



New England Fishery Management Council

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John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 11, 2019
TO: Scallop Advisory Panel & Scallop Committee
FROM: Vincent Balzano, Scallop Committee Chair
SUBJECT: **Purpose for Scallop AP and Committee meetings on September 18 & 19, 2019**

There is a Scallop AP meeting at the Boston Logan Courtyard Marriott in Boston, MA on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at 8:00 AM. The Scallop Committee will convene on Thursday, September 19, 2019 at 8:00 AM at the same location. Paper copies will not be mailed to you before the meeting. Documents for this meeting will be e-mailed to you as they become available.

Purpose: The main objectives of the meetings are to:

- 1) Framework 32:
 - a. Review 2019 survey results and develop options for harvest in 2020 (SAMS runs).
 - b. Provide input on potential harvest of small scallops in the NLS-S-deep.
 - c. Provide input on approaches to mitigate impacts on yellowtail flounder.
- 2) Review Amendment 21 draft alternatives and progress on recent tasking. Direct additional work, as needed.
- 3) Review the list of potential scallop work priorities for 2020, and add any other potential scallop priorities for 2020.
- 4) Receive an update on the Commercial Electronic Vessel Trip Reporting (eVTR) Omnibus Framework
- 5) Other Business
- 6) Committee Only: Closed session to make recommendations for 2020-2022 Scallop AP.

The full Council is scheduled to meet in Gloucester, MA from September 23 to September 26, 2019. The Scallop Report is scheduled for September 26, 2019.

Meeting Materials: Paper copies of the documents listed below will be provided at the meeting. A PDF of each document will be posted to www.nefmc.org. Staff will provide copies of any additional meeting materials that are not included in this package. If you have any questions about the documents, please contact Jonathon Peros (jperos@nefmc.org; 978-465-0492 ext. 117).

Documents:

1. Meeting Agenda
 - a. Staff presentation (*to be provided*)
 - b. Meeting Memo from Committee Chair, Mr. Vincent Balzano
2. 2020 Scallop Work Priorities
 - a. Initial list for all FMPs (September 5, 2019)
3. Framework 32
 - a. 2019 Scallop Survey Biomass Estimates (Sept. 10, 2019)
 - b. Draft SAMS run of exploitable biomass
 - c. Nantucket Lightship S-deep discussion document
 - d. Options for mitigating impacts on Georges Bank yellowtail flounder
4. Amendment 21
 - a. Amendment 21 – Draft alternatives in development
 - b. Amendment 21 Action Plan
5. PDT Meeting Summaries
 - a. June 27, 2019 Conference Call
 - b. July 24, 2019 Meeting, Boston, MA
 - c. August 27 & 28, 2019 Meeting, Falmouth, MA
6. eVTR Framework
 - a. Discussion Document
 - b. Frequently asked questions related to eVTR
 - c. Staff presentation on eVTR Omnibus Framework
7. Correspondence

Links to Background Materials:

- [Materials from 2-day Scallop PDT meeting in Falmouth, MA \(August 27 & 28, 2019\)](#)

Additional materials may be added, and presentations will be shared as they become available.

Framework Adjustment 32 to the Scallop FMP

Recent Activity: In June the Council voted to initiate Scallop Framework 32, an action that will set scallop fishery specifications for fishing year 2020, and default measures for 2021. This action is also expected to include measures to mitigate impacts on Georges Bank yellowtail flounder. In June the Council also modified its 2019 scallop work priorities, adding the utilization of small scallops in the Nantucket Light Ship South-deep area.

Anticipated Outcomes at this meeting:

- Review 2019 survey results and develop recommendations for scallop harvest in 2020.
 1. Consider options for the harvest of scallops in the NLS-S-deep. Staff recommend that the AP and Committee weigh in (through motions) on how to utilize these scallops at this meeting (either as a standard access area trip, or a separate 'bonus' TAC).
 2. Develop tasking motion(s) for spatial management scenarios in 2020, and possible F rates for open area DAS fishing.
- Review development of options to mitigate impacts on Georges Bank yellowtail flounder and develop recommendations for alternatives to be included in Framework 32.

Next Steps:

- Specifications: The PDT will complete work on tasking before the next set of PDT/AP and Committee meetings in October. The PDT and AP will (again) meet jointly to discuss 2020 specifications in October. There will be an opportunity to refine spatial management options for FY2020 and develop spatial management alternatives at the October meeting. The AP and Committee will select final preferred alternative for Framework 32 at their November meetings.
- Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder: The PDT will develop alternatives based on tasking at this meeting.

Amendment 21 to the Scallop FMP

Recent Activity: Amendment 21 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop FMP is expected to address three specific issues: 1) measures related to the Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) Management Area, 2) Limited Access General Category (LAGC) individual fishing quota (IFQ) possession limits, and 3) ability of Limited Access vessels with LAGC IFQ to transfer quota to LAGC IFQ-only vessels. In May and June of 2019, the Scallop Committee and Council tasked the PDT with develop alternatives that will address the goals and objectives of this action. The PDT has developed several options for alternatives that may be included in Amendment 21.

Anticipated Outcomes at this meeting:

- Review draft alternatives and options and provide input to the PDT on next steps in alternative development.

Next Steps: The PDT will continue to refine alternatives for Amendment 21 based on Committee input, and provide updates on progress later this fall. It is important for the AP and Committee to provide input at this meeting because staff expect that the PDT will spend most of its time this fall and winter on the development and submission of Framework 32. The PDT will continue to develop Amendment 21 concurrently with Framework 32.

2020 Work Priorities

Recent Activity: The Council's Executive Committee reviewed a draft list of potential work priorities for 2020. This list has been provided in your meeting materials.

Anticipated Outcomes: Review the list of potential work items for 2020. At this point in the process, we are only looking to make additions to the priority list. If you have a potential priority for 2020, please bring it up at this meeting.

Next Steps: Council staff will communicate any additions to the 2020 priority list to the Council's Executive Director (ED). The ED plans to update the master priority list following the September Council meeting. The AP and Committee will make recommendations on 2020 priorities at their October meetings. The full Council will vote on priorities at its December 2019 meeting in Newport, RI.

Other Business

Anticipated Outcomes: Additional items and issues may be taken up under other business.

Please review all documents before the meeting.

If you have any questions about these enclosures please contact Jonathon Peros (978-465-0492 ext. 117).