# Scallop AP and Committee Meetings

Jonathon Peros, NEFMC Staff

May 26 & 28, 2020
Scallop AP and Committee
Webinar



# Today's Meeting:

#### **Objectives:**

- Develop recommendations: 2021/2022 RSA research priorities
- Update on impacts of COVID-19 on 2020 surveys and fishery specifications
- Develop list of recommendations to respond to President Trump's Executive Order

#### **Meeting Outlook:**

- Scallop AP & Committee meetings June 18 & 19, 2020 (webinar)
- Scallop Report at Council meeting (webinar)
- Scallop PDT (TBD)

# 2021/2022 Scallop RSA

# **Background**

- Scallop RSA program began in 1999
- Evolved over time but overall 1.25 million pounds set-aside each year to fund research projects (over \$10mil)
- About 10-15 projects are funded annually
- In June, the Council recommends the research priorities that are used in the funding announcement
- Goal for today
- Develop input for RSA research priorities for 2021/2022



## **Scallop RSA Process**

- Process coordinated by NEFSC and NEFMC
- No federal funds awards in pounds of scallop allocated through competitive grants process
- Summer FFO announcement, reviews in the fall
- Management and Technical Reviews
  - NMFS convenes a management review panel meeting with Council members and technical experts to discuss relevance of each project. Reviewers submit individual comments; no consensus recommendations are made.



## Scallop RSA - Technical Review Process

- Two tracks.
- Non-survey Proposals: Each proposal reviewed by three subject matter experts that score technical merits (importance/relevance, technical merit, qualifications, costs, outreach)
- Survey Proposals: Separate technical panel convened to review survey proposals
  - Technical experts review all survey proposals (NMFS and nonfederal scientists)
  - No consensus: Individual comments and scores are submitted by each reviewer



# Scallop RSA Process (cont.)

- Successful applicants may be asked to refine/modify project to better fit priorities/management needs.
- Priority given to higher technically ranked proposals, although additional factors such as management relevance, project needs, and cost effectiveness may be considered.
- Common scallop price determined by NMFS based on best and most recent data to determine set aside allocation.
  - \$9.50 for 2020/2021. Recent auction prices around this value.
- Awards in pounds, can be harvested from any area open to fishery unless FMP prohibits it.



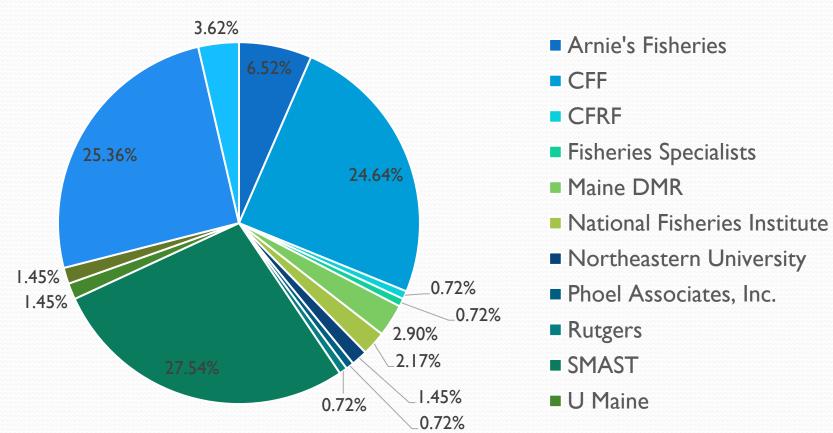
# RSA Awards: 2010 - 2020

- ~\$135 million awarded over 11-year period
  - (Average scallop price) x (set-aside lbs) = Total funding
  - Total funding includes compensation fishing and research

Priority	Number of Projects		Funding
Survey	71	(47%)	\$58,296,841 (43%)
Bycatch	34	(22%)	\$35,950,182 (27%)
Other	47	(31%)	\$40,785,695 (30%)
Grand Total	152		\$135,032,718

# **Recipients: 2010 - 2020**

- 14 groups received funding through 152 successful proposals
- Pie chart shows percentage of total RSA awards by group



## **RSA Common Price**

- Common Price is set annually by NEFSC.
- Council staff provide input:
  - Model based or review of domestic fishery data and imports/exports
- RSA program review recommendation to formalize this process.
  - PDT supports this.

Year	Common Price	
2009	\$7.55	
2010	\$7.55	
2011	<b>\$7.64</b>	
2012	<b>\$9.42</b>	
2013	\$9.75	
2014	<b>\$10.50</b>	
2015	<b>\$12.00</b>	
2016	\$12.00	
2017	<b>\$12.00</b>	
2018	\$10.50	
2019	\$9.50	
2020	\$9.50	

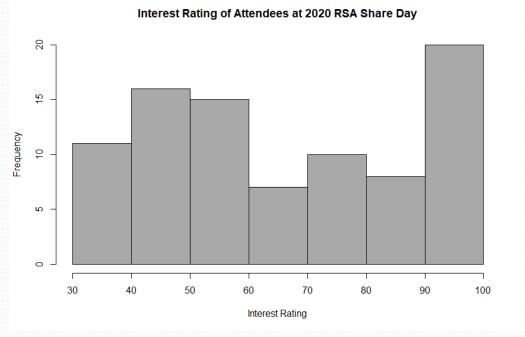


# 2020 Share Day

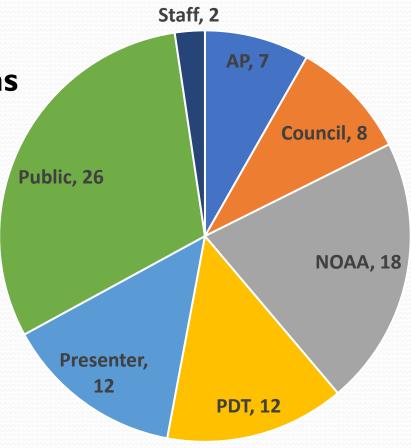
 85 individuals attended at least a portion for the meeting.

I2 Projects Presented

Short report and presentations







## **2020/2021 RSA Awards**



**New England Fishery Management Council** 

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 12, 2020

PRESS CONTACT: Janice Plante (607) 592-4817, jplante@nefmc.org

#### Scallop Research Set-Aside Program Supports 12 Projects for 2020-2021; Resource Surveys Once Again Top the List

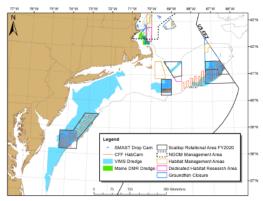
The Atlantic Sea Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program will support 12 projects during the 2020-2021 award cycle that address resource surveys, economic impacts of offshore wind development on the scallop fishery, links between environmental factors and scallop meat condition, and many other issues.

The awards were announced on March 11 by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center and the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, which both are part of NOAA Fisheries. The funded projects focus on scallop research priorities identified by the New England Fishery Management Council, which established the Scallop RSA Program in 1999 through Framework Adjustment 11 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan. The Council and NOAA Fisheries work together to support research-set aside projects. The Council sets priorities, and NOAA Fisheries manages the RSA competition and administers the program.

The Council outlined research priorities for 2020-2021 projects during its June 2019 meeting and gave resource surveys the highest ranking. Annual RSA-funded scallop surveys continue to provide important

information that directly helps scientists determine the status of the resource and also helps guide the Council in management decision-making.

No federal money is involved in this industry-funded program. Instead, each year during the specification-setting process. the Council "sets aside" 1.25 million pounds of scallops to carry out RSA projects. The work is conducted collaboratively between fishermen and researchers. Revenue generated from the sale of landed scallops is used to fund the research and compensate industry partners who harvest the scallops.



Areas where 2020-2021 RSA-funded scallop surveys will occur. - NEFMC graphic

- Announced on March 11, 2020
- 12 projects recommended for funding, Pls from 6 organizations
  - Surveys (dredge, drop camera, HabCam)
- 1.25+ mil. lb set-aside expected to generate ~\$20 million dollars -~\$4 to fund research, ~\$16 in compensation fishing (\$9.50)
- 5 projects funded for two years

## Link To Announcement

#### 2020-2021 Scallop Research Set-Aside Project Selections

Institution (Collaborators)	Project Title	Set-Aside Award Based on \$9.50 Per Pound of Scallop Meats
UMass School for Marine Science and Technology	High-Resolution Drop-Camera Surveys to Track Scallop and Predator Populations in Nantucket Lightship and Elephant Trunk and to Examine the Effects of Increased Quadrat Sampling	<ul> <li>2020 Award: 91,671 pounds</li> <li>2020 Value: \$870,875</li> </ul>
UMass School for Marine Science and Technology	Drop-Camera Survey to Track Scallop Aggregations in Closed Area II Access Area and Closed Area II Extension	<ul><li>2020 Award: 50,005 pounds</li><li>2020 Value: \$475,049</li></ul>
UMass School for Marine Science and Technology	A Seasonal Video Trawl Survey to Assess the Population Size of Yellowtail Flounder ( <i>Limanda ferruginea</i> ) and Windowpane ( <i>Scophthalmus aquosus</i> ) in Closed Area II	<ul> <li>2020 Award: 121,676 pounds</li> <li>2020 Value: \$1,155,924</li> </ul>
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (Northeastern University, F/Vs Liberty, Justice, Venture, Edgartown)	Investigating Links Between Environmental Conditions and Scallop Meat Condition to Predict the Regional Vulnerability of Fishing Stocks Under Future Ocean Acidification and Warming (2- year project)	<ul> <li>2020 Award: 140,148 pounds</li> <li>2020 Value: \$1,331,402</li> <li>2021 Award: 75,316</li> <li>2021 Value: \$715,503</li> </ul>

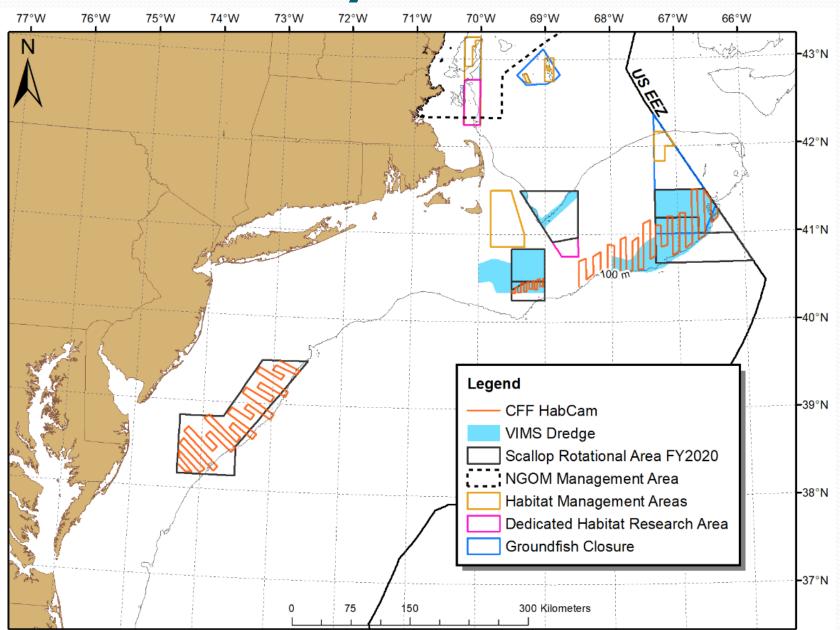
Institution (Collaborators)	Project Title	Set-Aside Award Based on \$9.50 Per Pound of Scallop Meats
Coonamessett Farm Foundation (F/V Kathy Marie)	An Intensive Optical Assessment of Sea Scallop Abundance and Distribution in Select Areas of Georges Bank and Mid-Atlantic: Southern Closed Area II, Southern Flank, Nantucket Lightship South Deep, Elephant Trunk, Hudson Canyon (2-year project)	<ul> <li>2020 Award: 256,651 pounds</li> <li>2020 Value: \$2,438,180</li> <li>2021 Award: 167,467 pounds</li> <li>2021 Value: \$1,590,940</li> </ul>
Rutgers University (University of Southern Mississippi, Old Dominion, VIMS)	Economic Impacts of Offshore Wind Energy Development on the Commercial Sea Scallop Fishery (2-year project)	<ul> <li>2020 Award: 138,076 pounds</li> <li>2020 Value: \$1,311,722</li> <li>2021 Award: 19,818 pounds</li> <li>2021 Value: \$188,267</li> </ul>
Maine Department of Marine Resources (University of Maine, F/V Nicole Leigh)	Sea Scallop Assessment on Stellwagen Bank	<ul> <li>2020 Award: 18,422 pounds</li> <li>2020 Value: \$175,005</li> </ul>
Virginia Institute of Marine Science	An Assessment of Sea Scallop Abundance and Distribution in the Nantucket Lightship Closed Area (2-year project)	<ul> <li>2020 Award: 42,377 pounds</li> <li>2020 Value: \$402,578</li> <li>2021 Award: 39,880 pounds</li> <li>2021 Value: \$378,863</li> </ul>
Virginia Institute of Marine Science	An Assessment of Sea Scallop Abundance and Distribution in the Georges Bank Access Areas and Surrounds (2-year project)	<ul> <li>2020 Award: 42,020 pounds</li> <li>2020 Value: \$399,192</li> <li>2021 Award: 43,460</li> <li>2021 Value: \$412,870</li> </ul>
Virginia Institute of Marine Science	Age-Based Assessment in the Sea Scallop <i>Placopecten</i> magellanicus	<ul> <li>2020 Award: 109,718 pounds</li> <li>2020 Value: \$1,042,322</li> </ul>
University of Maine (Maine Department of Marine Resources, F/V Shearwater, F/V Eleanor J)	Quantifying Scallop Growth and Evaluating its Spatio-Temporal Variability in the Northern Gulf of Maine	<ul> <li>2020 Award: 20,451 pounds</li> <li>2020 Value: \$194,280</li> </ul>
University of Massachusetts (UMass) Dartmouth School for Marine Science and Technology (SMAST)	High-Resolution Drop-Camera Survey Examining the Scallop Recruitment Event in the Gulf of Maine	<ul> <li>2020 Award: 131,834 pounds</li> <li>2020 Value: \$1,252,423</li> </ul>

# 2020/2021 Scallop RSA Awards

D.:: 4	Priority	Projects	Research
Priority	Rank	Funded	Cost
Survey	Highest	7	\$8,395,975
Biology	General	2	\$1,236,602
Bycatch	General		\$1,155,924
Wind	General		\$1,499,989
Ecosystem	General		\$2,046,905
Total		12	\$14,335,395

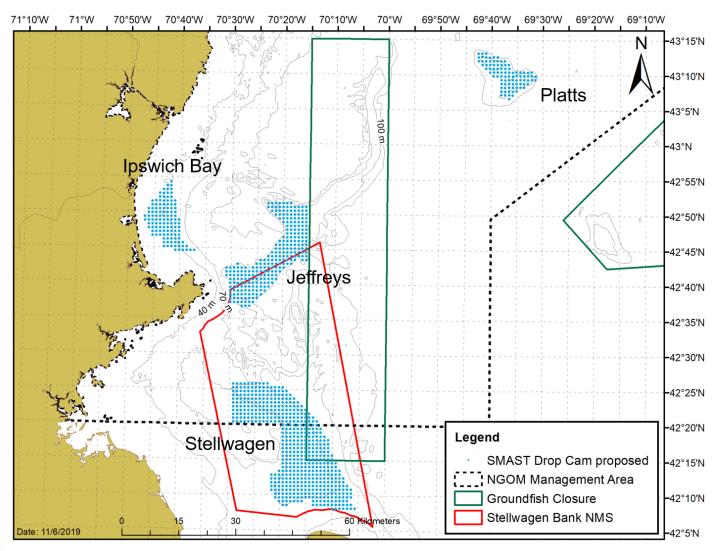
Four priority areas no projects funded: Dredge efficiency, Turtles, meat quality, GOM survey optimization.

# **Funded Surveys for 2021**



# **Funded Surveys for 2021**

#### **SMAST Drop Cam**





## **Priorities Considered in 2020**

#### **Regulatory Requirements**

2022 Specs: Prepare a specifications package to set FY 2022 (2023 default) specifications (i.e. setting DAS, access area trips, Northern GOM TAC, limited access general category IFQ allocations, etc.).

RSA: Support annual scallop RSA process, including priority setting, and technical and management reviews.

NMFS and PDT have annual responsibilities related to estimating scallop, yellowtail, and windowpane catch during the year (i.e. LA AM exception, re-evaluation of YT sub-ACL based on updated information).

#### Items considered by the Council as part of 2020 priorities

Amendment 21: Complete Amendment 21: NGOM management, LAGC trip limits, state waters fishing by LAGC vessels (ongoing)

Northern Edge Access: Support action for access to Northern Edge HMA (see Habitat)

Review and implement recommendations from 2015 scallop survey review panel

Modify RSA program as recommended by RSA Program Review

Performance report for the LA component

Evaluate rotational management program

Evaluate options for harvesting slow growing scallops in Nantucket Light Ship-South Deep

Develop limited access vessel DAS and access area trip leasing pilot project suggested by East Coast Scallop Harvester's Association

Adjustments to scallop industry funded observer program

(IFO coverage vs. required SBRM coverage, etc.)

## 2020/2021 RSA Priorities

Last year's recommendations (for reference)

## Surveys: Highest Priority

- Ia: access areas (MAAA, CAII, NLS)
- Ib: areas of interest (recruitment & GOM)
- Ic: Broadscale surveys of Mid-Atlantic and Georges Bank

#### General Research: Of Equal Importance

- 2. Dredge efficiency (synthesis of existing work)
- 3. Impact of offshore wind development on scallop resource
- 4. Turtle behavior in response to climate change
- 5. Bycatch: small scallops and non-target species
- 6. Scallop meat quality
- 7. Scallop Biology Research: age and growth, M, GOM, predation
- 8. GOM survey optimization, data collection (SARC 65 Rec.)

## **PDT Input for 2021/2022**

### Surveys remain a high(est) priority -

- Shuffled explanatory text to clarify how data is used
- Ia.Add Closed Area I, discussion work funded for 202 I
- Ib: "areas of interest" No changes. Areas where recruitment observed in 2020 surveys; keep GOM surveys in this section
- I c: Broadscale surveys of Mid-Atlantic and Georges Bank

### General Research Grouping v. Ranking

- No objections to "general research" vs. High, Medium, Other
- Trade-offs associated with each approach.

## PDT Input for 2021/2022 (1/5)

- 2. Dredge efficiency (synthesis of existing work)
- No projects funded last cycle, value in synthesizing the results of previous studies. Applies to both survey and commercial dredge work.
- 3. Impact of offshore wind energy development (remove)
- Take off for a year and review results of two projects that have been funded. Two 2-year studies have been funded.
- What is missing from present efforts that would justify more funding?
- Other sources of funding, such as BOEM. Role of RSA?

## PDT Input for 2021/2022 (2/5)

- 4. Turtle behavior in the Mid-Atlantic & Georges Bank
- Not funded last cycle, PDT supports keeping on the list with additional language
- New BiOp expected this year, protected species issue
- Presented at RSA Share Day, new management tool
- 5. Bycatch research
- Still a priority. No proposed changes from last year.
- Focus is on small scallops and non-target species. Intentionally vague to allow for research on range of projects and species.

## PDT Input for 2021/2022 (3/5)

- 6. Scallop meat quality research
- Mixed opinions re: maintaining this as a priority.
- For: Area to address emerging issues, can have positive impact on the scallop industry.
- Against: Several projects funded, meat quality issues not a recent concern.
- PDT support for describing the occurrence of disease and parasites vs. understanding mechanisms and processes.
- 7. Scallop Biology
- Still a priority. Fundamental to scallop management. PDT supports a broad category on this topic.

## PDT Input for 2021/2022 (4/5)

- 8. Data collection in the Gulf of Maine (remove)
- Data collection is happening  $\rightarrow$  biology and survey projects
- This focused on "optimal survey coverage" & survey design
- Recommendation came out of SARC 65. Scallop survey design is scheduled to be discussed as part of follow-up to RSA program review. Other ways to complete this work.
- 7. Evaluation of rotational management (NEW)
- Recent Council priority. Could be done as review of how rotational management has performed over time, or evaluating the impacts of "intense" fishing pressure (think NLS-West) as part of a BACI study.

# PDT Recommendations: 2021/2022 RSA Priorities (5/5)

## Surveys: Highest Priority

- Ia: access areas (MAAA, CAII, CAI, NLS)
- Ib: areas of interest (recruitment & GOM)
- Ic: Broadscale surveys of Mid-Atlantic and Georges Bank

### General Research: Of Equal Importance

- 2. Dredge efficiency (synthesis of existing work)
- 3. Turtle behavior
- 4. Bycatch: small scallops and non-target species
- 5. Scallop meat quality
- 6. Scallop Biology Research: age and growth, M, GOM, predation
- 7. Evaluation of rotational management (add "intense"?)

# **AP and Committee Input**

- Questions?
- Council will consider Committee recommendations during the Scallop Report at June meeting
- TODAY: Looking for motions or consensus
  - Staff suggestion:
    - If you have modifications to suggest, first determine if you generally agree with PDT (AP) input (starting document)
    - Make changes to underlying document (new topics, edits)
    - Address ranking scenarios AFTER list of priorities is finished



# Update on impacts of COVID-19:

2020 surveys and fishery specifications, other 2020 work priorities

## **Discussion Topics**

- Objectives, 2020 Schedule
- Impact of COVID-19 on completing survey work
- 'Guiding Principles' for upcoming work
- Timelines and scenarios for specifications and other Council priorities



## **Objectives and 2020 Schedule**

- We will not have a 'typical' specs process this year.
- Delays are inevitable, shared understanding of the situation.
- This year is more complicated than most because of COVID-19 &:
  - Labor day is late: September 7, 2020.
  - Management track reviews the week of September 14<sup>th</sup> (includes scallops).
- The timing (delay) of specifications will impact our work on other Council priorities....Amendment 21, and future scallop work (EO, 2021 priorities).



## Impact of COVID-19 on Scallop Surveys

- Five survey groups planned to complete survey work in 2020.
- VIMS, SMAST, CFF, ME DMR received scallop RSA awards, the NEFSC had contracted with the R/V Sharp to complete surveys in the Mid-Atlantic and on Georges Bank.
- Each group is navigating varying sets of institutional constraints.
  - VIMS & SMAST: University guidelines and restrictions.
  - NOAA: Agency policy, R/V Sharp sailing + availability.
  - State guidelines and travel considerations for all groups.
  - Groups discussed sharing COVID-19 protocols and testing information.



## Updates from Survey Groups (May 12, 2020)

#### Subject to Change:

- VIMS: Surveys of Mid-Atlantic, NLS, CAI, CAII and surrounds (~35 DAS). Stay at home order in Virginia. Working with university to explore options later this summer.
- SMAST: Surveys of Elephant Trunk, NLS, CAII, GOM (35-40 DAS). Working with university to explore options later this summer. Awaiting more guidance from the state.
- CFF Surveys of MAAA, NLS, CAII and Southern Flank (18 DAS over two trips). Working with vessels, planning to proceed with survey.
- ME DMR Dredge survey of Stellwagen Bank (12 DAS of surveys → Day trips).
- NOAA Fisheries Mid-Atlantic and Georges with HabCam and dredged. No decision had been made. Communicating with R/V Sharp. 3-4 weeks to get the survey prepared.
   Waiting on more guidance from NOAA on PPE and testing. Planned 32 DAS.



## Develop 'Guiding Principles" for completing work

- Discussed with 2020 survey groups and were shared with the Scallop PDT
- The Scallop Committee may want to develop guiding principles for the development of 2021/2022 specification.
  - This would help survey groups, and NOAA and Council staff plan for and execute work, consistent with the Committee's intent.
- With the situation surrounding COVID-19 evolving daily, the PDT and survey groups feel that additional guidance is needed from states, universities, and NOAA before a plan for the 2021/2022 specifications process can be more fully developed.



# 'Guiding Principles" (selected sections) (1/3)

#### I. General:

- The health and welfare of all survey groups is paramount.
- The 2021/2022 specifications can be completed with using data from last year's survey information (basically a two-year specifications cycle).
- No survey group should feel forced or obligated by NMFS or the Council to complete survey work this year – arrangements can be made to delay projects/awards.
- 2. There is uncertainty over how long COVID-19 restrictions will impact surveys of the scallop resource and/or limit public meetings and gatherings.



# 'Guiding Principles' (selected sections) (2/3)

## 4a. Survey Work Completion:

- Survey groups should be given the opportunity to complete their planned survey work,
- The specifications process will be planned around the latest date that a survey group can submit the data.
- The latest the survey data can be submitted for use in the 2020/2021 specifications process and January 2021 final action is September 25, 2020.

#### Link to document on Council website:

https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/Doc.-3a-Draft-Guiding-Principles-for-Completing-2021-2022-Specs.pdf

# 'Guiding Principles' (selected sections) (3/3)

#### 4b. Specifications Setting Process:

- Limit the overall range of alternatives in Framework 33 to help streamline the action for submission and implementation. (Only specs, no other special measures)
- Limit the complexity of spatial management alternatives in Framework 33 to help streamline the action for submission and implementation.
- The latest the Council should take action on 2021/2022 specifications is at its January 2021 meeting.

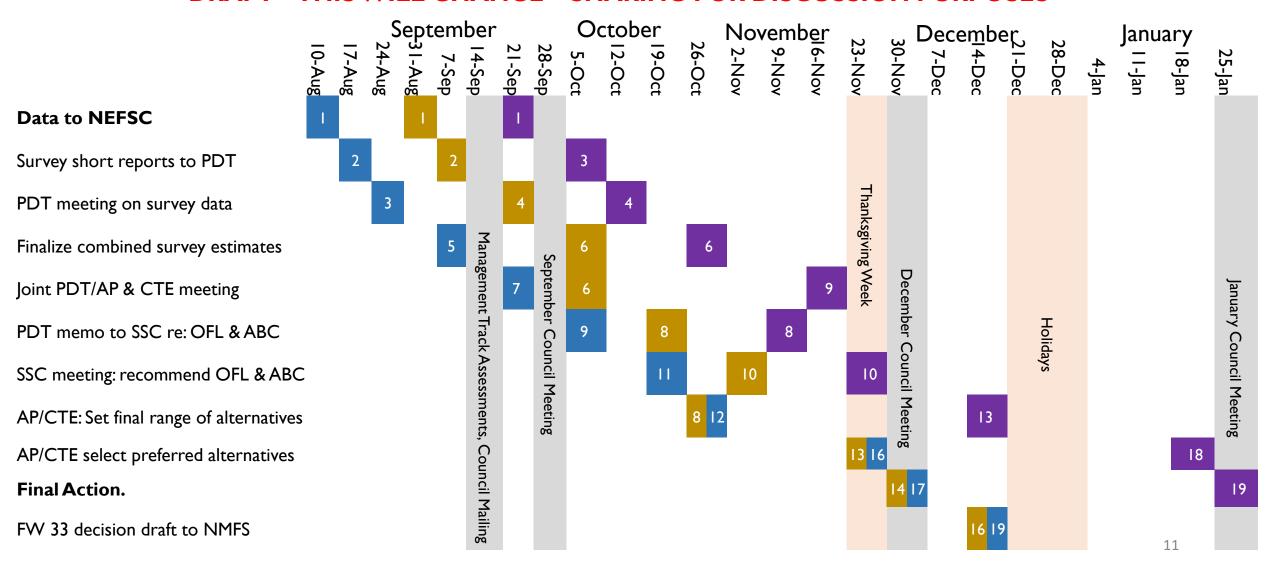
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# Three Timing Scenarios for 2021/2022 Specs

- This year is more complicated than most. Council staff put together three scenarios for setting 2021/22 allocations that focus on Council related milestones (meetings, analyses, etc.)
- Scenario 1: No Data or No Delay. December final action (by August 14)
  - 17 week process from data delivery to final action. (Or decision to use 2019 surveys)
- Scenario 2: 3 Week Data Delay. December final action (by September 2)
  - 13 week process from data delivery to final action. *Concerns about compressed schedule.*
- Scenario 3: 7 Week Data Delay. January final action (by October 1)
  - 18 week process from data delivery to final action.
- All scenarios utilize webinars for some AP/CTE meetings, and potentially SSC
- For all scenarios, the Council should consider a relatively simple specs package for 2021/2022 (Not just Scenario 2).

#### DRAFT - THIS WILL CHANGE - SHARING FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES



# **Questions?**



## **Amendment 21 Update**

- Council removed some alternatives to streamline the document at the April Council meeting. Planning to complete an EA for Amendment.
- Expect the Council to review the EA document in June, and signal preliminary preferred alternatives. After that, we would need to work with the Committee Chair to schedule public hearings, and plan next steps.
- Some of this will depend on how the Council wants to proceed... In-person hearings may be difficult to schedule in the short-term as states implement phased re-opening.



# Specs impact on the Amendment 21 Process

- Past target for A21 Final Action was January 2021...
  - Based on 3 scenarios outlined, it is difficult to see how this would work while we prepare the specifications for submission.
- Most likely scenario seems to be final action on A21 in April of 2021.
- If final action on specs is delayed to Jan. 2021, there could be a narrow window to get to a final vote on Amendment 21 in September 2020.
- Final Action on A21 in April 2021 has implications for future work priorities.

No Data or No Delay December Final Action

"3 Week Data Delay"

December Final Action

"6 Week Data Delay"
January Final Action

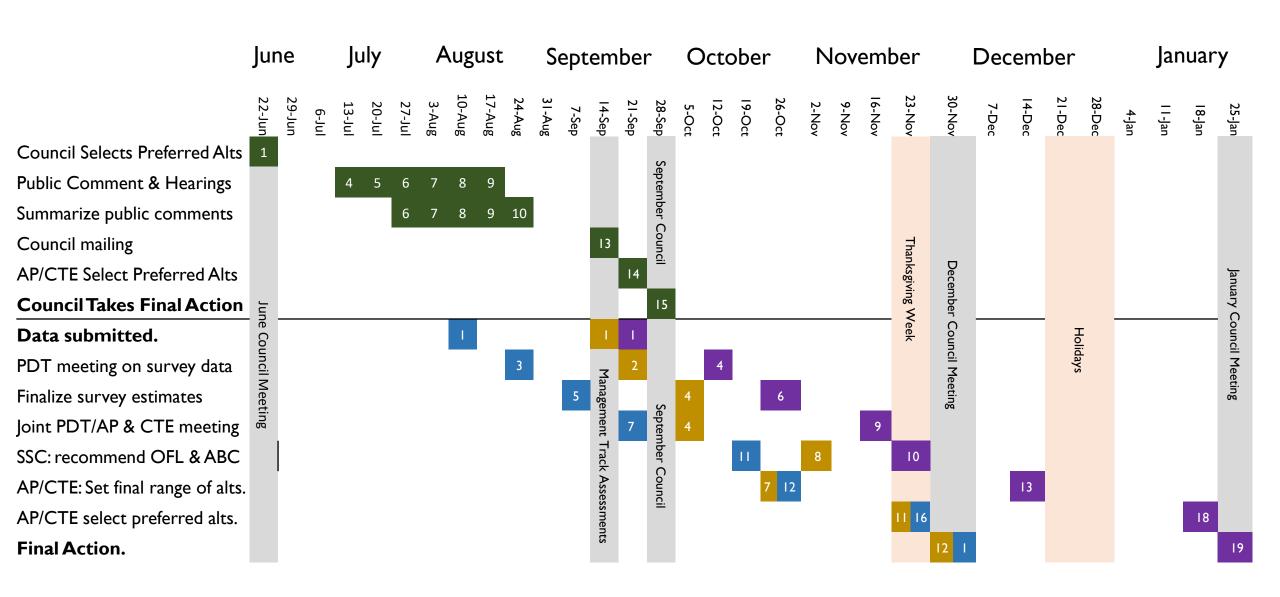
Amendment 21
September Final Action

Amendment 21
April 2020 Final Action

"3 Week Data Delay"

December Final Action

"6 Week Data Delay"
January Final Action



## Completing 2020 Priorities – Options for Consideration

No Data or No Delay
December Final Action

Amendment 21
April 2021 Final Action

The Amendment 21
April 2021 Final Action

"6 Week Data Delay"

January Final Action

January Final Action

+

Amendment 21
September Final Action

April 2021 Final Action

A final vote on A21 in April 2021 would likely impact what could be addressed as 2021 priorities since staff would need to continue to work on the A21 submission after the April meeting. This is when we start working on RSA, RSA share day, etc. Limited time in the summer.



**Questions?** 

Thoughts on 'guiding principles'?

Thoughts on moving ahead with A21, potentially without in-person hearings?

