

#1a

Scallop Framework 32

NEFMC Staff

Scallop AP - November 19, 2019
Scallop Committee – November 20, 2019
Hilton Hotel
Providence, RI





Today's Meeting:

- **Goal: Review FW32 measures and analyses, and identify preferred alternatives.**

Outlook:

- Scallop Report at Council meeting: Thursday, Dec. 5 at 10:30am
- The SSC report to Council will be at 9:45 am Wednesday, Dec. 5
- Expect the Council to take final action on FW32 in December.
- “Decision Draft” submission of FW30 in December to begin rule making process.
 - Delay in Final Action will delay the Framework.

Updates – Groundfish FW 59

- **Already in place:** Modify part of the GB YT AM trigger for scallop fishery (remove 150% trigger); ends after 2020.
- Final year end groundfish catch report for FY2018 has been released. **No Reactive Scallop AMs triggered for FY2020.**
- **Update to all sub-ACLs for FY 2020. See below.**

Stock	FY 2019 Sub-ACL	FY 2020 sub-ACL	Bycatch Proj.
GB Yellowtail Flounder	17 mt	~19 mt	23-27 mt
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	15 mt	~2 mt	~2 mt
GOM/GB Windowpane	18 mt	~12 mt	30-35 mt
SNE/MA Windowpane Flounder	158 mt	~143 mt	130-152 mt

Agenda – FW 32, Specifications

- Framework Overview and Preliminary Analyses
- 4.1 – OFL and ABC for 2020/2021
- 4.2 – Northern Gulf of Maine Management Measures
- 4.3 – Specifications for FY 2020 and FY 2021 (default)
 - Trip trading considerations
- 4.4 – LAGC IFQ fishing in Access Areas
- 4.5 – Measures to Reduce Fishery Impacts
 - Where RSA compensation fishing can occur
 - [Placeholder] Mitigating impacts on GBYT Flounder



Framework 32: Purpose and Need

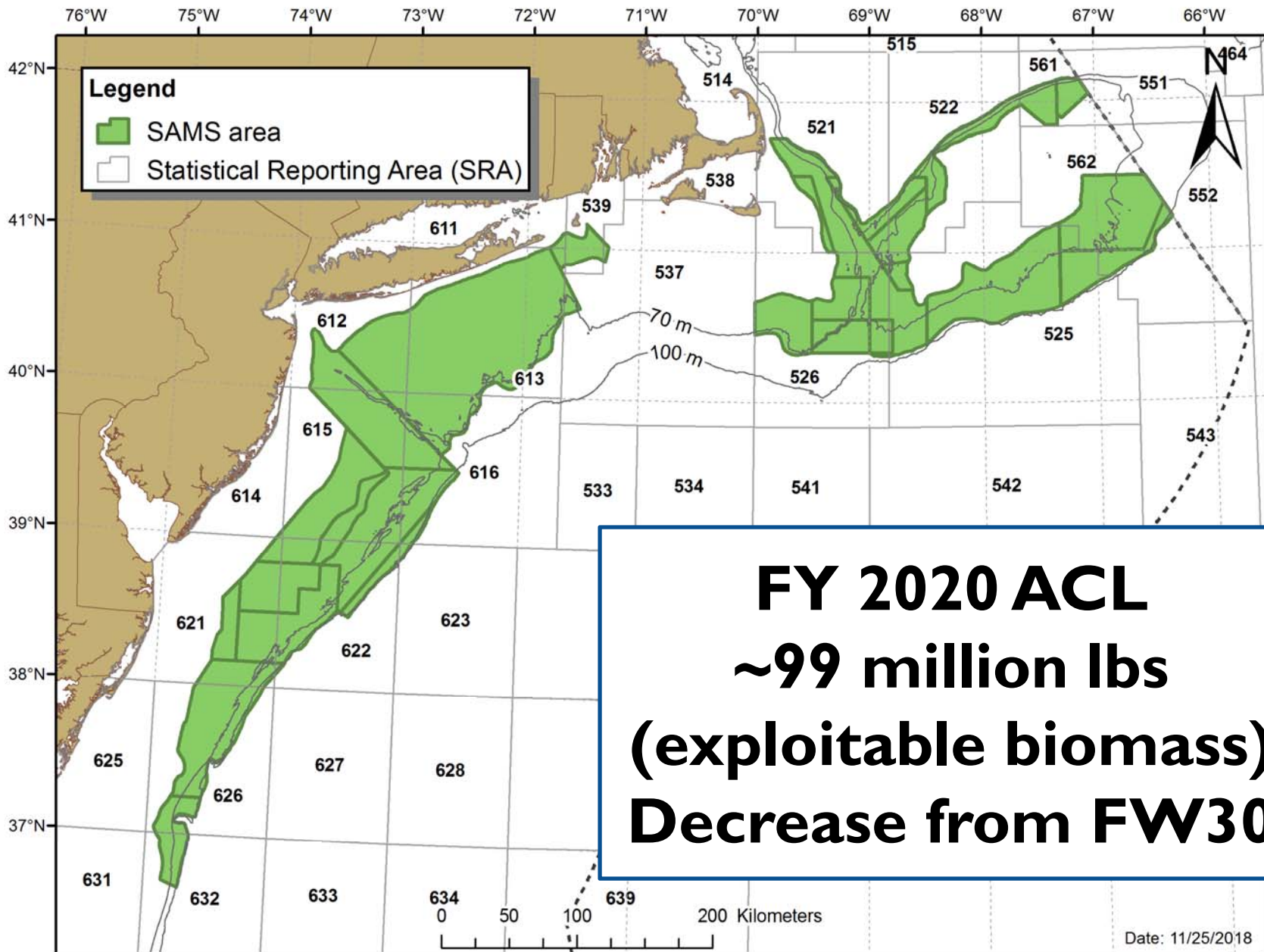
Doc.3, Section 3.2, p.9

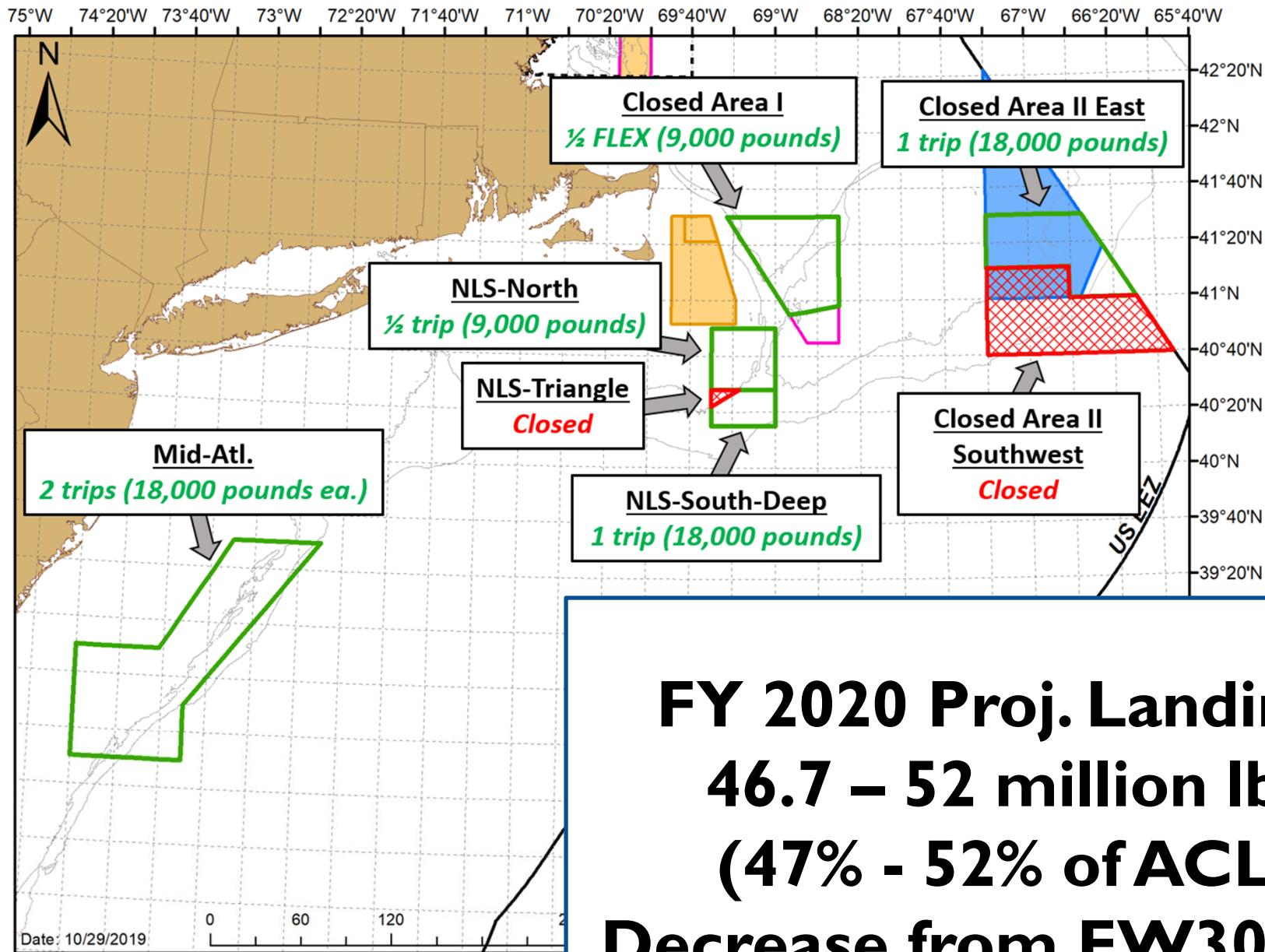
Table 1. DRAFT Purpose and need for Framework 32.

Purpose	Need
To set specifications including: OFL, ABC, scallop fishery ACLs and ACTs including associated set-asides, day-at-sea (DAS) allocations, general category fishery allocations, and area rotation schedule and allocations for the 2020 fishing year, as well as default measures for FY2021 that are expected to be replaced by a subsequent action.	To achieve the objectives of the Atlantic Sea Scallop FMP to prevent overfishing and improve yield-per recruit from the fishery.
To set landing limits for the LA and LAGC components in the Northern Gulf of Maine management area based on exploitable biomass	To manage total removals from the Northern Gulf of Maine management area.



Overview of FW32 Specifications and Preliminary Analyses





Specification Alternatives

Document 3a, p.10

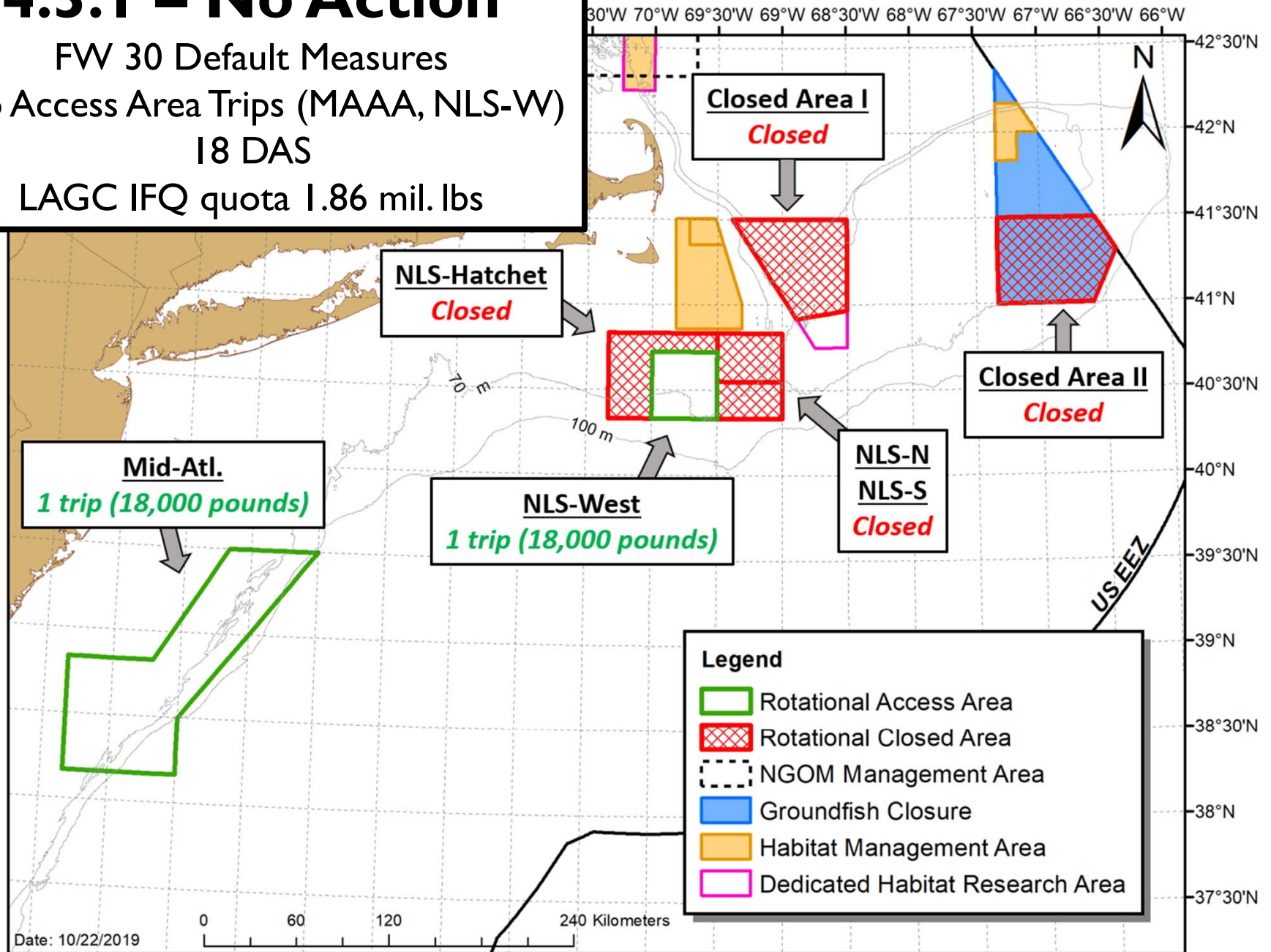
- ***11 Total Options, including Status Quo and No Action***
 - ***3 DAS options with 3 Spatial Management Options (9)***
- All options in this action would result in allocations that are less than FW29 & FW30 allocations (~60+ million lbs).
- One Access Area Option – 4 trips at 18,000 lbs, 2 half trips
- Alternative 2: Closed Area II-ext Open
- Alternative 3: Closed Area II-ext Closed
- Alternatives 4: Closed Area II-ext & Southern Flank Closed

“FLEX” Alternatives

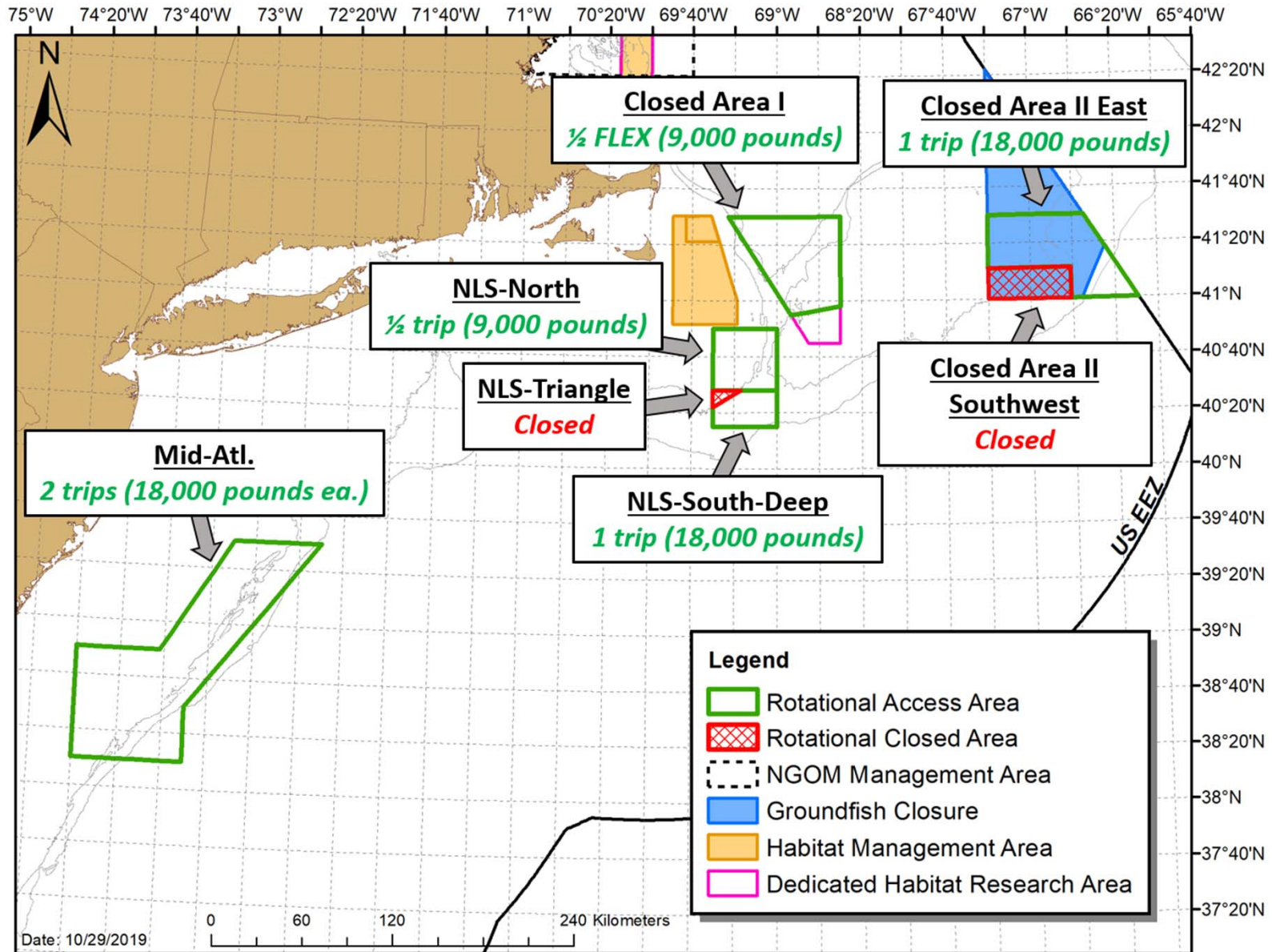
- “FLEX” concept used in FW30 and FW28.
- Allow vessels to fish pounds from their “CAI” FLEX trip in the MAAA.
 - Vessels could opt not to go to CAI at all; or
 - Land part of the CAI trip, then redirect the remaining FLEX allocation to MAAA.
- *Rationale:*
 - CAI has been fished for the last two years. If projections are overly optimistic, it could be difficult for the fishery to achieve the allocation in CAI.
 - Exploitable biomass in MAAA is projected to be sufficient to support any redirection from CAI.

4.3.1 – No Action

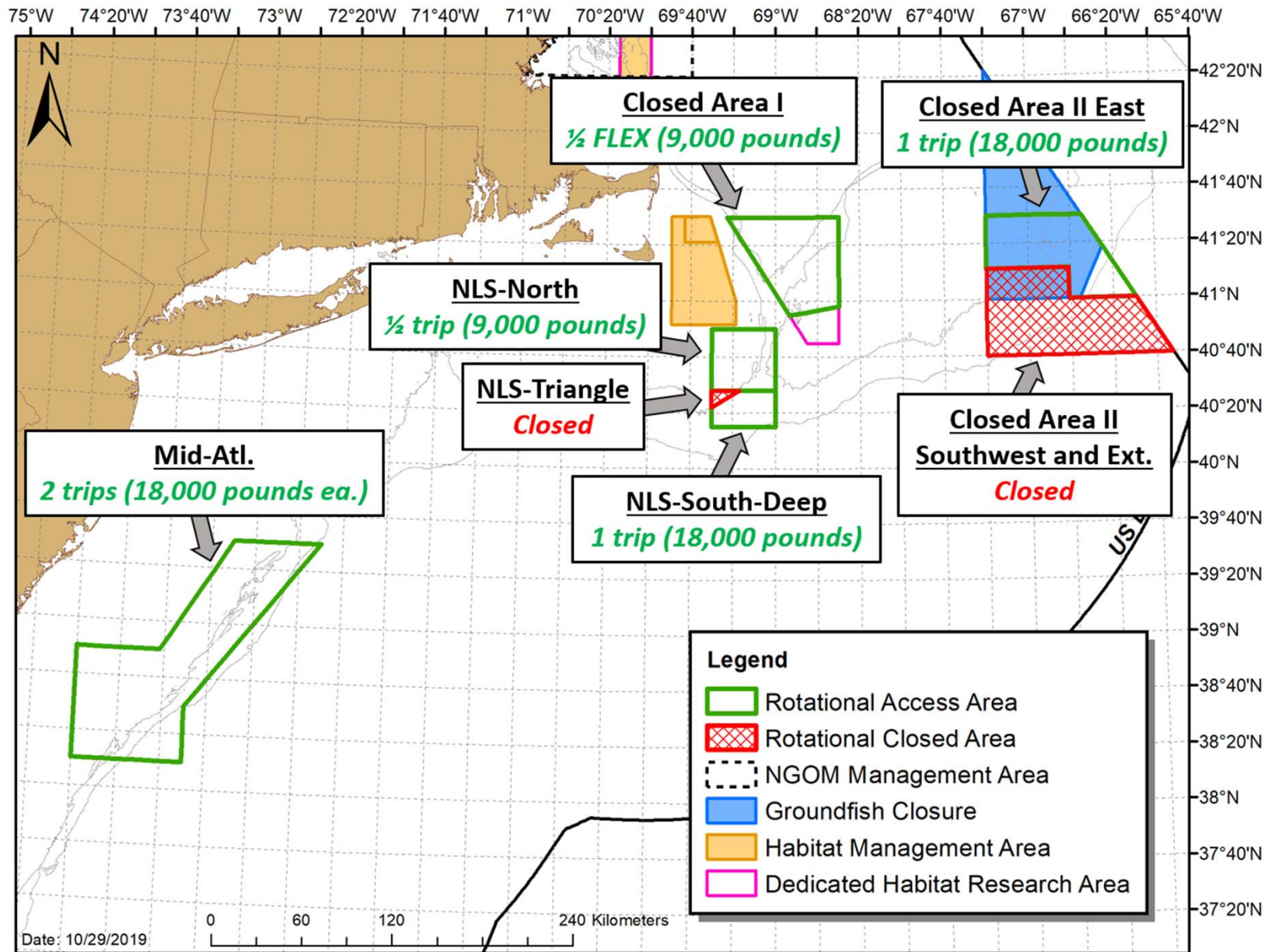
FW 30 Default Measures
Two Access Area Trips (MAAA, NLS-W)
18 DAS
LAGC IFQ quota 1.86 mil. lbs



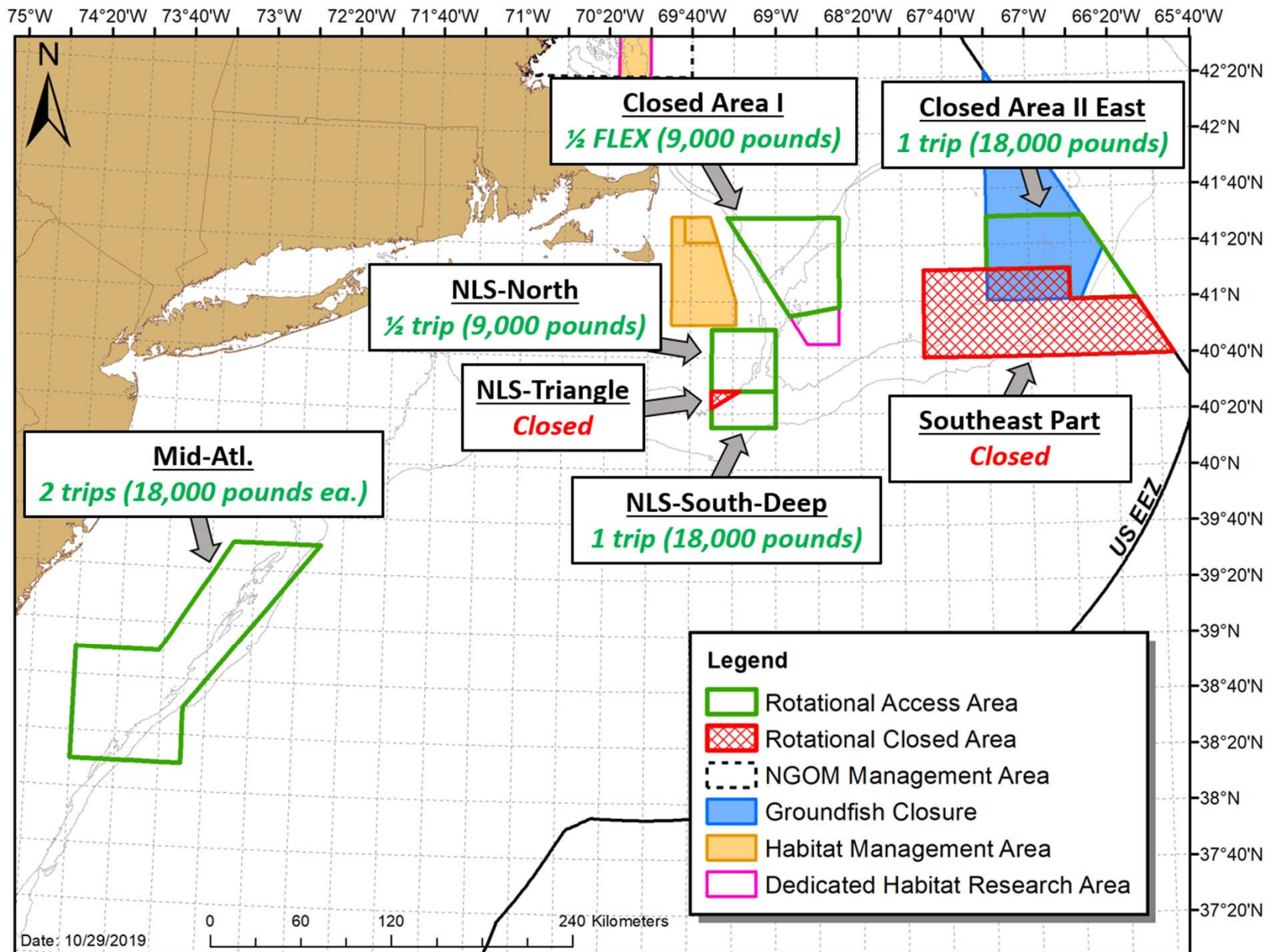
4.3.2 – Call-ext Open



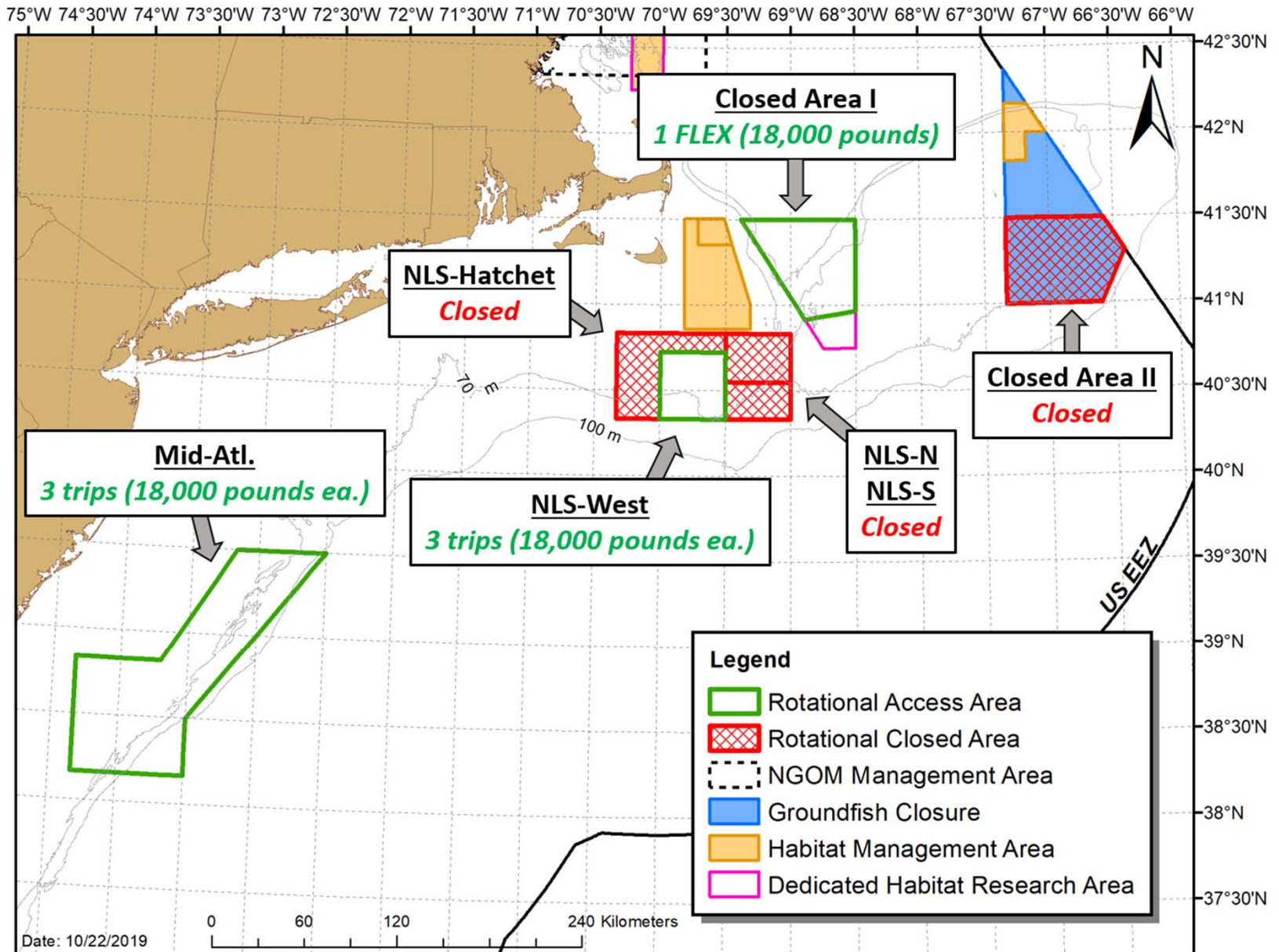
Alt. 4.3.3: CAII-ext Closed



Alt. 4.3.4: CAII-ext & SF Closed

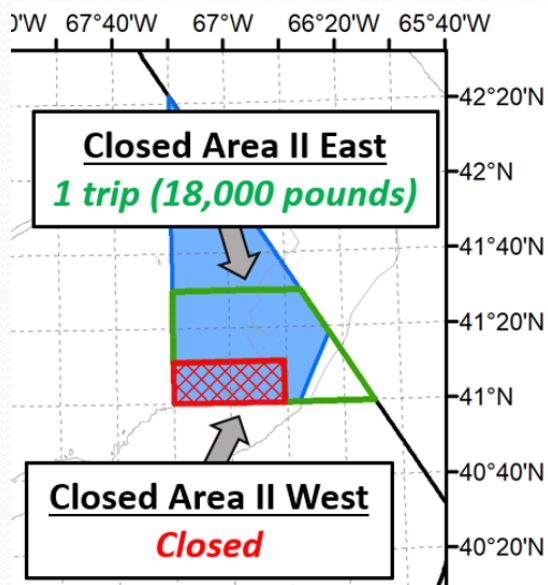


Alt. 4.3.5: Status Quo

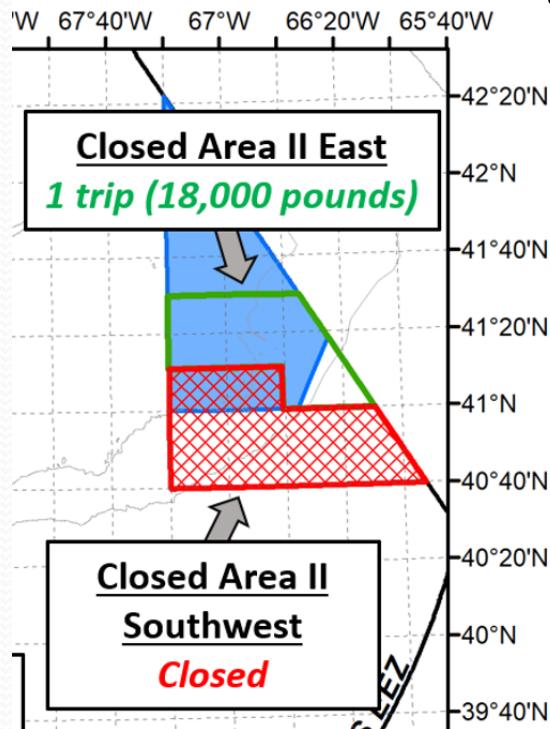


Key differences in Spatial Management Options

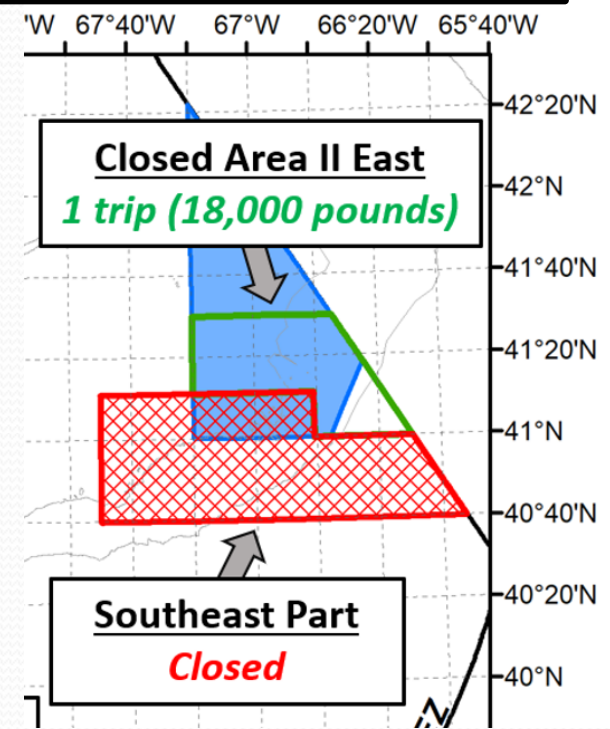
**Alt. 2 - 4.3.2
CAII-ext open**



**Alt. 3 - 4.3.3
CAII-ext closed**

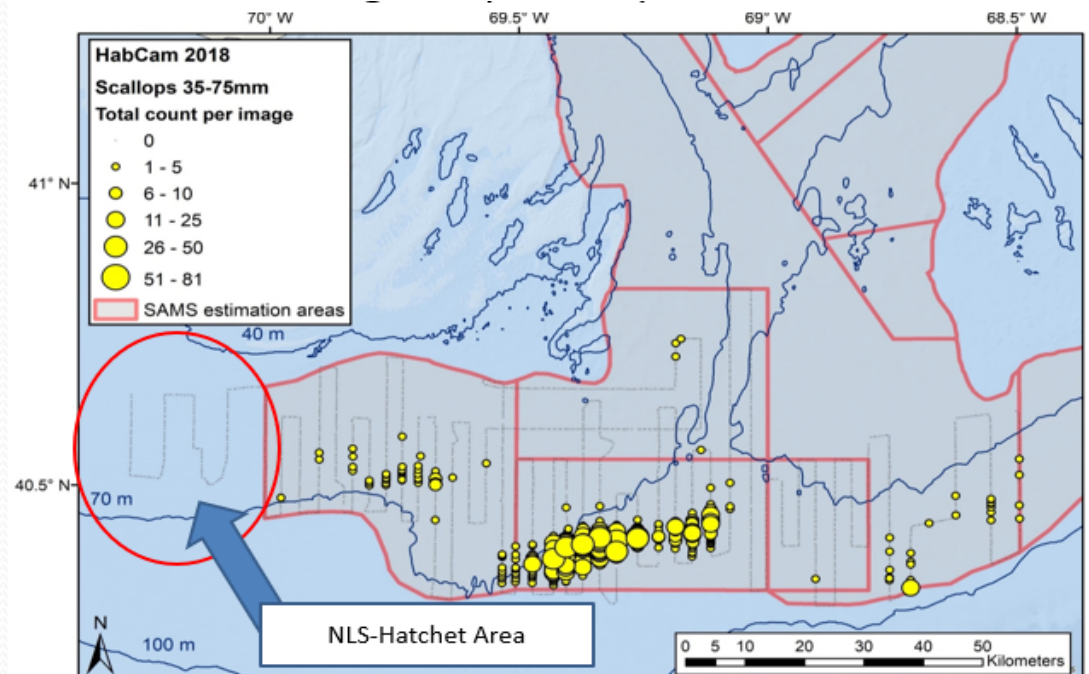
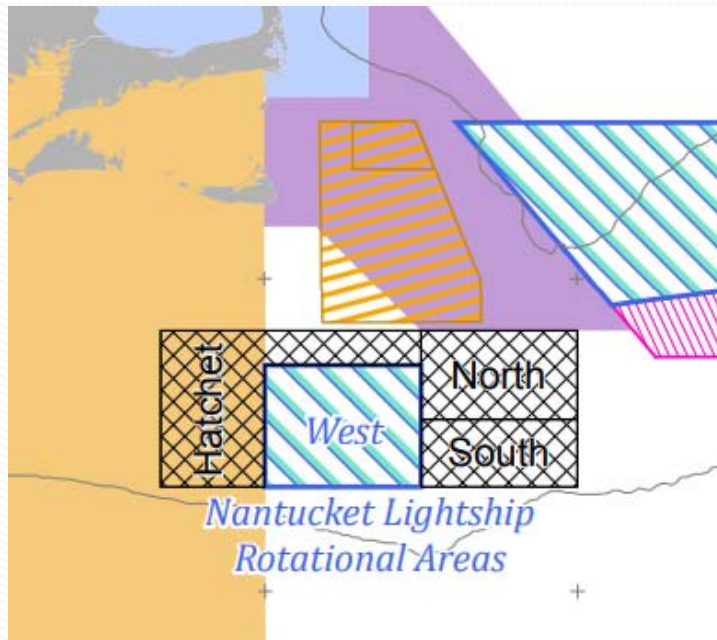


**Alt. 4 - 4.3.4
“Southeast Part”
CAII-ext & SF closed**



NLS-Hatchet re-opening

- Area remained closed as a rotational management area following the partial approval of OHA2
- Would become open bottom in FW32 as currently written.
- Area was the remainder of the original Nantucket Lightship Groundfish Closure that did not overlap with newly created scallop access areas.
- No scallops >35mm detected in 2018 HabCam survey of the area





Default Measures for FY 2021

- ***Included in specifications alternative (4.3.2 – 4.3.4)***
- For LA Vessels – 75% of DAS allocation, and one access area trip in the MAAA.
- For LAGC vessels – 75% of 2020 allocations, LAGC access area trips set at 5.5% of the total access area allocation for default measures. These trips would be available in the MAAA.
- These options have been incorporated into the draft alternatives, and can be modified.

Part Time Allocations

- 40% of Full Time Allocations; DAS fixed, some flexibility for AAs
- Committee Recommendation from October:
 - 12,000 lb trip limits (allocations)
 - 2 trips to MAAA, 1 trip to CALL (3 total trips)
- These options have been incorporated into the draft alternatives, and can be modified.

NLS-S-deep Crew Increase

- NLS-S-deep AA trips, the Committee recommended that:
 1. Crew limits be increased by 2 from the maximum crew limits in regulation. (FT LA, Max = 10, Single dredge, Max = 8).
 2. Allow trips in this area to be fished for first 60 days of FY2021.

The specific allocations associated with Alternative 3:

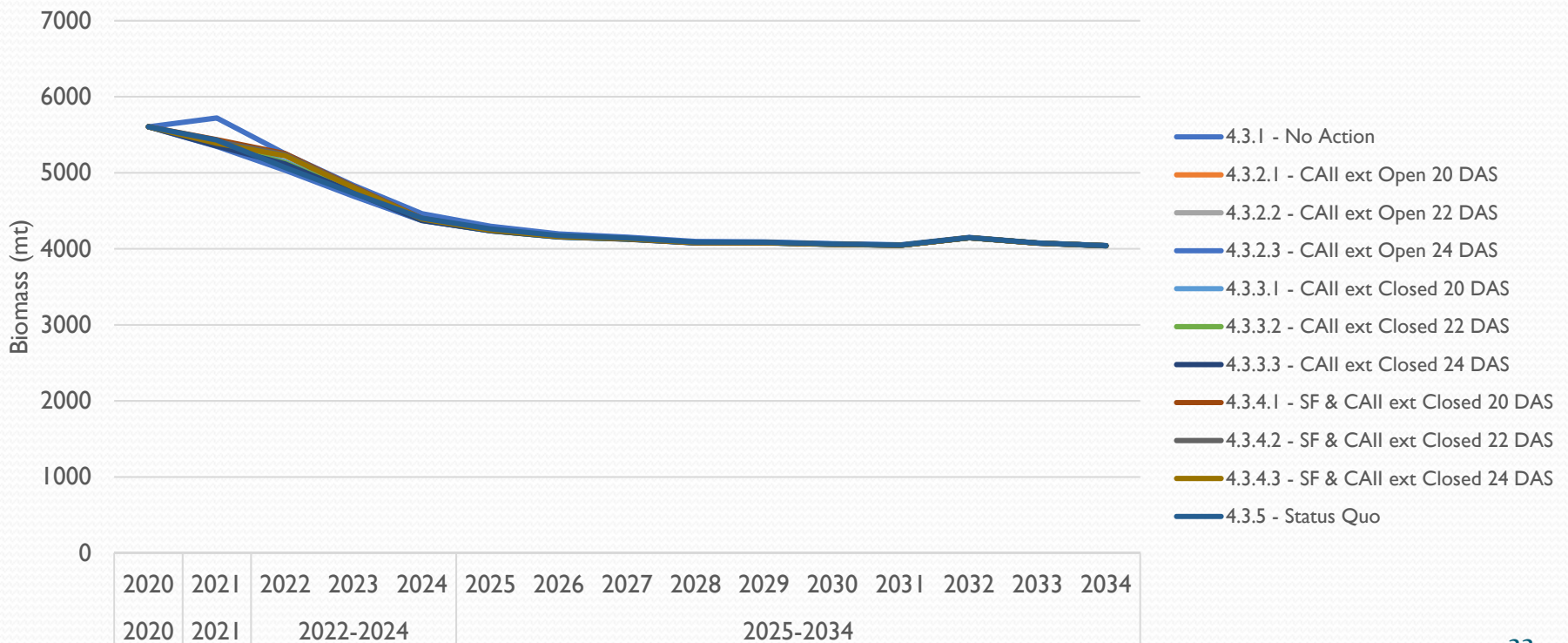
- The FY2020 Annual Projected Landings (APL) for this alternative are 48.3 million pounds (open area F=0.27, 20 DAS), 50.0 million pounds (open area F=0.30, 22 DAS), or 51.6 million pounds (open area F=0.33, 24 DAS) before set-asides are accounted for (i.e. RSA, observer).
- Each full-time limited access vessel would be allocated a total of 90,000 access area pounds (see Table 9). The FT LA trip limit would be set at 18,000 lbs in all available access areas: Closed Area II, Closed Area I, the Mid-Atlantic Access Area, Nantucket Lightship South Deep, and Nantucket Lightship North.
- For access area trips in the NLS-S-deep, crew limits for LA vessels could be increased by 2 from the maximum crew limit in regulation.
- The FLEX trip allocation (9,000 pounds) could be fished only within Closed Area I or the MAAA (see Table 9). This option would allow LA vessels to more broadly distribute effort if Closed Area I biomass projections are overly optimistic.
- Access area allocations would be set at 36,000 pounds for PT LA vessels. LA PT trip limit would be set at 12,000 pounds, and PT vessels would receive two (2) MAAA trips and one (1) Closed Area II trip.
- The LAGC incidental target TAC would be set at 50,000 lbs.
- Allocated Limited Access access area trips would be available in the same access areas defined by Framework 32 for the first 60 days of FY2021, even if the area is scheduled to close in FY 2021. Vessels planning to fish 2020 access area allocation must start their trip (i.e., position on their VMS unit seaward of the demarcation line) by 23:59 on May 30, 2021. For example, trips allocated to the NLS-S-Deep Access Area could only be fished in the access area boundary defined by FW32 in the first 60 days of FY2021.

Opportunity to Fish AA Trips in FY 2020

- LA access area trips would be available in the same access areas defined by Framework 32 for the first 60 days of FY 2021, even if the area is scheduled to close in FY 2020.
- Vessels must start their trip (i.e., position on their VMS unit seaward of the demarcation line) by 23:59 on May 30, 2020.
- For example, trips allocated to the Closed Area I access area could only be fished in the access area boundary defined by FW30 in the first 60 days of FY 2020.
- PDT Recommends that NLS-West transition to open bottom on June 1, 2020. (*Motion or Consensus if AP/CTE Agree*)

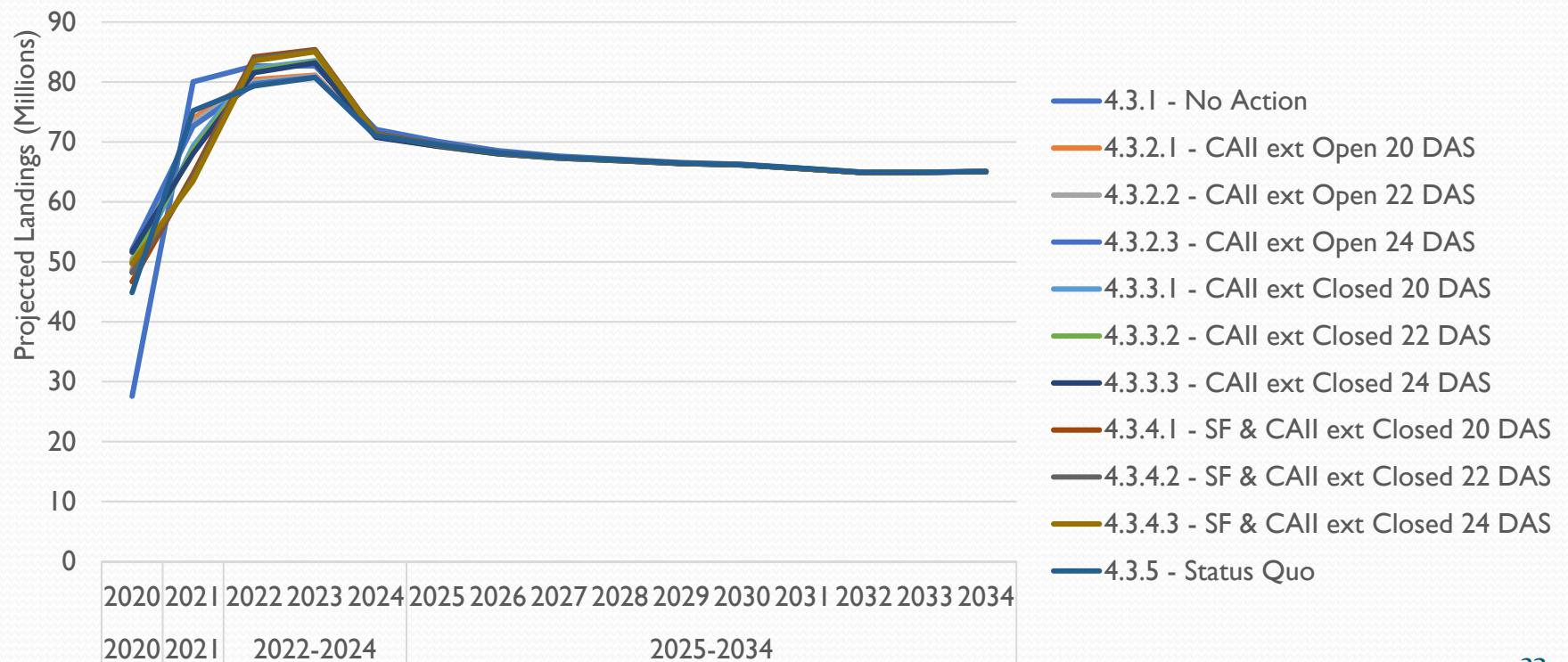
Projected Biomass

- Overall the projected biomass estimates are similar in the short and long run.
- No Action (default measures, lowest allocation), results in slightly higher biomass in the short term.



Biological Considerations

- Overall F for all runs less than $F=0.19$
- Risk of overfishing is low for all alternatives under consideration.
- LT Landings projections reflect partial approval of OHA2.



Summary of Economic Impacts

	No Action	CAII ext Open 20 DAS	CAII ext Open 22 DAS	CAII ext Open 24 DAS	CAII ext Closed 20 DAS	CAII ext Closed 22 DAS	CAII ext Closed 24 DAS	SF & CAII ext Closed 20 DAS	SF & CAII ext Closed 22 DAS	SF & CAII ext Closed 24 DAS	Status Quo
	4.3.1	4.3.2.1	4.3.2.2	4.3.2.3	4.3.3.1	4.3.3.2	4.3.3.3	4.3.4.1	4.3.4.2	4.3.4.3	4.3.5
Landings mil lbs	27.6	48.6	50.4	52.0	48.3	50.0	51.6	46.7	48.2	49.7	44.9
Revenue mil 2019\$	\$280.1	\$466.2	\$479.0	\$491.4	\$463.1	\$475.4	\$487.4	\$449.4	\$460.7	\$471.6	\$436.7

- Revenue estimates range from \$449 to \$491 million dollars across range of alternatives.
- Alternative 2 with 24 DAS may result in highest benefits compared to Status Quo.
- Alternative 3 with 22 DAS results in higher benefit compared to SQ
- Differences in benefits of specification alternatives would be small both in the short- and long-term.
- Compared to FW29 & FW30, decline in overall landings and revenue.

Summary of EFH Impacts

- Spatial management focuses harvest on high densities of large animals
- Lowest area swept estimates: Alternative 2, with CAI-ext open
- Highest area swept estimates: Alternative 4, CAI-ext + SF closed
- All FW30 Alternatives appreciably less swept area than SQ

	No Action	CAI ext Open 20 DAS	CAI ext Open 22 DAS	CAI ext Open 24 DAS	CAI ext Closed 20 DAS	CAI ext Closed 22 DAS	CAI ext Closed 24 DAS	SF & CAI ext Closed 20 DAS	SF & CAI ext Closed 22 DAS	SF & CAI ext Closed 24 DAS	Status Quo
	4.3.1	4.3.2.1	4.3.2.2	4.3.2.3	4.3.3.1	4.3.3.2	4.3.3.3	4.3.4.1	4.3.4.2	4.3.4.3	4.3.5
Area Swept (km ²)	2,832	2,399	2,591	2,790	2,583	2,803	3,034	2,849	3,108	3,380	5142
APL (mil lbs)	27.6	48.6	50.4	52.0	48.3	50.0	51.6	46.7	48.2	49.7	44.9

Impacts: Flatfish Bycatch Estimates

- The projections are forecasts (with error) and should not be taken as precise estimates. Values shown in mt. See Doc. 6.

Alt.	Closure	GBYT	SNE/MA YT	GOM/GB WP	SNE/MA WP
Anticipated Sub-ACL		<i>~19 mt</i>	<i>~2 mt</i>	<i>~12 mt</i>	<i>~143 mt</i>
4.3.1	CAII AA closed	<1	1.45	~8	77
4.3.2	CAII-SW closed (324 nmi ²)	23	~2	30-32	130-137
4.3.3	CAII-SW & EXT closed (1,525 nmi ²)	23	2	31-33	135-143
4.3.4	Southeast Part closed (2,231 nmi ²)	23	~2	33-35	143-152
4.3.5	SQ - All AA closed	4	~1	23	88



Summary of Protected Resources Impacts

- There are fewer PR interaction concerns in GB access areas (turtles or sturgeon) vs. MAAA.
- Harvest in MAAA is less than to recent levels (FW30)
- DAS fishing anticipated across GB and MAAA, all options keep DAS effort at or below recent levels (24 DAS)
 - Under Alt. 4, which closes the SF and CA-II ext, a larger proportion of DAS may be fished in the Mid-Atlantic.
- NGOM fishery not anticipated to have seasonal overlap with PR.

Open Area F rates and DAS

(open area landings) & [APL – set asides]

FW Section	FT LA DAS	18 DAS	20 DAS	22 DAS	24 DAS
4.3.1	No Action	0.24 (17.2) [25.3]			
4.3.2	"Base" CAI ext Open (<i>seasonal proxy</i>)		0.24 (18.6) [46.3]	0.27 (20.3) [48]	0.3 (22) [49.7]
4.3.3	CAI ext Closed		0.27 (18.2) [46]	0.3 (19.9) [47.6]	0.33 (21.5) [49.3]
4.3.4	SF & CAI ext Closed		0.3 (16.6) [44.4]	0.34 (18.1) [45.9]	0.38 (19.6) [47.4]

VIMS L-F plots of EGB

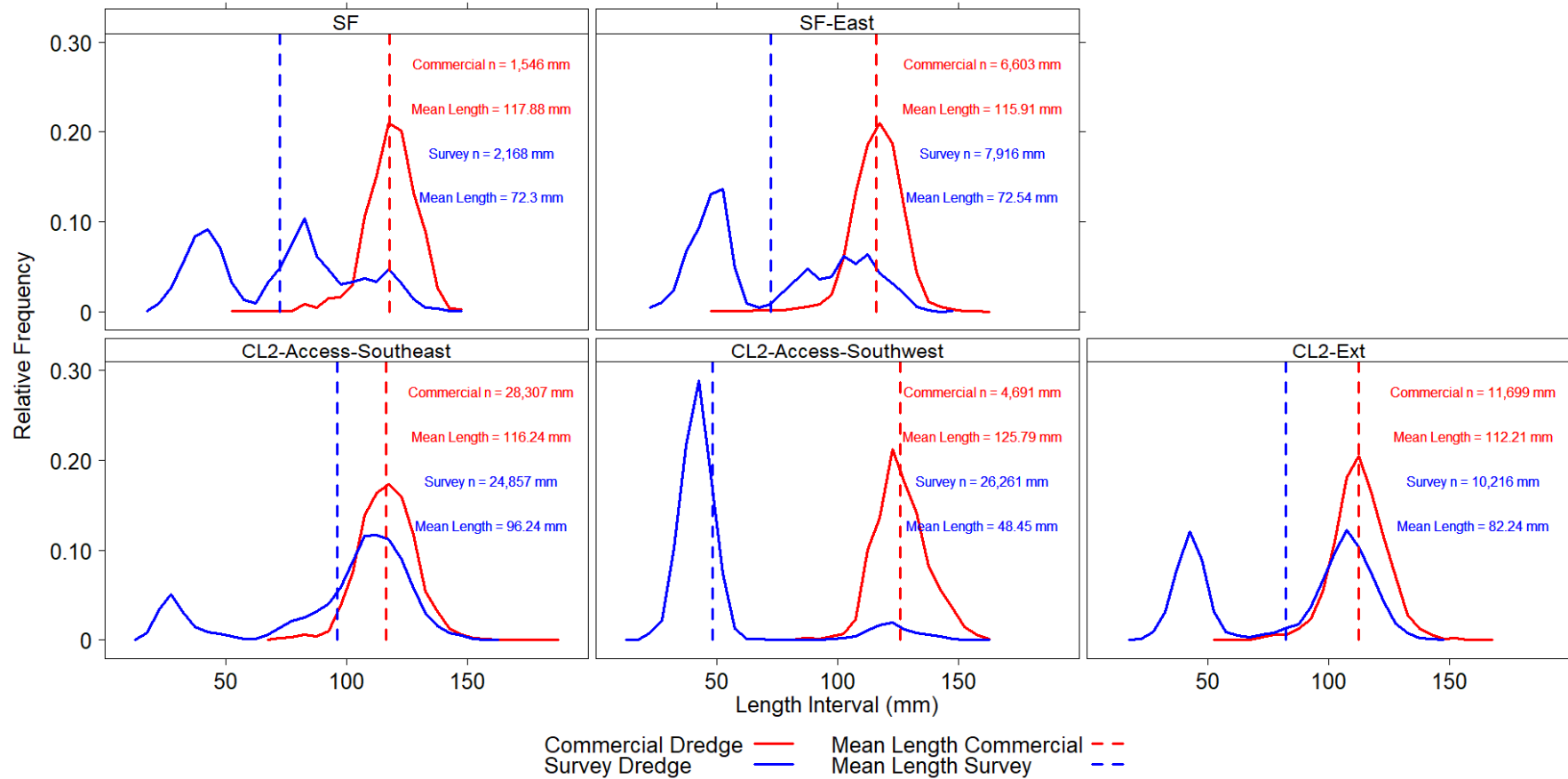


Figure I. Relative length frequency graphs with average length and expanded number of scallops by new SAMS areas and gear.

VIMS 2019 YT plots of EGB

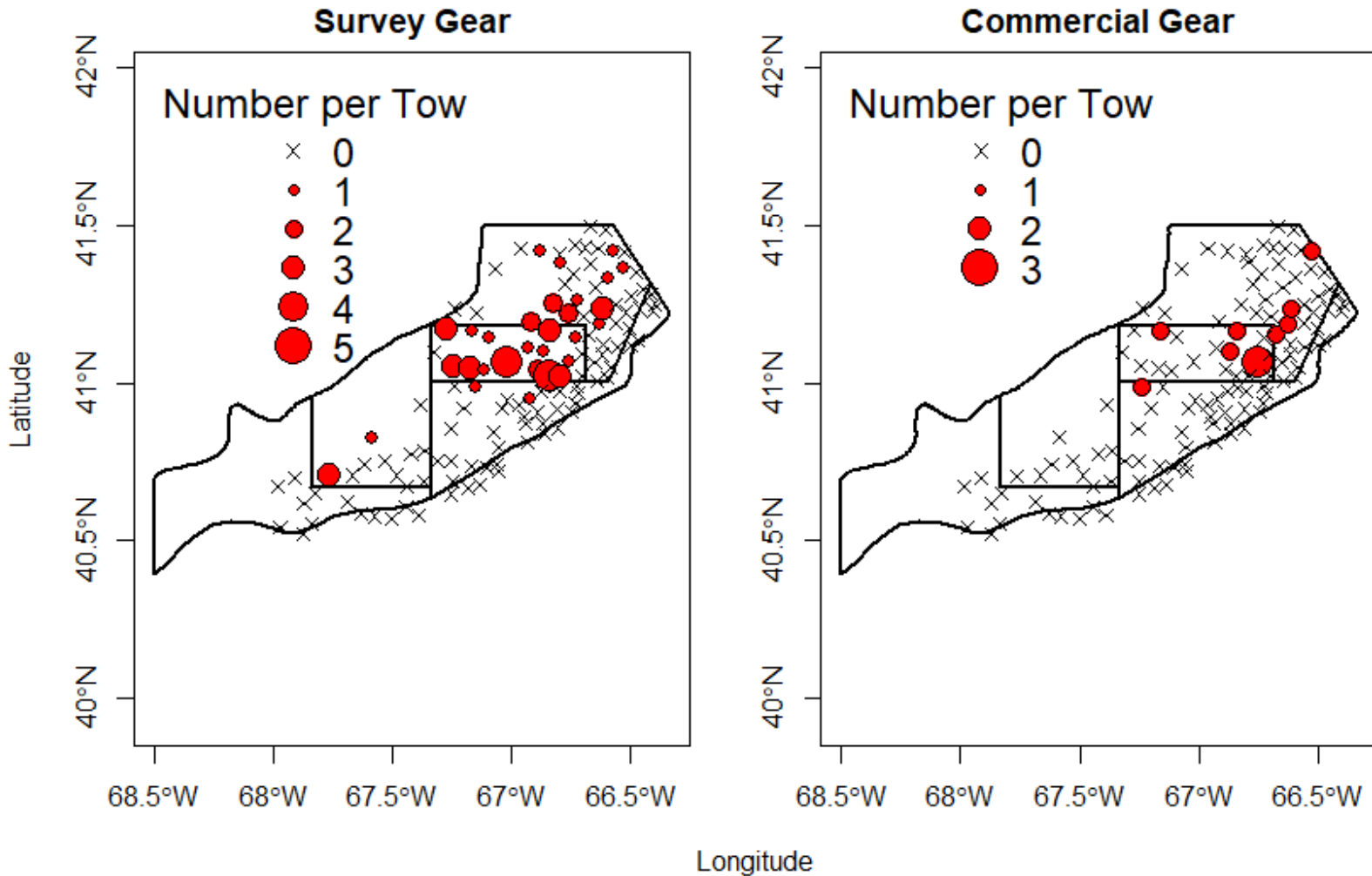


Figure 3. Spatial distribution of the number of yellowtail flounder caught in the 2019 VIMS survey by gear conducted in June.

PDT Recommendations

Spatial Management: Alternative 3, closure of the CAI-ext.

- Two flavors: year round (CTE tasking), and delayed closure starting Aug. 15 through the remainder of the FY.
- Closure should be considered for two years (close for FY2021) to give small scallops time to recruit into the fishery.
- After several years of unremarkable recruitment, Alternative 3 would protect some of the recruitment observed in the CAI-ext.
- Closure likely to reduce impacts on both Georges Bank yellowtail flounder and Northern windowpane.
- The PDT does not recommend Alternative 2, no closure of CAI-ext.
- The PDT does not support a closure of the Southern Flank area for FY2020 after evaluating the trade-offs of increased open area F, landings, bycatch, and L-F of scallops in this area.



PDT Recommendations

The PDT recommends 22 DAS for FT LA vessels.

- The rationale for this is to keep overall open area F rates low in the absence of an incoming year class in the open bottom. The fishery is currently mining scallops that are available.
- Open area F was underestimated last year, and that the realized F rate is likely be higher than what is projected.

The PDT recommends moving options to considered and rejected after a preferred alternative is identified.



Framework 32 Measures

Document 3a: “Decision Document” Version 1 (11/15/19)

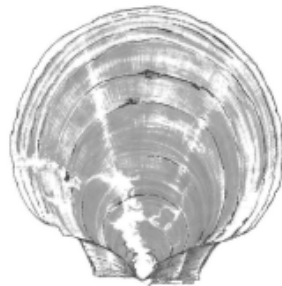
- Summary of Measures
- Some High Level Impacts

Document 3: Draft Framework 32 11/15/19 (v.1)

This is the document that
is sent to NMFS

DECISION DOCUMENT
for
Framework Adjustment 32
to the
Atlantic Sea Scallop FMP

AP and Committee Copy (11/15/19, version 1)



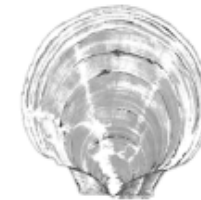
Scallop AP and Committee
November 19 & 20, 2019
Providence, RI

This document was developed to provide the Council a decision making tool for measures under consideration in Scallop Framework Adjustment 32.

Scallop Fishery Management Plan

Framework Adjustment 32

Including an Environmental Assessment,
Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, and
Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation



[Version 1]
November 15, 2019

Prepared by the
New England Fishery Management Council
In consultation with the
National Marine Fisheries Service



Section 4.1 – OFL and ABC

- SSC Approved PDT Recommendation for OFL and ABC.
- Survey estimates and projections were adjusted to account for observed slow growth in the Nantucket Lightship areas.
- Decreases in OFL and ABC with exceptional 2012 and 2013 YC now in the fishery.

	FY	OFL	ABC including discards	Discards	ABC with discards removed
Alt. 1 – No Action	2020	59,447	50,943	4,915	46,028
Alt. 2 – Updated OFL and ABC	2020	59,186	50,460	5,046	45,414
	2021	47,503	40,430	3,995	36,435

Section 4.1 – OFL and ABC

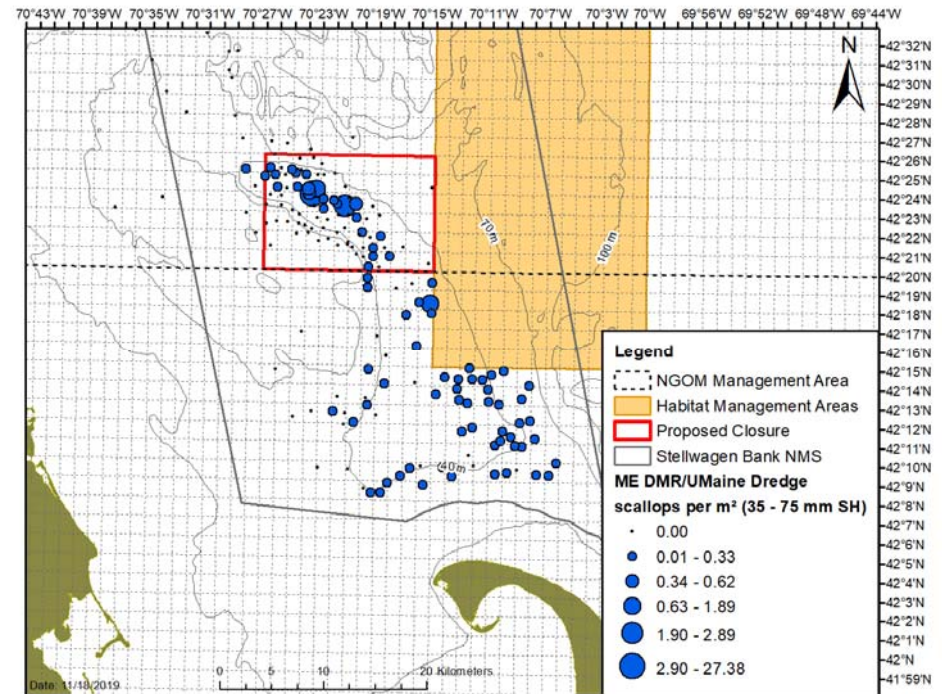
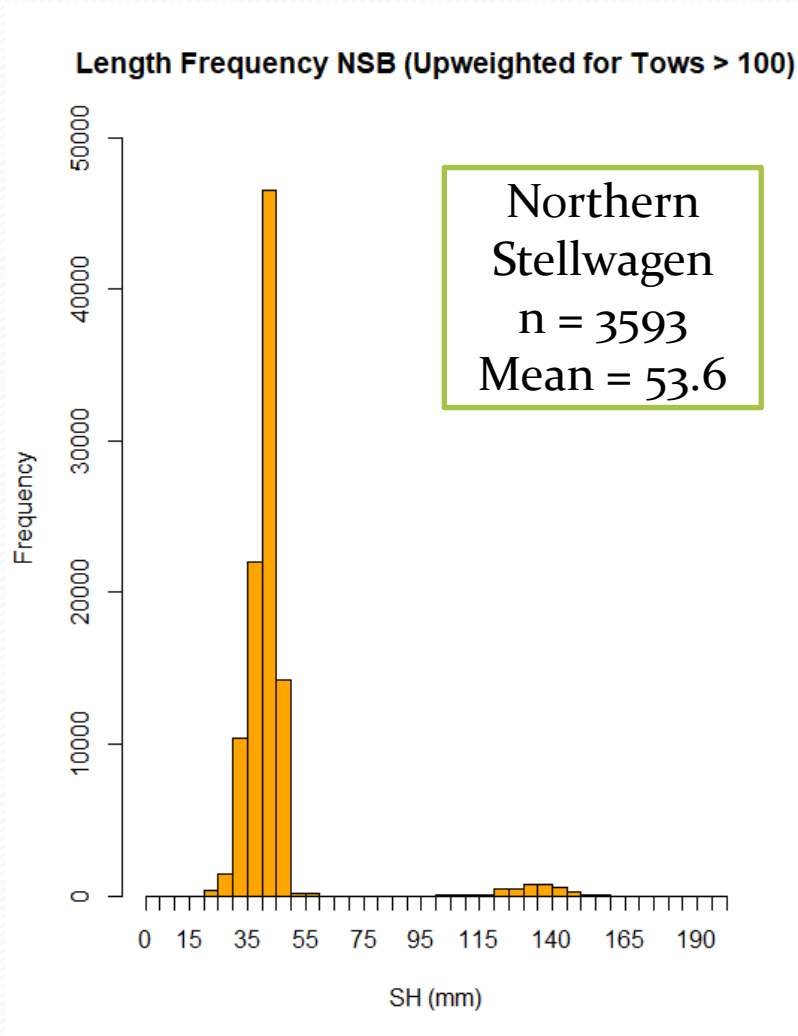
- Document 3a: Page 3

Section 4.1	OFL and ABC		PDT Pref.	AP Pref.	CTE Pref.
4.1.1	Alt. 1	No Action for OFL and ABC			
4.1.2	Alt. 2	Updated OFL and ABC for FY2020 and FY2021 (default)	**		

- PDT supports updating OFL/ABC, 4.1.2

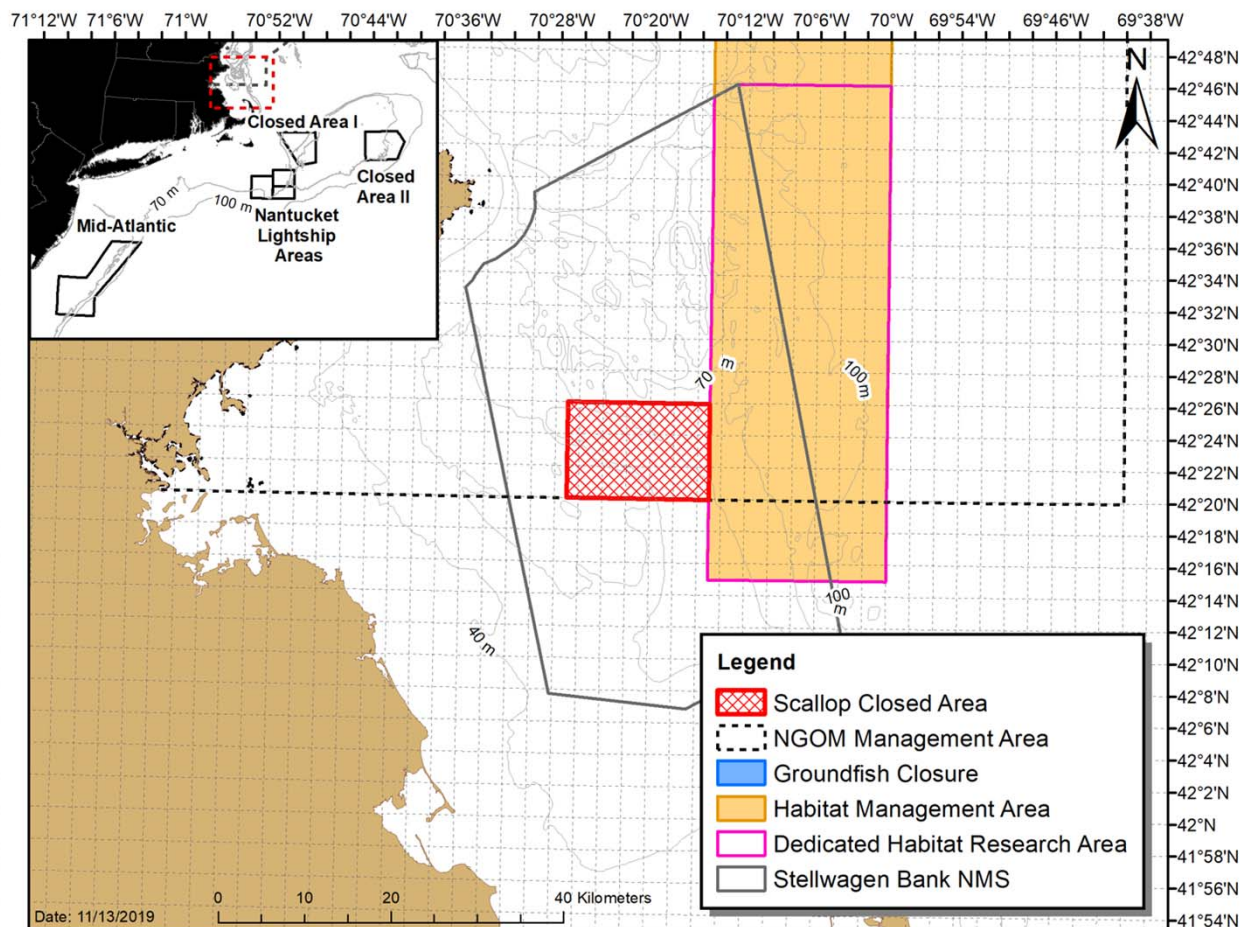
Section 4.2.1 – Stellwagen Closure

- Large recruitment event detected on Stellwagen Bank during 2019 surveys.



Section 4.2.1 – Stellwagen Closure

- Alternative 2 closes part of the NGOM for two years to improve the yield-per-recruit, while providing some access to larger, older scallops that were also observed in the 2019 surveys.



Section 4.2.1 – Stellwagen Closure

4.2.1 - Partial Closure of Stellwagen Bank (2 year closure)			PDT Pref.	AP Pref.	CTE Pref.
4.2.1.1	Alt. 1	No Action (no closure)			
4.2.1.2	Alternative 2	Partial Closure of Stellwagen Bank to directed scallop fishing, within the Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area (2 year closure)	**		
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider:					
<p><i>Rationale:</i> The 2019 ME DMR/UMaine dredge survey of the Northern Gulf of Maine detected a large number of small scallops on Stellwagen Bank. Alternative 2 closes part of the NGOM to improve the yield-per-recruit, while providing some access to larger, older scallops that were also observed in the 2019 surveys. Some directed scallop fishing could be expected north and west of the closure boundaries as well as on southern Jeffreys Ledge and in Ipswich Bay.</p>					

- PDT supports 4.2.1.2, Alternative 2

Section 4.2.2 – NGOM TAC

- Both alternatives maintain changes recommended in FW29:
 1. Cap removals for all fishery components, and develops separate TACs for LA and LAGC
 2. TAC Shares: First 70k lbs to LAGC, then 50/50 split
 3. LA share of NGOM TAC could only be fished as NGOM RSA compensation pounds. Additional reporting requirements (VMS hauls) for these trips. Preference to research projects in area.
 4. Overages deducted from following year's TAC
- *Rationale:* This TAC split is intended to be a short term solution to allow controlled fishing in the NGOM management area until a future action can be developed to address NGOM issues more holistically. Not intended to be permanent.

Section 4.2 - Northern Gulf of Maine

FW 32 Alternative	FW 32 Section	F	2020 TAC (lbs)	LA/RSA Share (lbs)	LAGC Share (lbs)
I	4.2.1		170,00	50,000	120,000
2, Sub-Option 1	4.2.2.2.1	0.18	310,000	120,000	190,000
2, Sub-Option 2	4.2.2.2.2	0.20	350,000	140,000	210,000
2, Sub-Option 3	4.2.2.2.3	0.25	435,000	182,500	252,500

- Alternative 2: Based on projected exploitable biomass on in Ipswich Bay, and on Jeffreys Ledge.
- Highest densities in 2019 survey found on Jeffreys Ledge
- Large recruitment event detected on Stellwagen Bank
- Two-year time horizon for fishing these areas if Stellwagen Bank is closed to protect recruits.

Section 4.2 – NGOM

• Document 3a: Page

4.2.2 - Northern Gulf of Maine TAC			PDT Pref.	AP Pref.	CTE Pref.
4.2.2.1	Alt. 1	No Action (170,000 lb TAC)			
4.2.2.2.1	Alt. 2 – Sub-Option 1 F=0.18	2020 Overall TAC: 310,000 2021 Overall TAC: 240,000			
4.2.2.2.2	Alt. 2 – Sub-Option 2 F=0.2	2020 Overall TAC: 350,000 2021 Overall TAC: 265,000			
4.2.2.2.3	Alt. 2 – Sub-Option 3 F=0.25	2020 Overall TAC: 435,000 2021 Overall TAC: 320,000	NOT rec'd by PDT		

Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider:

The Council has developed a range of TAC measures in FW32 that are consistent with management changes made through Framework 29.

The 2020 and 2021 (default) TAC would be set by applying a fishing mortality rate to the projected exploitable biomass from Ipswich Bay, and Jeffreys Ledge.

Section 4.3 – Specifications

FW32 Alt.	Description	Open area F	Annual Projected Landings (APL)	APL w/ set-asides removed	LAGC IFQ Share (5.5%)
4.3.1	No Action	0.24	27,593,057	25,292,158	1,391,069
4.3.2.1	CAII ext Open 20 DAS	0.24	48,633,975	46,333,076	2,548,319
4.3.2.2	CAII ext Open 22 DAS	0.27	50,353,581	48,052,682	2,642,897
4.3.2.3	CAII ext Open 24 DAS	0.3	52,046,731	49,745,832	2,736,021
4.3.3.1	CAII ext Closed 20 DAS	0.27	48,307,691	46,006,792	2,530,374
4.3.3.2	CAII ext Closed 22 DAS (PDT Pref)	0.3	49,972,181	47,671,282	2,621,921
4.3.3.3	CAII ext Closed 24 DAS	0.33	51,619,034	49,318,135	2,712,497
4.3.4.1	SF & CAII ext Closed 20 DAS	0.3	46,693,907	44,393,008	2,441,615
4.3.4.2	SF & CAII ext Closed 22 DAS	0.34	48,208,483	45,907,584	2,524,917
4.3.4.3	SF & CAII ext Closed 24 DAS	0.38	49,696,603	47,395,704	2,606,764

Section 4.3 – Specifications

FW32 Alt.	Description	PDT	AP	Committee
4.3.1	No Action			
4.3.2.1	CAII ext Open 20 DAS			
4.3.2.2	CAII ext Open 22 DAS			
4.3.2.3	CAII ext Open 24 DAS			
4.3.3.1	CAII ext Closed 20 DAS			
4.3.3.2	CAII ext Closed 22 DAS <i>(PDT Pref – also delayed closure option)</i>	**		
4.3.3.3	CAII ext Closed 24 DAS			
4.3.4.1	SF & CAII ext Closed 20 DAS			
4.3.4.2	SF & CAII ext Closed 22 DAS			
4.3.4.3	SF & CAII ext Closed 24 DAS			

Trip Trading Considerations

- Scallop FMP allows one-for-one access area allocation exchanges. New situation in FW32, need clarification.
- ½ trips (9,000-pound allocations) are being considered for areas that do not have enough exploitable biomass to support a “full trip” of 18,000 pounds (i.e. CAI, NLS-North).
- September 2019: Lottery approach not supported. *Rationale*: good for some but not others (equity issue)
 - alternative approach—allocate half trips, vessels can trade to make a full trip in the area of their liking
- October 2019: discussion on what would be tradable (e.g. 9,000 pounds for 9,000 pounds in only NLS-N and CAI, or for any area?)

Trip Trading Options

Approaches that have been used in the past:

Option 1: No change to the current trip trading regulations. Allocations only be tradeable on a one-for-one basis at the increment of the possession limit (i.e. 18,000 pounds). Under this option, 9,000-pound trips in the NLS-North and CAI would not be tradeable.

Option 2: Split trip lottery system to the NLS-North and CAI. Half of the fleet gets full trip to NLS-North and half gets a “flex” trip in CAI. Trip trading allowed for full trips (i.e. 18,000 pounds).

Trip Trading Options (new approach)

Option 3:

- “half trip” (9,000 pounds) to both NLS-North and CAI, maintain 18,000-pound trip limit.
- Half trips could be fished or traded for other half trips to make a full trip (i.e. 18,000 pounds) in one area.
- Half trips (i.e. 9,000 pounds) could only be traded for other half trips and full trips (i.e. 18,000 pounds) could be traded for other full trips.

EXAMPLE: NLS-North half trip could be traded for a CAI half trip to make a full trip in CAI. A full trip in CAI could then be traded for a full trip in CAI, the MAAA, or the NLS-S-Deep. A NLS-North half trip could not be traded for a half trip (i.e. 9,000 pounds) in CAI, the MAAA, or NLS-S-Deep.

Trip Trading Options (new approach)

Option 4:

- Pound for pound exchanges in all areas at increments of 9,000 pounds (the lowest allocation).
- For FW32, all access area allocations could be tradeable in an increment of 9,000 pounds regardless of the initial allocation.

EXAMPLE: 9,000 pounds from the NLS-North could be traded for 9,000 pounds from CALL.

Input Needed:

Does the AP/CTE prefer an option?

Section 4.4

IFQ AA Trip Distribution options

Specs.Alt.	Distribution of CAI trips	LAGC IFQ Trips	CAI	NLS-North	NLS-S-deep	MAAA
		Total Trips	Allocated LAGC Trips to Each Access Area			
Alt. 1	No Action	1,142	571 trips to NLS-West & 571 trips to MAAA			
A2, Sub-Opt. 1	MAAA, NLS-N, CAI	2,855	476	476	571	1,333
A2, Sub-Opt. 2	NLS-N, CAI	2,855	571	571	571	1,142
A2, Sub-Opt. 3	NLS-N, NLS-S-deep, CAI	2,855	476	476	761	1,142

- The PDT does not recommend re-distributing trips to NLS-S-deep



Section 4.5.1 – RSA Compensation Fishing

- Alternative 2 considers restrictions on RSA compensation fishing in FY2020. Fishing would be allowed in:
 - MAAA
 - NGOM Management Area (up to LA TAC)
 - Open area
- The remaining access areas considered in FW30 would not be available for RSA compensation fishing.

Section 4.5.1 – RSA Compensation Fishing

Section 4.5.1 – RSA Compensation Fishing			PDT Pref.	AP Pref.	CTE Pref.
4.5.1.1	Alt. 1	No Action, RSA Comp fishing restricted to open areas			
4.5.1.2	Alt. 2	Allow RSA compensation fishing in the Mid-Atlantic Access Area, with limited RSA compensation fishing in the NGOM Management Area.	**		
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider: <i>(ready for Council mailing)</i>					
This decision considers where scallop RSA compensation fishing can occur in FY 2020.					

- PDT supports Alt. 2

Flatfish Sub-ACLs & Bycatch Projections

	OFL	US ABC	Scallop ABC (% of US ABC)	Scallop ABC	Scallop ACL	2020 Bycatch Projections
	FY 2020	FY 2020				
GB Yellowtail Flounder	unknown	120	16%	~19	~19	~23 mt
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	31	22	projected	~2	~2	2-3 mt
Northern Windowpane Flounder	84	59	21%	~12	~12	30-34 mt
Southern Windowpane Flounder	568	426	36%	~153	~143	133-148 mt

4.5.2 – PLACEHOLDER for GBYT mitigation

- GBYT bycatch projection exceeds sub-ACL by ~4 mt.
- AM modification in place for 2020 (waive 150% trigger)
- PDT expects closures on Eastern Georges Bank (Alts 2,3,4) to help mitigate impacts on GBYT and Northern windowpane.

	OFL	US ABC	Scallop ABC (% of US ABC)	Scallop ABC	Scallop ACL	2020 Bycatch Projections
GB Yellowtail Flounder	unknown	120	16%	~19	~19	~23 mt

- If additional measures are needed, PDT suggests closure of Closed Area II access area following Aug 15 – Nov 15 closure.

GBYT mitigation

Spatial Management Expected to Help Mitigate Impacts

- Closed Area II Access Area (southwest closure) will close 324 nm to directed scallop fishing in FW2020.
- Alt. 3 and 4 would increase closures to 1,525 nm or 2,231 nm in the GBYT stock area.

Spatial distribution of the number of yellowtail flounder caught in the 2019 VIMS survey by gear conducted in June.

