



New England Fishery Management Council

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Eric Reid, *Acting Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 15, 2021
TO: Scallop Plan Development Team, Advisory Panel, and Scallop Committee
FROM: Melanie Griffin, Scallop Committee Chair
SUBJECT: **Purpose for Scallop PDT/AP and Committee meetings on September 21 & 22, 2021**

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council will be holding the joint Scallop PDT/AP and Committee meetings by webinar on September 21 (PDT/AP) and September 22, 2021 (Committee).

Purpose: The main objectives of the meetings are to :

- 1) Receive an update on 2021 survey results and projections for the 2022 & 2023 fishing years. Develop input on possible rotational management and days-at-sea allocations for FY2022 and FY2023 default measures.
- 2) Discuss LAGC IFQ access area trip accounting options, and determine if measures should be included in Framework 34.
- 3) Receive an update on progress toward 2021 scallop work priorities, and review the list of possible work items for 2022. The AP and Committee may wish to add to the list of potential work priorities for 2022 at their meetings.
- 4) Discuss other business.

Webinar: In order to participate in the meetings, you will need to register for the webinar. Please register before the meeting begins. You can use the following links to register.

PDT/AP webinar: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4238623239871509515>

Committee webinar: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6632293038888778251>

If you do not register for the meeting you will not be able to participate in the meeting. The Council has developed an instruction guide for GoToWebinar remote participation. It can be found at [this link](#).

1. **Participating in the meeting:** **To participate, you MUST register for the meeting.** If you do not register, staff will not be able unmute you.

The public, PDT, AP, and Committee members will be able to participate in the webinar. Council staff will be working closely with the Chair to accommodate remote participation during the meeting. Staff will briefly review how individuals can participate during the meeting. As with in-person meetings, questions about presentations will be entertained before taking comments. The PDT/AP and Committee will have the first opportunity to weigh-in, followed by the public. Individuals interested in speaking should raise their hand on the webinar.

2. **Motions via Webinar:** AP and Committee members may make motions. Members of the PDT may not make or vote on motions, but can participate in the discussion during their joint meeting with the AP.
 - a. **Making Motions:** There are multiple ways to submit a motion for discussion:
 - i. E-mail the motions to Jonathon Peros (jperos@nefmc.org) and Sam Asci (sasci@nefmc.org) on Council staff, and cc the AP or Committee Chair (melanie.griffin@mass.gov) (*preferred approach*).
 - ii. When called upon by the Chair, make a motion over the webinar (*be prepared to watch staff type*).
 - b. **Seconding Motions:** AP and Committee: You can raise your hand in the webinar to second the motion. Council staff will confirm this by voice over the webinar so it is clear who the maker and seconder of each motion are.
 - c. **Discussion on each Motion:** The PDT/AP and Committee will have an opportunity to discuss each motion, followed by an opportunity for the public to comment. Please raise your hand on the webinar if you would like to speak to a motion. The Chair will call on individuals who would like to address the motion. After the PDT/AP or Committee have a chance to discuss this motion, the Chair will call on members of the public.
 - d. **Voting:** When the Chair is ready to call the vote, Council staff will do a roll call vote. Staff will provide the vote count, which will be confirmed by the Committee chair. At the discretion of the Chair, motions can also be approved by unanimous consent in lieu of a roll call vote.

Meeting Materials: Documents for this meeting will be posted to a Sharefile site and then the Council's website (www.nefmc.org) as they become available. You will receive a link to access files ahead of the meeting. If you have any questions about the documents, please contact Jonathon Peros (jperos@nefmc.org; 978-465-0492 ext. 117).

MEETING MATERIALS

1. Meeting Information
 - a. Meeting Agenda
 - b. Meeting Memo from Committee Chair, Ms. Melanie Griffin
 - c. Staff Presentations
 - i. Council Staff
 - ii. Dr. Dvora Hart
2. Framework 34
 - a. 2021 Scallop Survey Biomass Estimates (September 8, 2021)
 - b. Preliminary – Projections of exploitable biomass 2022 (circulated when available)
 - c. Fishery Performance Report - Scallop landings grades and LPUE
 - d. LAGC IFQ AA Trip Accounting Discussion Document (circulated when available)
3. Scallop Priorities
 - a. Scallop Survey Working Group Meeting Summary, July 27, 2021
 - b. 2022 Management Priorities, Memo from Tom Nies to Executive Committee
 - c. Scallop Work Priorities Discussion Document
4. PDT Meeting Summaries
 - a. Summary of Recent PDT meetings (September 1, 2, & 8, 2021)
 - b. Summary of July 28, 2021 PDT meeting

5. Correspondence

Background Materials:

6. Survey Short Reports:
 - a. VIMS dredge
 - b. SMAST drop camera
 - i. Georges Bank
 - ii. Gulf of Maine
 - c. Coonamessett Farm Foundation HabCam
 - d. Maine DMR/UMaine dredge (Gulf of Maine)
 - e. NEFSC
 - i. HabCam
 - ii. Dredge
7. Survey Group Presentations from Recent PDT Meetings
 - a. VIMS dredge
 - b. SMAST drop camera
 - c. CFF HabCam, including predator data
 - d. NEFSC HabCam and Dredge
 - e. ME DMR/UMaine
 - f. Nematode and Shell Disease prevalence in the Mid-Atlantic (VIMS)
 - g. 2020 & 2021 VMS activity (GARFO & Council Staff)
8. [All materials from September 1, 2021 Scallop PDT meeting \(link to Council website\)](#)

Framework 34: Survey Results and Projections, LAGC IFQ AA trip accounting

Recent Activity: Five survey groups (VIMS, SMAST, CFF, UMaine/DMR, NEFSC) completed survey work during the 2021 field season. The Scallop PDT has met on September 1, 2, and 8, 2021 to discuss survey results and consider the fishery outlook for FY2022 and 2023 (default). Staff have continued work to evaluate options for LAGC IFQ access area trip accounting.

Key Survey Findings: Surveys detected pre-recruits (<35mm) in the NLS-West. This is encouraging news, though the observed densities are lower than what was observed when the exceptional 2012 year class was first observed. Surveys continued to track recruits on eastern Georges Bank, off of Long Island and the New York Bight. Biomass and abundance estimates for the Mid-Atlantic Access Area suggest that this area cannot support a 6 million pound rotational access area trip in 2022. Surveys of the NLS-South area suggest that rotational fishing may be able to continue there in 2022, but input is needed from the advisors on how this area is holding up.

Potential Topics for the PDT/AP & Committee Discussions: In addition to discussing survey results and projections, the groups may wish to discuss the following topics.

1. 2021 fishery performance, model projections for 2022, two-year outlook for the fishery.
 - a. Rotational access in Closed Area II with multiple year classes in the area.
 - b. Reverting the MAAA to open bottom.
 - c. Closure in the NYB area (north of the MAAA) to improve yield per recruit, and increase likelihood of recruitment south of the NYB area (source/sink).
 - d. Current conditions in the NLS-South and outlook for rotational fishing in 2022.
 - e. LPUE and outlook for open bottom, projection performance.
 - f. Access area fishing high density areas (ex: NLS-South, CAII-SW).
 - g. Opportunities for LAGC IFQ access area fishing in 2022.

Anticipated Outcomes:

1. Tasking motions for the PDT to evaluate options for 1) access area fishing and 2) open area DAS for FY2022 and FY2023 (default). Motions should indicate the number of access area trips to an area, and what the FT LA trip limit would be.
2. Input from the AP and Committee on issues related to specifications, such as where LA PT vessels can fish their trips.
3. Tasking motion for F rates to set the total allowable landings for the NGOM management area. The Council's preferred range for the F rate in this area was identified as F=0.15 to F=0.25 in Amendment 21.
4. Determine if measures should be developed in Framework 34 to change how LAGC IFQ access area trips are counted.

Scallop Work Priorities (2021 and 2022) – AP and Committee Only

Recent Activity on 2021 Work Priorities: Progress has continued toward completing 2021 work items since the last AP and Committee meetings. The [Scallop Survey Working Group](#) met on July 27, 2021. The Council has hired a contractor to support with the evaluation of rotational management, and we will receive an update on that work at our October meetings. Council staff sent the final submission of Amendment 21 to NMFS, and NMFS is now seeking comment on the amendment, with a final decision expected in late November or early December, prior to final action on Framework 34.

Next Steps: Council staff will present progress toward these work items at your upcoming meetings. Staff will also present the current list of potential work priorities for 2022. We are looking to assemble a list of all possible work priorities for 2022 at your September meeting. The AP and Committee will have an opportunity to recommend work priorities at our meetings in October.

Anticipated Outcomes from this Meeting:

- No Action is required at this meeting. The AP and Committee may wish develop motions or consensus statements to add to the current list of possible work priorities for 2022.

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).