



New England Fishery Management Council

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 4, 2020
TO: Scallop Plan Development Team, Advisory Panel, and Scallop Committee
FROM: Vincent Balzano, Scallop Committee Chair
SUBJECT: **Purpose for Scallop AP and Committee meetings on November 10 and 12, 2020**

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council will be holding the joint Scallop Plan Development Team/AP and Committee meetings by webinar on November 10 (PDT/AP) and November 12, 2020 (Committee). Documents for this meeting will be posted to a Sharefile site and then the Council's website as they become available. You will receive a link to access files ahead of the meeting.

Purpose: The main objectives of the meetings are to:

- 1) Receive an update on 2020 survey results and projections for the 2021 & 2022 fishing years.
- 2) Receive an update on recent Council actions, including Amendment 21 and 2021 Council work priorities.
- 3) 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.

AP webinar: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6721165457191966987>

Committee webinar: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8322631630838474251>

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, survey groups, and PDT/AP/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 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 survey groups, and the public. Scallop survey groups Individuals interested in speaking should raise their hand on the webinar.

2. **Motions via Webinar:** AP and Committee members may make motions. PDT members can join the discussion but cannot vote.
 - 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 Committee Chair (*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 Committee Chair will call on individuals who would like to address the motion. After the AP/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: A PDF of each document will be posted to www.nefmc.org. 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, Mr. Vincent Balzano
 - c. Staff Presentations
 - i. Council Staff
 - ii. Dr. Dvora Hart
 - d. Remote Participation Guide
2. Framework 33
 - a. 2020 Scallop Survey Biomass Estimates (October 28, 2020)
 - b. Preliminary – Projections of exploitable biomass (some scenarios, if available)
 - c. Fishery Performance Report - Scallop landings grades and LPUE
 - d. SMAST GOM survey presentation (*if available*)
3. Amendment 21
 - a. Update Action Plan (new timelines)
 - b. Press Release
4. PDT Meeting Summaries
 - a. Summary of Recent PDT meetings (Oct. 15 – Oct. 28)
 - b. Summary of Nov. 5, 2020 PDT meeting
5. Correspondence

[All background materials can be accessed at this link.](#)

Framework 33: Survey Results and Projections

Recent Activity: Three survey groups (VIMS, SMAST, and CFF) were able to complete survey work during the 2020 field season. All three groups worked with the NEFSC to expand the scope of their survey work to maximize coverage of important areas, such as the Great South Channel and open areas of the Mid-Atlantic ([press release](#)). The Scallop PDT has met several times to discuss survey results and develop projections for 2021 and 2022 (default).

Key Survey Findings: Surveys detected recruitment on eastern Georges Bank, off of Long Island and the New York Bight, and to a lesser extent in the Great South Channel. The exceptional 2013 year class is the dominant cohort in the Mid-Atlantic Access Area (no recent recruitment), as is the 2012 year class in the NLS-S-deep. There is a dense aggregation of four-year old scallops in CAII-SW that grew faster than expected, with several year classes observed across the southern flank of Georges Bank.

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

1. 2020 fishery performance, model projections for 2021, two-year outlook for the fishery.
 - a. Exceptional 2012 and 2013 year classes being fished in the MAAA and NLS-S.
 - b. Multiple year classes on eastern Georges Bank.
 - c. LPUE and outlook for open bottom, projection performance.
 - d. Environmental, meat quality, and predator data.
 - e. How the fishery is directing FLEX trips and RSA fishing in 2020.
 - f. Access area fishing high density areas (ex: NLS-South, MAAA, CAII-SW).

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Tasking motions for the PDT to evaluate options for 1) access area fishing and 2) open area DAS for FY2021 and FY2022 (default). Motions should indicate the number of access area trips to an area, and what the FT LA trip limit would be.
- Input from the AP and Committee on issues related to specifications, such as where LA PT vessels can fish their trips.

Recent Activity: Amendment 21 and 2021 Work Priorities

Recent Activity: On October 1, 2020 the Council selected preferred alternatives for Amendment 21 ([press release](#)). The Council met on October 27, 2020 to make recommendations for 2021 work priorities and address President Trump's Executive Order on Promoting Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth. Council staff will provide an overview of recent decisions.

On November 3rd, 2020 the Council received correspondence requesting that it reconsider the results of the priorities discussion on October 27, 2020 and add LA scallop leasing listening sessions to the 2021 scallop work priorities. Staff informed me that the notice for our upcoming meetings, which published on October 26, 2020 in the Federal Register, did not notify the public that the advisors or the Committee could be revisiting 2021 work priorities at their November meetings. Staff have also informed me that they will continue to work exclusively on ongoing actions (Framework 33 and Amendment 21) through January. I am committed to taking up this request with the Advisory Panel and Committee prior to the January Council meeting.

Anticipated Outcomes from this Meeting:

- No Action required.

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).