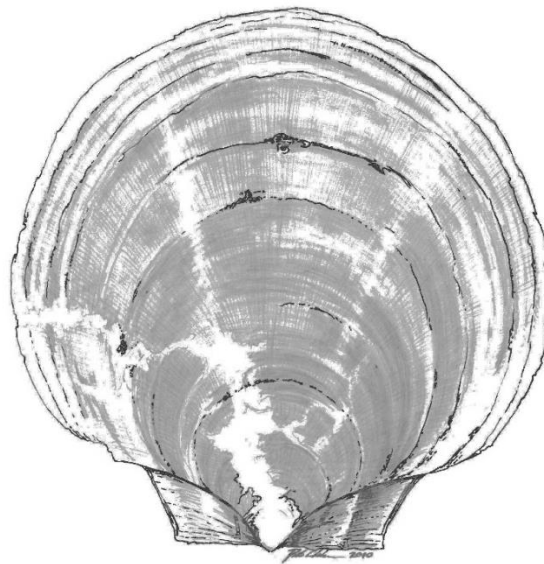


DECISION DOCUMENT
for Preliminary Preferred Options in
Amendment 21
to the
Atlantic Sea Scallop FMP



Scallop AP and Committee
June 18 & 19, 2020
Webinar

This document was developed to provide the Council a decision-making tool for selecting preliminary preferred alternatives under consideration in Scallop Amendment 21.

June 11, 2020 - Version 1.1

Meeting Plan and Anticipated Action on Amendment 21 at June 18 & 19, 2020 Advisory Panel and Committee Meetings:

1. Prior to selecting preliminary preferred alternatives, the Council will receive a presentation on measures under consideration in Amendment 21. There are 10 sets of alternatives (Actions) in Amendment 21.
 - a. The Council may wish to select a preliminary preferred measure that is within a range of options that have been analyzed.
 - b. The Council may wish to bundle preliminary preferred measures of Actions together in a single motion.
2. Motions to select preliminary preferred alternatives. The AP, Committee, and Council will all have another opportunity to select “final” preferred alternatives in Amendment 21. Any preliminary preferred alternatives will be noted in the public hearing document.
3. Motion to approve the Draft Amendment 21 document for public hearings.
4. Consider a motion or consensus statement to provide input to the Council regarding public hearings for this action if in-person meetings may be limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

4.1 – Action 1 – Northern Gulf of Maine Catch Limits

4.1 – Action 1 – Northern Gulf of Maine Catch Limits <i>Choose one alternative.</i>			AP Preferred (Preliminary)	CTE Preferred (Preliminary)
4.1.1	Alt. 1	No Action		
4.1.2	Alt. 2	Account for the Northern Gulf of Maine as part of the Acceptable Biological Catch and Annual Catch Limits		
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider:				
Action 1 considers how the scallop biomass in the Northern Gulf of Maine should be accounted for in the legal limits of the fishery (OFL, ABC, ACL). Since the Council will set specifications for the Northern Gulf of Maine through a future action, the preferred alternative in Action 1 will not limit what the Council can choose as preferred other sections of Amendment 21.				
Other important Considerations/Draft EA References				
Biological Impacts: Section 6.2.1 Non-target species impacts: Section 6.3.1 Protected resource impacts: Section 6.4.1 Impacts on Physical Environment and Essential Fish Habitat: Section 6.5.1 Economic impacts: Section 6.6.1.1 Social impacts: Section 6.6.2.1				

4.2 – Action 2 – Northern Gulf of Maine Allocations

4.2 – Action 2 – Northern Gulf of Maine Allocations <i>Choose one alternative. If Alternative 2 is selected, choose one option.</i>			AP Preferred (Preliminary)	Committee Preferred (Preliminary)
4.2.1	Alt. 1	No Action		
4.2.2	Alt. 2	Create Northern Gulf of Maine set-aside to support research and a directed LAGC fishery, share additional NGOM Allocation between the NGOM Set-Aside and NGOM APL (LA and LAGC IFQ)		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.2.2.1 - Option 1: NGOM set-aside trigger of 1 million pounds. Pounds over the trigger would be split 5% for the NGOM set-aside and 95% for the NGOM APL 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.2.2.2 – Option 2: NGOM Set-Aside Trigger of 600,000 pounds. Pounds over the trigger would be split 25% for the NGOM set-aside and 75% for the NGOM APL up to 3 million pounds, then 5% for the NGOM set-aside and 95% for the NGOM APL 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.2.2.3 – Option 3: NGOM Set-Aside Trigger of 500,000 pounds. Pounds over the trigger would be split 5% for the NGOM set-aside and 95% for the NGOM APL 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.2.2.4 – Option 4: Set-aside trigger of 200,000 pounds. Pounds over the trigger would be split 25% for the NGOM set-aside and 75% for the NGOM APL up to 3 million pounds, then 5% for the NGOM set-aside and 95% for the NGOM APL 		
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider:				
<p>There are two key decision points imbedded within each Option associated with Alternative 2:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> At what level of exploitable biomass in open areas of the NGOM (i.e., the trigger) should the NGOM allocation be allocated to the LA and LAGC IFQ as NGOM APL? How should the allocation above the trigger be shared between the NGOM Set-Aside and the LA and LAGC IFQ components? <p>The Amendment 21 EA analyzes the impacts of allocation sharing arrangements over a range of values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 500,000 pounds up to 1,000,000 pounds for the NGOM set-aside trigger, sharing additional NGOM Allocation between the NGOM Set-Aside (5%) and NGOM APL (95% for the LA and LAGC IFQ). From 200,000 pounds up to 600,000 pounds for the set-aside trigger, sharing additional NGOM Allocation up to 3,000,000 pounds between the NGOM Set-Aside (25%) and the NGOM APL (75%). Over 3,000,000 pounds the NGOM Allocation would be split 5% for the NGOM set-aside and 95% for the NGOM APL. 				
Other important Considerations/Draft EA References				
<p>Biological Impacts: Section 6.2.2</p> <p>Non-target species impacts: Section 6.3.2</p> <p>Protected resource impacts: Section 6.4.2</p> <p>Impacts on Physical Environment and Essential Fish Habitat: Section 6.5.2</p> <p>Economic impacts: Section 6.6.1.2</p> <p>Social impacts: Section 6.6.2.2</p>				

4.3 – Action 3 – Monitoring Directed Scallop Fishing in the Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area

4.3 – Action 3 - Monitoring Directed Scallop Fishing in the Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area <i>Choose one alternative.</i>			AP Pref. (Preliminary)	CTE Pref. (Preliminary)
4.3.1	Alt. 1	No Action		
4.3.2	Alt. 2	Monitor directed scallop fishing in the NGOM by expanding the Scallop Industry Funded Observer program, use a portion of the NGOM Allocation to off-set monitoring costs		
4.3.3	Alt. 3	Monitor directed scallop fishing in the NGOM with observers from the NEFOP program		
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider:				
Alternatives 2 and 3 would initiate monitoring for LAGC vessels fishing in the Northern Gulf of Maine management area. LA vessels would continue to be monitored using the Scallop Industry Funded Observer program.				
Other important Considerations/Draft EA References				
Biological Impacts: Section 6.2.3 Non-target species impacts: Section 6.3.3 Protected resource impacts: Section 6.4.3 Impacts on Physical Environment and Essential Fish Habitat: Section 6.5.3 Economic impacts: Section 6.6.1.3 Social impacts: Section 6.6.2.3				

4.4 - Action 4 – Support Scallop Research using Scallops from the Northern Gulf of Maine

4.4 - Action 4 – Support Scallop Research using Scallops from the Northern Gulf of Maine <i>Choose one alternative. If Alternative 2 is selected, choose one option.</i>			AP Pref. (Preliminary)	CTE Pref. (Preliminary)
4.4.1	Alt. 1	No Action		
4.4.2	Alt. 2	Allocate a portion of the NGOM Allocation to increase the overall Scallop RSA and support Scallop RSA compensation fishing		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>4.4.2.1 – Option 1: Allocate 5% of the NGOM Allocation to increase the overall Scallop RSA</u> 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>4.4.2.2 – Option 2: Allocate 10% of the NGOM Allocation to increase the overall Scallop RSA</u> 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>4.4.2.3 – Option 3: Allocate 15% of the NGOM Allocation to increase the overall Scallop RSA</u> 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>4.4.2.4 – Option 4: Allocate 50,000 pounds of NGOM Allocation to increase the overall RSA to 1.3 million pounds</u> 		
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider:				
Action 4 considers whether a portion of the NGOM Allocation would be added to the 1.25-million-pound Scallop RSA and made available for RSA compensation fishing. Under No Action, compensation fishing would be in addition to the NGOM Allocation, and not accounted for in the catch setting process.				
Other important Considerations/Draft EA References				
Biological Impacts: Section 6.2.4 Non-target species impacts: Section 6.3.4 Protected resource impacts: Section 6.4.4 Impacts on Physical Environment and Essential Fish Habitat: Section 6.5.4 Economic impacts: Section 6.6.1.4 Social impacts: Section 6.6.2.4				

4.5 – Action 5 – Northern Gulf of Maine Fishing Season

4.5 – Action 5 – Northern Gulf of Maine Fishing Season <i>The Council can select any combination of multiple alternatives as preferred unless it chooses No Action.</i>			AP Pref. (Preliminary)	CTE Pref. (Preliminary)
4.5.1	Alt. 1	No Action		
4.5.2	Alt. 2	Limit the number of landings per LAGC vessel per week in the Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area		
4.5.3	Alt. 3	Limit vessels to one sailing per day		
4.5.4	Alt. 4	Establish a seasonal closure of the NGOM management area from September 1 – November 31 annually		
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider				
<p>Alternatives 4.5.2 (Alternative 2) and 4.5.3 (Alternative 3) would apply solely to the harvest available to the LAGC NGOM permitted vessels. The proposed seasonal closure in Alternative 4 would apply to all directed scallop fishing in the NGOM. The Council plans to address additional details of how the NGOM APL could be fished by LA and LAGC IFQ vessels in a future action.</p> <p>The magnitude of the impacts associated with Action 5 could be expected to increase if the Council selects multiple alternatives as preferred.</p>				
Other important Considerations/Draft EA References				
<p>Biological Impacts: Section 6.2.5</p> <p>Non-target species impacts: Section 6.3.5</p> <p>Protected resource impacts: Section 6.4.5</p> <p>Impacts on Physical Environment and Essential Fish Habitat: Section 6.5.5</p> <p>Economic impacts: Section 6.6.1.5</p> <p>Social Impacts: Section 6.6.2.5</p>				

4.6 – Action 6 - Cumulative Maximum Dredge Width That Can Be Fished in The Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area

4.6 – Action 6 - Cumulative Maximum Dredge Width That Can Be Fished in The Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area <i>Choose one alternative.</i>			AP Pref. (preliminary)	CTE Pref. (preliminary)
4.6.1	Alt. 1	No Action. (LA double dredge up to 31’ allowed)		
4.6.2	Alt. 2	Limit the combined dredge width of all federally permitted scallop vessels operating in the Northern Gulf of Maine management area to a maximum of 10.5 ft		
4.6.3	Alt. 3	Limit the combined dredge width of Full Time Limited Access Scallop vessels operating in the Northern Gulf of Maine management area to a maximum of 15.5 ft		
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider:				
Currently, all LAGC vessels and Limited Access vessels participating in the small dredge program can fish a maximum combined dredge width of 10.5 feet in the NGOM management area. Full-Time Limited Access vessels fishing in the NGOM management area can fish a maximum combined dredge width of 31 feet. Alternatives 2 and 3 would reduce the combined maximum dredge width of Full-Time Limited Access vessels. The Council plans to develop measures for how the NGOM APL (LA and LAGC IFQ allocations) can be harvested by the LA and LAGC IFQ components in a later action.				
Other important Considerations/Draft EA References				
Biological Impacts: Section 6.2.6 Non-target species impacts: Section 6.3.6 Protected resource impacts: Section 6.4.6 Impacts on Physical Environment and Essential Fish Habitat: Section 6.5.6 Economic impacts: Section 6.6.1.6 Social Impacts: Section 6.6.2.6				

4.7 – Action 7 - Increase the LAGC IFQ Possession Limit

4.7 – Action 7 – Increase the LAGC IFQ Possession Limit <i>Choose one alternative. If Alternative 2 or 3 is selected, choose one option.</i>			AP Pref. (preliminary)	CTE Pref. (preliminary)
4.7.1	Alt. 1	No Action. (600-pound possession limit)		
4.7.2	Alt. 2	Increase the LAGC IFQ possession limit to 800 pounds		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.7.2.1 – Option 1: Increase the LAGC IFQ possession limit to 800 pounds per trip for open and access area trips 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.7.2.2 – Option 2: Increase the LAGC IFQ possession limit to 800 pounds per trip for only access area trips 		
4.7.3	Alt. 3	Increase the LAGC IFQ possession limit to 1,200 pounds per trip		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.7.3.1 – Option 1: Increase the LAGC IFQ possession limit to 1,200 pounds per trip for open and access area trips 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.7.3.2 – Option 2: Increase the LAGC IFQ possession limit to 1,200 pounds per trip for only access area trips 		
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider:				
<p>The Amendment 21 EA analyzes the impacts of the LAGC IFQ possession limit from 600 pounds up to 1,200 pounds.</p> <p>If the Council selects Alternative 2 or Alternative 3 as preferred, it will also need to choose if the possession limit increase applies to all areas (Option 1: open and access area trips), or just to access areas (Option 2: only access areas).</p>				
Other important Considerations/Draft EA References				
<p>Biological Impacts: Section 6.2.7</p> <p>Non-target species impacts: Section 6.3.7</p> <p>Protected resource impacts: Section 6.4.7</p> <p>Impacts on Physical Environment and Essential Fish Habitat: Section 6.5.7</p> <p>Economic impacts: Section 6.6.1.7</p> <p>Social impacts: Section 6.6.2.7</p>				

4.8 – Action 8 – Increase the Amount of Observer Compensation Available for LAGC IFQ vessels.

4.8 – Action 8 - Increase the Amount of Observer Compensation Available for LAGC IFQ vessels. <i>Choose one alternative.</i>			AP Pref. (Preliminary)	CTE Pref. (Preliminary)
4.8.1	Alt. 1	No Action. (Compensated for 24 hours only, regardless of trip length)		
4.8.2	Alt. 2	Prorate daily compensation rate in 12-hour increments for observed LAGC IFQ trips longer than one day (capped at 48 hours)		
4.8.3	Alt. 3	Allow a second day of compensation for trips over 24 hours (capped at 48 hours)		
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider:				
This action considers adjusting the amount of observer compensation that LAGC IFQ vessels are eligible to receive when carrying an observer. Alternatives 2 and Alternative 3 would allow for additional compensation for observed LAGC IFQ trips to account for potentially longer trip times should the Council elect to increase the LAGC IFQ possession limit through this action.				
Other important Considerations/Draft EA Reference				
Biological Impacts: Section 6.2.8 Non-target species impacts: Section 6.3.8 Protected resource impacts: Section 6.4.8 Impacts on Physical Environment and Essential Fish Habitat: Section 6.5.8 Economic impacts: Section 6.6.1.8 Social impacts: Section 6.6.2.8				

4.9 – Action 9 – One-Way Transfer of Quota From LA with IFQ to LAGC IFQ-Only

4.9 - Action 9 - One-Way Transfer of Quota from LA with IFQ to LAGC IFQ-Only			AP Pref. (Preliminary)	CTE Pref. (Preliminary)
<i>Choose one alternative. If Alternative 2 or 3 is selected, choose one option.</i>				
4.9.1	Alt. 1	No Action		
4.9.2	Alt. 2	Allow temporary transfers of quota from LA vessels with IFQ to LAGC IFQ-only		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.9.2.1 – Option 1: No change to pool of quota LAGC IFQ quota accumulation caps apply to, 5% of APL 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.9.2.2 – Option 2: Increase pool of quota LAGC IFQ accumulation caps apply to 5.5% of APL 		
4.9.3	Alt. 3	Allow permanent and temporary transfers of quota from LA vessels with IFQ to LAGC IFQ-only		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.9.3.1 – Option 1: No change to pool of quota LAGC IFQ quota accumulation caps apply to, 5% of APL 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.9.3.2 – Option 2: Increase pool of quota LAGC IFQ accumulation caps apply to 5.5% of APL 		
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider:				
<p>Action 9 considers allowing LA vessels that hold LAGC IFQ permits to transfer their quota to LAGC IFQ-only vessels. Alternative 2 would only allow temporary transfers (annual leasing), while Alternative 3 would allow for permanent and temporary transfers. There would be no change to the overall LAGC IFQ allocation (5.5% of the APL).</p> <p>For both Alternative 2 and Alternative 3, Option 2 would increase the pool of quota that the LAGC IFQ accumulation caps apply to from 5% of the APL to 5.5% of the APL.</p>				
Other important Considerations/Draft EA Reference				
<p>Biological Impacts: Section 6.2.9</p> <p>Non-target species impacts: Section 6.3.9</p> <p>Protected resource impacts: Section 6.4.9</p> <p>Impacts on Physical Environment and Essential Fish Habitat: Section 6.5.9</p> <p>Economic impacts: Section 6.6.1.9</p> <p>Social impacts: Section 6.6.2.9</p>				

4.10 – Action 10 – Specifications and Framework Adjustment Process

4.10 – Action 10 – Specifications and Framework Adjustment Process <i>Choose one alternative.</i>			AP Pref. (preliminary)	CTE Pref. (preliminary)
4.10.1	Alt. 1	No Action (no change to current list)		
4.10.2	Alt. 2	Expand the list of measures that can be addressed through specifications and/or framework adjustments		
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider:				
This action is administrative with no direct impacts. Adding measures to this list expands the universe of issues that can be addressed through future framework actions. This has implications for how much public process is required to make specific changes in the FMP.				
Other important Considerations/Draft EA Reference				
Biological Impacts: Section 6.2.10 Non-target species impacts: Section 6.3.10 Protected resource impacts: Section 6.4.10 Impacts on Physical Environment and Essential Fish Habitat: Section 6.5.10 Economic impacts: Section 6.6.1.10 Social impacts: Section 6.6.2.10				