



New England Fishery Management Council

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 18, 2019
TO: Scallop Advisory Panel and Scallop Plan Development Team
FROM: Vincent Balzano, Scallop Committee Chair
SUBJECT: **Purpose for Join Scallop Plan Development Team (PDT) and Advisory Panel (AP) meeting on October 23, 2019**

There is a Joint Scallop PDT and AP meeting at the New Bedford Harbor Hotel in New Bedford, MA on **Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2019 at 9:00 AM**. Please note there is a Scallop Committee meeting scheduled on Oct. 24, 2019 at that 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 goals of the Joint PDT/AP meeting are:

- 1) Review analyses and recommend specification alternatives to be considered by the Scallop Committee for inclusion in Framework 32. *Note: The AP is not selecting preferred alternatives at this meeting* – this discussion is about what alternatives will be included in the framework.
- 2) Review and consider closure configurations in the Gulf of Maine to protect small scallops, and potential measures to reduce fishery impacts.
- 3) Amendment 21: Review LAGC permit movement data and consider a tabled Scallop Committee motion on establishing a control date that could be used for establishing eligibility criteria. The PDT and AP will not be discussing tasking or other alternatives on A21.
- 4) Provide input on potential scallop work priorities for 2020 (AP only – ranking exercise).

The Scallop Committee will consider your input at its meeting on October 24, 2019. The AP and Committee will meet again on Nov. 19 and 20, 2019 to review progress on this Framework and to make final recommendations to the Council. The full Council is scheduled to take final action on Framework 32 at the December Council meeting in Newport, RI.

Meeting Logistics: The PDT and AP will be seated together at the meeting table and will discuss most agenda items as a group. Recommendations to the Committee may come as consensus statements from the entire group, or in the form of a motion from the AP. PDT members will not vote on AP motions, but may join in the discussion. Any PDT consensus recommendations will be communicated to the Committee by Council staff and documented in the meeting summary.

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
2. Meeting Memo from Committee Chair, Mr. Vincent Balzano
3. Framework 32 Documents:
 - a. Framework 32 Decision Document (*may be updated before mtg*)
 - b. Draft Framework 32 (*may be updated before mtg*)
 - c. 2019 Fishery Performance
 - d. Measures to reduce fishery impacts
4. Background on Control Dates and LAGC permit movement information
5. Meeting summaries and memos:
 - a. Scallop Committee Meeting Summary, Sept. 19, 2019
 - b. Scallop Advisory Panel Meeting Summary, Sept. 18, 2019
 - c. Scallop PDT Meeting Summaries: July – October
 - d. Scallop PDT memo to the SSC re: 2020 and 2021 (default) OFLs and ABCs
 - e. Scallop PDT memo to GF PDT re: Georges Bank yellowtail flounder
6. 2020 Priorities: 2019 work items and potential 2020 work priorities for the Scallop FMP
7. Correspondence

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

2019 Scallop Survey Results and Specification Alternatives in FW32

Recent Activity: The Scallop PDT has met in person to review updated 2019 scallop survey results and projections for 2020. The PDT discussed 2020 and 2021 (default) OFL and ABC recommendations to the SSC on October 1, 2019 in Braintree, MA. The SSC met on October 17, 2019 to discuss OFL/ABC recommendations. The Scallop Committee tasked the PDT to develop specifications alternatives at its September 19, 2019 meeting. A list of anticipated allocation runs is shown in Table 1.

Table 1 – Committee tasking for 2020 spatial management with PDT and staff input.

	Default	Status Quo	PDT Run	Staff Adjust	Run 3	Run 1	Run 4	Run 2
Open area F	TBD, 18 DAS	F=0.23	F=0.23	F=0.23	F=0.4	F=0.295	F=0.295	F=0.295
FT LA trip limit	18,000	18,000	18,000	15,000	15,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
Closed Area I	CLOSED	1 FLEX trip	1/2 FLEX Trip to MAAA	1/2 FLEX Trip to MAAA	1/2 AA trip	1/2 AA trip	1/2 FLEX Trip to MAAA	1/3 AA trip
CL2-AA-WEST	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	1 AA trip	1 AA trip	1 AA trip	CLOSED
CL2-AA-EAST	CLOSED	CLOSED	1 AA Trip	1 AA Trip				1 + 1/3 Trips
CL2-Ext	OPEN BOTTOM	OPEN BOTTOM	CLOSED	CLOSED	OPEN BOTTOM	OPEN BOTTOM	OPEN BOTTOM	CLOSED
NLS-North	CLOSED	CLOSED	1/2 AA trip	1/2 AA trip	1/2 trip	1/2 trip	1/2 AA trip	1/3 trip
NLS-South-Shallow	CLOSED	CLOSED			1 AA trip	1 AA trip		CLOSED
NLS-West	1 AA trip	3 AA trips	OPEN BOTTOM	CLOSED	1 AA Trip	1 AA Trip	1 AA Trip	CLOSED
NLS-South-Deep	CLOSED	CLOSED	1 AA Trip	1 AA Trip				1 AA Trip
MAAA	1 trip	3 AA trips	2 AA trips	2 AA trips	2 AA trips	2 AA trips	2 AA trips	2 AA trips
FT LA Trips	2	7	5	5	6	6	5	5
AA lbs per FT vessel	36,000	126000	90000	75000	90000	108,000	90,000	90,000

Next Steps: Council and NEFSC staff will present information on potential specification alternatives to be considered in Framework 32. The AP should be prepared to recommend specification alternatives for the Committee to consider. The Scallop Committee will be recommending specification alternatives for inclusion and further development in Framework 32. The AP and Committee will have the opportunity to

select preferred alternatives at their meetings on Nov. 19 and 20, 2019 in Providence, RI. The Council will take final action on Framework 32 at its meeting in Newport, RI in early December.

Anticipated Outcomes:

1. Provide recommendations to the Committee for specifications alternatives for 2020 to be included in FW32. The Advisory Panel may wish to make motions for alternatives that identify:
 - a. Full time limited access trip limits
 - b. Access area allocations for 2020 (number of trips in each area)
 - c. Target open area F rate
2. Provide recommendations for 2021 (default) measures – specifically whether an access area trip should be allocated as part of default measures.
3. Provide recommendations to the Committee for fishing mortality rates (F) associated with NGOM TAC alternatives for 2020 and 2021 (default) to be included in FW32.
4. Provide recommendations on closure configurations in the Gulf of Maine that are designed to protect small scallops.
5. Provide input to the Scallop Committee on where Scallop RSA compensation fishing can occur.

Amendment 21: Control date discussion

Recent Activity. The Scallop AP and Committee discussed progress on Amendment 21 at their September meetings. Both groups noted the ability of LAGC permit holders to move between permit categories and discussed the establishment of a control date that could be used for establishing eligibility criteria.

Next Steps. Staff will present data on movement between LAGC permits. The AP may wish to consider the Committee’s tabled motion from its September 19, 2019 meeting. If the Committee passes a motion for a control date, the Council would take this up at its December 2019 Council meeting. If the Council moves to establish a control date, NOAA Fisheries would publish a notice of a control date in the Federal Register (FR), likely in February of 2020. The “control date” would be the date of publication in the FR.

What will be discussed? The focus of this discussion be solely on whether to request that the Council establish a control date that could be used to establish eligibility criteria around LAGC permit movement. The AP and Committee are not scheduled to discuss any other issues related to Amendment 21 at this meeting.

Anticipated Outcomes:

6. The AP may wish to consider the Committee’s tabled motion from its September 19, 2019 meeting.

Tabled Motion from September:

Recommend that the Council establish a control date that could be used to restrict movement between LAGC B (NGOM)/C (Incidental) permits.

Rationale: The LAGC B permit is the NGOM permit, the LAGC C permit is the incidental permit. If individuals are considering getting into the NGOM fishery they should be notified that Council may change the rules in the future.

2020 Scallop Work Priorities

Recent Activity. The Scallop PDT discussed 2020 work priorities at their August meeting, and the AP and Committee reviewed preliminary lists at their meetings in September. The Council identified a list of potential work priorities for 2020 at its September meeting.

Next Steps. Staff will review progress toward 2019 work priorities, and the list of potential 2020 priorities. The Council will set 2020 work priorities at the December meeting in Newport, RI.

Anticipated Outcomes:

7. The AP may wish to provide input to the Scallop Committee on the current list of potential 2020 work priorities (on or off the list), and rank issues (if possible).

Please review all documents before the meeting.

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