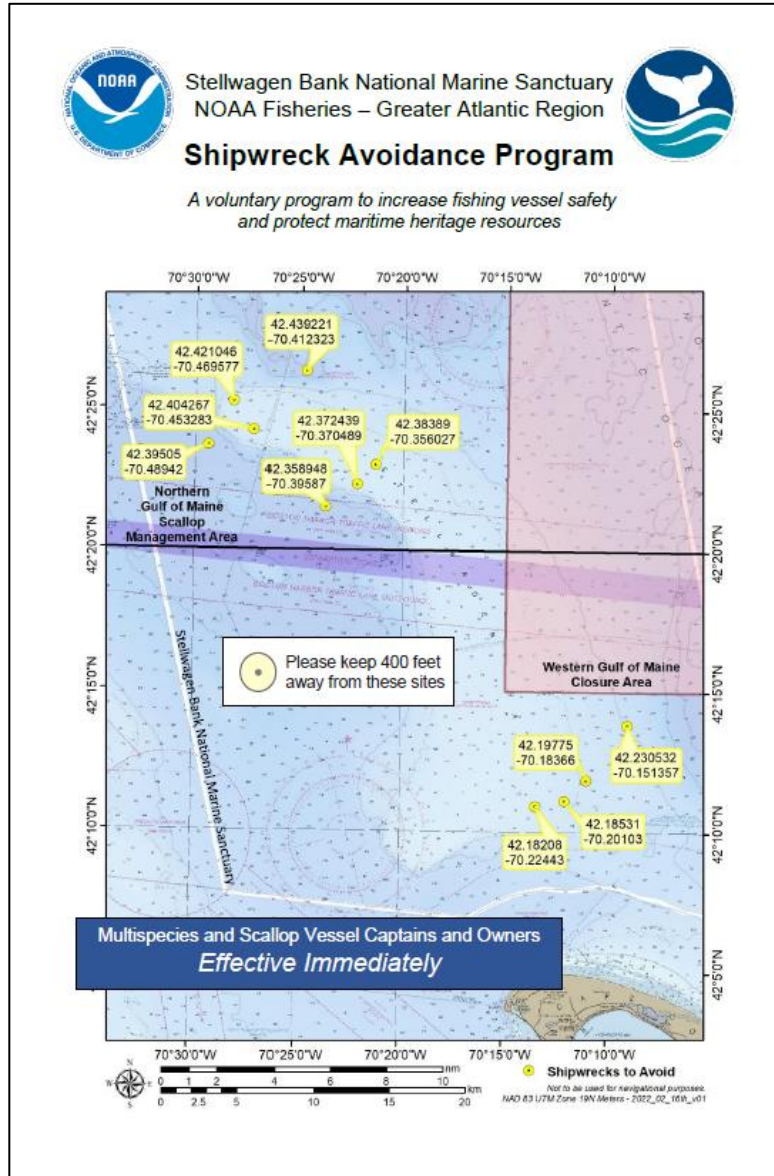
[Ben.Haskell@noaa.gov](mailto:Ben.Haskell@noaa.gov)

781-424-0699 cell



# Wheelhouse postcard

*Front side*



*Back side*

## Historic Shipwreck Avoidance on Stellwagen Bank

NOAA Fisheries and Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary request that vessels avoid shipwreck sites on northern and southern Stellwagen Bank by keeping gear 400 feet away from the specified locations.

To add the coordinates to your plotter, please visit:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/map/stellwagen-bank-national-marine-sanctuary-shipwreck-sites-0>

You can also scan this QR code to get to the website.



### *Why are historic shipwrecks important?*

They provide habitat and refuge for a variety of marine life.  
They are time capsules that tell us about our past.  
They can be memorial sites marking the last resting place of mariners.

### *What are the regulations on historic resources in the Sanctuary?*

The act or attempt to move, remove, or injure a Sanctuary historical resource is prohibited, although incidental damages from traditional fishing operations (including Federal scallop vessels operating under the current Scallop Fishery Management Plan) are exempt from this prohibition.

### *What if a wreck is inadvertently damaged?*

The specific prohibition on injuring a Sanctuary historical resources does not apply if the damage is incidental to a traditional fishing operation. NOAA wants to learn about any unknown wrecks or to take steps to mitigate any damages caused by inadvertent interactions with known wrecks. You can help by recording the coordinates, the conditions, and any other pertinent information regarding such an interaction, and contact Ben Haskell, SBNMS Deputy Superintendent at 781-546-6005 or [ben.haskell@noaa.gov](mailto:ben.haskell@noaa.gov).



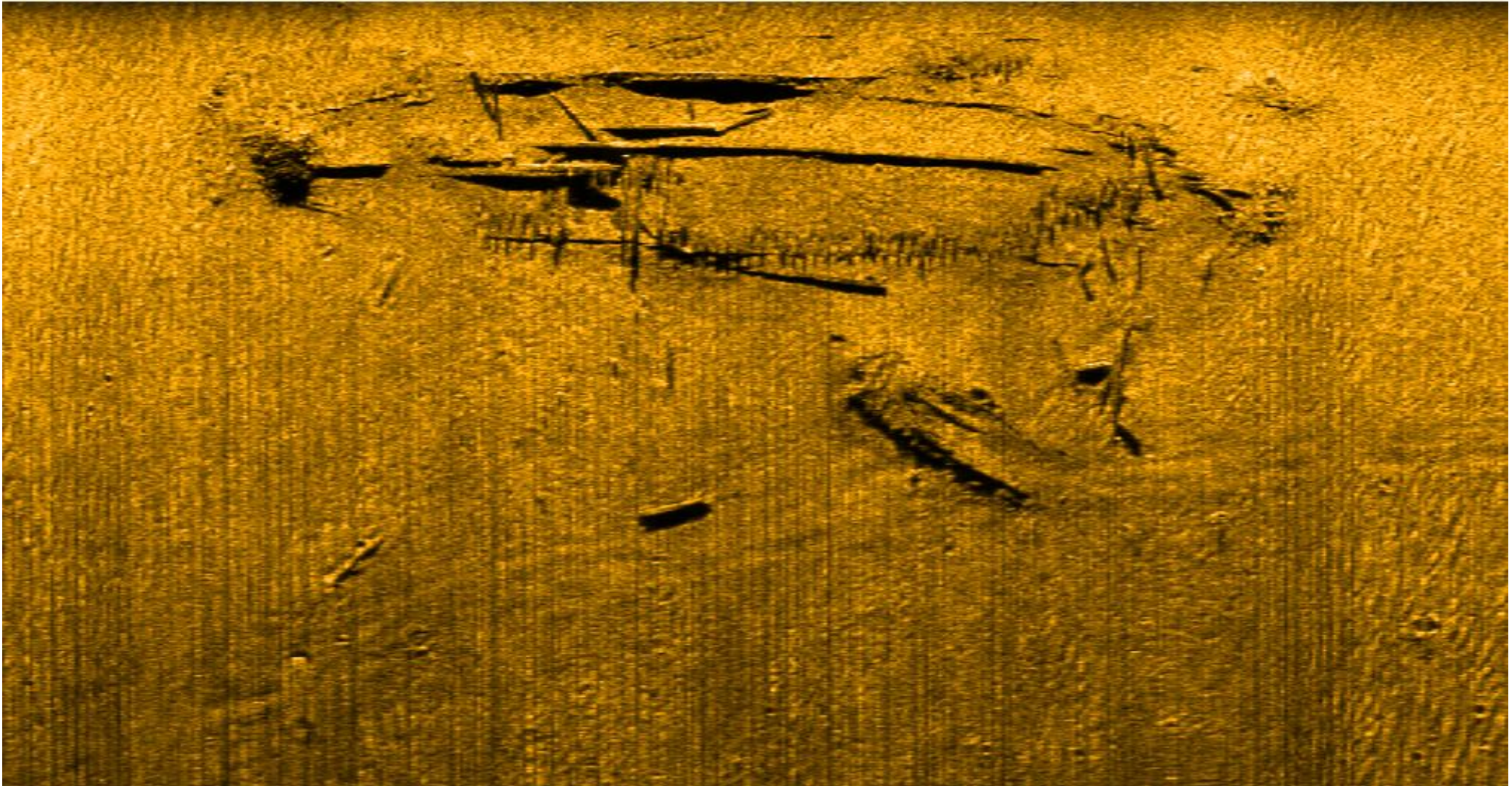
# Why should we care?



Coal Schooner King Phillip- Then (1886)



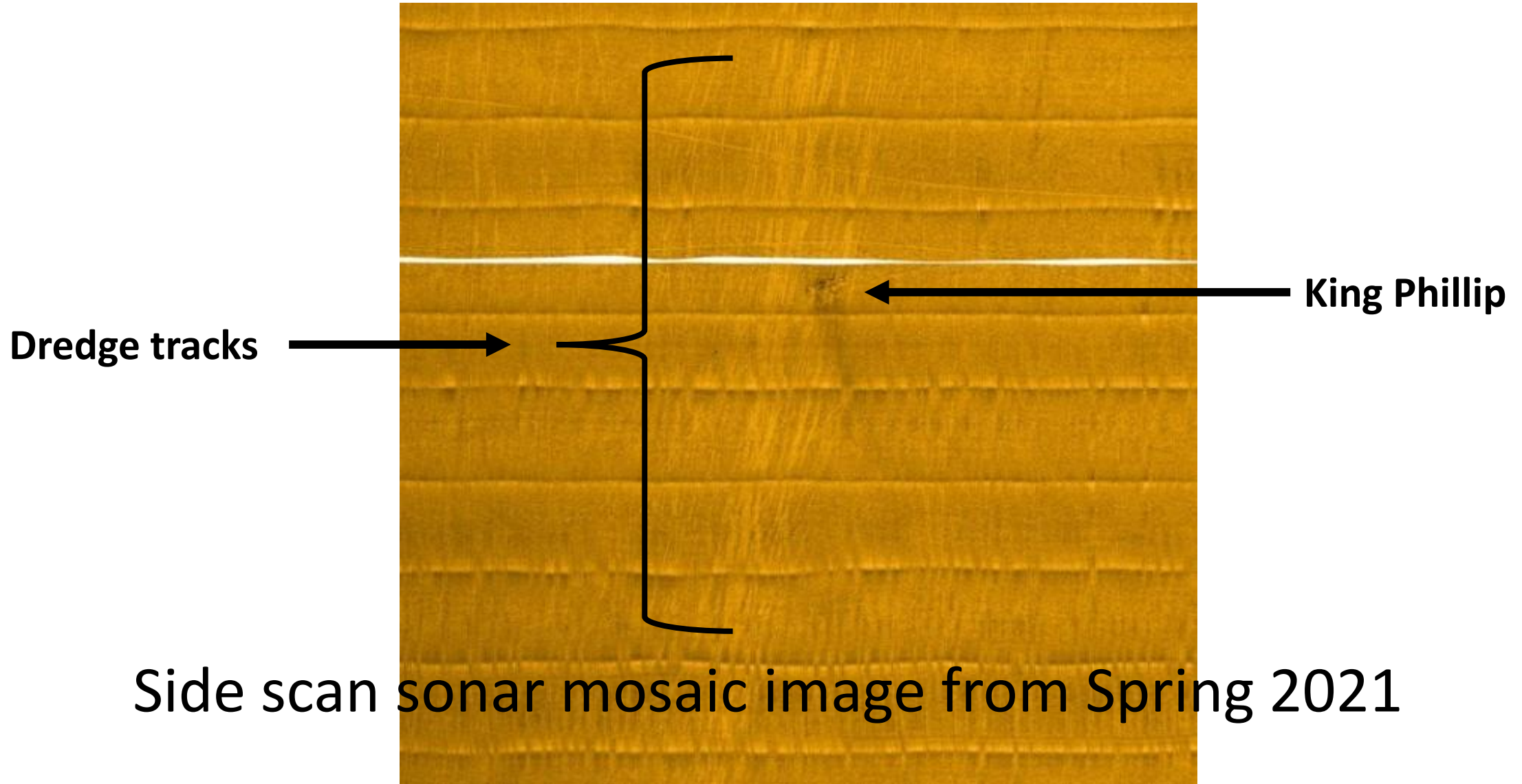
# Why should we care?



Coal Schooner King Phillip- Now (2021)



# Why should we care?



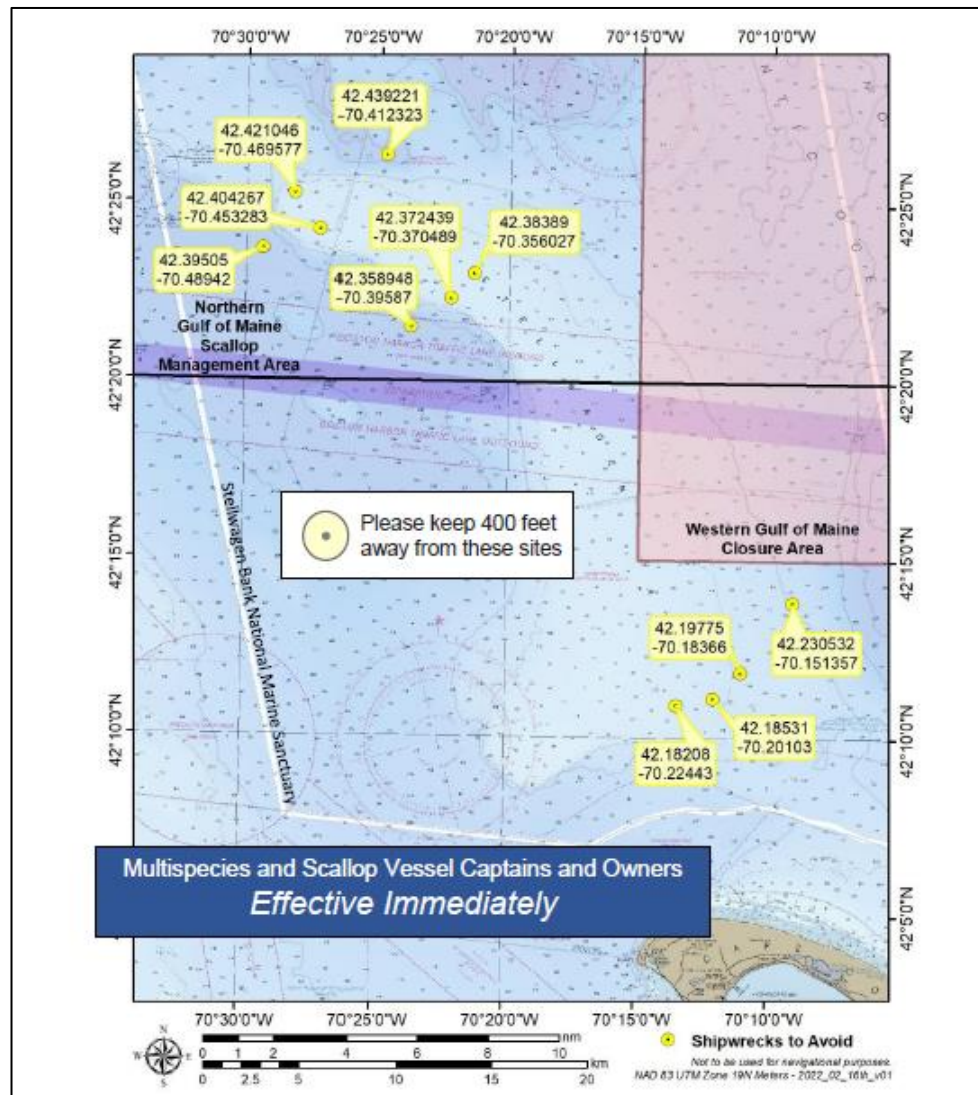




# Shipwreck Avoidance Pilot Program



*A voluntary program to increase fishing vessel safety  
and protect maritime heritage resources*



Contact:

Ben Haskell

Deputy Superintendent

And

Maritime Heritage Coordinator

[Ben.Haskell@noaa.gov](mailto:Ben.Haskell@noaa.gov)

781-424-0699 cell

# Industry Funded Scallop (IFS) Observer Program

- Operated by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC)
- Monitors trips taken by all sea scallop vessels: LA, LAGC-IFQ, LAGC-NGOM (new)
- Vessels must notify their intent to fish using the IFS call-in system.
- If selected, the vessel is responsible for contacting IFS providers and making arrangements to secure an IFS observer for their trip.
- IFS observer coverage rates are specific to permit categories and areas of the scallop fishery and are determined annually.



# IFS data collection and importance

## IFS observers record:

- Pre-trip safety check
- Economic data (trip cost, fuel price)
- Tow-by-tow information (depth, time & location)
- All kept and discarded catch on observed hauls
- Scallop shell heights, meat weights and volume
- Biological samples (e.g., otoliths)
- Protected species (incidental takes)

## Data collected by IFS observers help us understand:

- Fishing activity and gear characteristics
- Spatial distribution of recruits (young scallops)
- Discarding of scallops and associated species (e.g., yellowtail)
- Scallop growth and general health (e.g., grey meats, nematodes)
- Interactions of the scallop fishery with other resources (flatfish, protected species)



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IFS data are crucial for understanding the state of the scallop resource  
and informing management decisions

# How to participate in the IFS program?

1. Identify intended sail date.
2. Call the Scallop automated Interactive Voice Response (IVR) phone system.
  1. LAGC vessels must **call the IVR on a weekly basis** to declare their intent to fish during the upcoming calendar week (Sunday to Saturday).
  2. **Must call at least 72 hours prior to the start of the calendar week** (i.e., by Thursday prior to the week they intend to sail).
  3. Write down the **confirmation number**.
3. Vessel receives a selection or waiver email within 24 hrs.
4. **If selected**, the owner, operator or vessel manager **must contact the IFS observer service providers at least 48 hrs prior to the expected sail time**. If needed, call all providers in an attempt to secure an observer.
5. Providers need to respond within 18 hrs of request for an IFS observer.
6. Make arrangements with the assigned observer for the trip.

**Scallop Call-in (IVR): (508) 495-2100**  
**Vessel Call-in Coordinator and IFS Support: (508) 560-3550**



# Calling in for the start of FY2022

## 1) To fish on April 1 or April 2, 2022

Call the IVR at least 72 hours prior to sailing (up to 10 days prior)

Sail April 1<sup>st</sup>:

Call between Mar 22 - Mar 29

Sail April 2<sup>nd</sup>:

Call between Mar 23 - Mar 30

## IFS Fishing week: Sunday – Saturday

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
		Call	← Min 72 hrs prior		Sail	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

## 2) As of April 3<sup>rd</sup> and going forward

You only need to call once regardless of how many trips you plan to take during the week

Sail during the week (Sun – Sat)

Call by the previous Thursday

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
				Call	← Min 72 hrs prior	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sail on any of these days						

# Calling in to the IVR system

## Before calling, be ready to provide:

- Gear type (scallop dredge or scallop trawl)
- Permit type (LA or LAGC)
- Area (e.g., Northern Gulf of Maine)
- Phone number
- Permit number
- Name
- Port (City and state you intend to sail from)
- Sail date (Month, day, and year; Providing at least 72 hours notice)

## IFS providers:

- A.I.S. Inc.  
(774) 200-1688
- East West Technical Services, Inc.  
(860) 910-4957
- Fathom Resources, LLC.  
(508) 990-0997

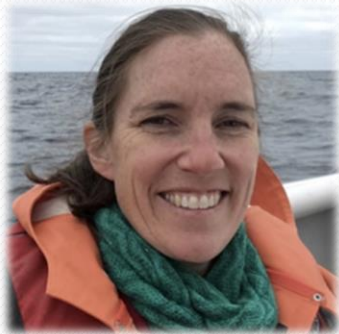
## Receive and keep confirmation number

- Will be used to identify the call-in
- Needed for calling providers to request observers
- Needed for support





# IFS support team at the NEFSC



**Jessica Blaylock**, IFS Operations Specialist

(508) 524-3020

[jessica.blaylock@noaa.gov](mailto:jessica.blaylock@noaa.gov)



**Connor Buckley**, IFS Assistant

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