



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 7, 2018
TO: Scallop Advisory Panel
FROM: Vincent Balzano, Scallop Committee Chair
SUBJECT: **Purpose for Scallop Advisory Panel meeting on September 13, 2018**

There is a Scallop Advisory Panel meeting at the Waypoint Event Center/Fairfield Inn and Suites in New Bedford, MA on **Thursday September 13, 2018 at 9:00 AM**. Please note there is a Committee meeting at that same location on September 14, 2018. 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 this meeting are to:

- 1) Review results of the SARC 65 benchmark assessment, 2018 scallop surveys, preliminary biomass estimates, and fishery data. Discuss potential specification alternatives to be considered in Framework 30.
- 2) Review progress on management measures that may be included in Framework 30, including:
 - 1) standard default measures.
- 3) Review results of LAGC IFQ trip limit analyses (PDT tasking).
- 4) Review progress on 2018 work priorities and have an initial discussion on potential scallop work priorities for 2019.
- 5) Discuss other business as necessary.

The Scallop Advisory Panel will be considering input from the PDT at this meeting. There will be a scallop report at the upcoming September Council meeting in Plymouth, MA (September 24 – 27, 2018). The Scallop PDT and AP will meet jointly on October 23, 2018 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Boston, MA to discuss the development of specification runs/alternatives in FW30.

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).

1. Agenda
2. Meeting Memo from Scallop Committee Chair, Mr. Vincent Balzano
3. Staff Presentation
4. SARC 65 Assessment Summary Report
5. Scallop Framework 30
 - a. Draft Framework 30 Action Plan
 - b. Draft Framework 30

- c. 2018 preliminary combined survey estimates and PDT recommendations
- 6. LAGC IFQ Trip Limit Analyses
 - a. Staff presentation
 - b. LAGC IFQ Discussion Document
 - c. Scenario Analyses of Possession Limits for the LAGC IFQ fishery
 - d. Preliminary impacts of trip limit changes
 - e. Summary of trip cost model
- 7. Scallop PDT meeting summaries
 - a. July 25, 2018 Scallop PDT meeting summary
 - b. August 28 & 29, 2018 Scallop PDT meeting summary
 - c. September 5, 2018 Scallop PDT meeting summary
- 8. Update on 2018 Priorities and draft list of Potential 2019 Priorities for Scallop FMP
- 9. 2018/2019 Scallop RSA Federal Funding Opportunity
- 10. Correspondence

SARC 65: Scallop Benchmark Assessment

Recent Activity: A review of the scallop benchmark assessment was completed.

Framework 30: 2018 Scallop Survey and Preliminary Biomass Estimates

Recent Activity: The Scallop PDT met in Falmouth, MA on August 28 & 29, 2018 and by conference call on September 5, 2018. At the two day meeting in Falmouth the group heard presentations on the results of the SARC 65 benchmark assessment, 2018 scallop survey results, and discussed preliminary survey biomass estimates, as well as 2017 and 2018 fishery data. This year, survey groups were asked to prepare a standardized summary report as a way to align survey outputs and communicate results ahead of the PDT meeting. These reports are [available online](#), and will be provided as background for your meeting. You can also use [this link](#) access several presentations from August 28 and 29 on scallop meat quality, discarding, and growth.

Several groups completed surveys in 2018 though RSA support:

- Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) completed dredge surveys of the Mid-Atlantic, Nantucket Lightship and surrounds, Closed Area I and surrounds, and Closed Area II and surrounds.
- School for Marine Science and Technology (SMAST) completed high resolution drop camera surveys of Closed Area I and surrounds, the South Channel, Nantucket Lightship, and areas of the Gulf of Maine using high resolution Imperx Digital Still camera.
- Coonamessett Farm Foundation (CFF) surveyed the Nantucket Lightship using HabCam V3.
- Wood Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI) surveyed the Mid-Atlantic and areas on eastern Georges Bank, and using HabCam V2.2.
- The NEFSC survey utilized both HabCam V4 and a dredge survey in parts of the Mid-Atlantic and on Georges Bank.

The PDT continued to discuss results of the 2018 surveys on September 5, 2018. Summaries of both meetings are available in your meeting materials.

Initial PDT Recommendations for FW30 Specifications:

- 2019 Harvest: The PDT recommends continuing to focus effort in access areas, and to continue to back off effort in open areas for the following reasons:
 1. Animals in Closed Area I, Nantucket Lightship-West, and the Mid-Atlantic access areas will be 9, 7, and 6 years old (respectively) in 2019, and are ready for harvest.
 2. Most of the recruitment observed in the 2018 surveys is in open areas.

Next Steps: Council staff will review the results of the 2018 scallop surveys, and present information that is intended to inform the discussion around potential specification alternatives to be considered in Framework 30. The AP may wish to develop potential specification alternatives for the Committee to consider. The Scallop PDT and AP will meet jointly on October 23, 2018 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Boston, MA to discuss the development of specification runs/alternatives in FW30.

Framework 30: Management Measures

Recent Activity: In June the Council voted to initiate Scallop Framework 30 and include the development of standard default measures. The Scallop Committee signaled preferred alternatives at their meeting on May 24, 2018. The PDT has not discussed standard default measures since the June Council meeting.

Next Steps: No Action on standard default measures is needed at this time. Council staff will briefly recap management measures currently included in Framework 30.

LAGC IFQ Trip Limits

Recent Activity: The Scallop Committee tasked the PDT with analyzing the impacts of LAGC IFQ trip limit increases from 400 lbs to 1,200 lbs (in 200 lb increments) at their March 22, 2018 meeting in Providence, RI. At that meeting, staff noted that gathering and assembling data for this analysis would take several months. The Scallop PDT met on July 25, 2018 in Boston, MA and on August 29, 2018 to discuss progress on this tasking. The Council has received several letters of correspondence on this topic.

Next Steps: Council staff will present trip limit scenario analyses from 400 lbs to 1,200 lbs and background information on the LAGC IFQ fishery at your meeting.

Anticipated Outcomes: Considering LAGC IFQ trip limits is a 2018 Council priority. This priority is not currently being addressed in a Council action (e.g. FW30). The AP may wish to recommend the next steps to the Scallop Committee at this meeting.

2018 & 2019 Scallop Work Priorities

Recent Activity: On April 17, 2018 the Council voted to modify the 2018 priorities list by removing gear modifications to protect small scallops and adding the development of standard default measures. The Council also ranked the 2018 priorities to direct Committee and PDT work. The PDT has completed work on the majority of 2018 work priorities. On August 29, 2018 the Scallop PDT had an initial discussion on potential 2019 work priorities.

Regulatory Requirements & Ongoing work	Council Ranking
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specifications for 2019/2020• Benchmark (SAW/SARC 65)• Support Scallop RSA Program• In-season catch accounting• Specify Allocation Review Triggers	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Modify Access Areas to be consistent with OHA22. Standard default measures3. Monitoring and catch accounting4. Consider LAGC IFQ trip limits5. NGOM Management measures

Next Steps: Council staff will review progress on the 2018 work priorities and summarize the PDT's initial discussion on potential 2019 priorities.

Anticipated Outcomes. The AP may wish to recommend potential 2019 work priorities at this meeting. This will not be the last time that the AP can weigh in on priorities. Please note - the final vote on 2019 priorities will be at the December Council meeting in Newport, RI.

Please review all documents before the meeting.

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

DRAFT AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE: Expected progress on priorities relative to Council meetings

Council Meeting:	Sep-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Apr-19	Jun-19
Regulatory Requirements and Ongoing Work					
Specifications for 2019/2020	Review survey data, preliminary OFL/ABC projections	Final Action	Submit Specs Package	New specs in place April 1	2019 Survey cruises on the water
Benchmark (SAW/SARC 65)	Present results of SARC 65				
Support Scallop RSA Program	FFO Published, Program review update	Proposals Due, Reviews begin	Proposals in evaluation	Announce 2019/2020 awards	Council votes on 2020/21 Priorities
In-season catch accounting	Ongoing	Estimates for GF FW, FW30	Review bycatch estimates - consider YT transfer to GF		
Specify Allocation Review Triggers	Executive Committee Discussion				
Council's Ranked Priorities					
1. Modify Access Areas to be consistent with OHA2	Consider modifying boundaries in FW30		Coordinate with Habitat on EGB (TBD), Consider a review of rotational management		
2. Standard default measures	Review impacts analyses	Final Action			
3. Monitoring and catch accounting	Review 3 letters to NOAA; develop any add. Recs.				
4. Consider LAGC IFQ trip limits	Present analyses on trip limit increases (Committee tasking)	TBD (Depends on CTE/Council input in Sept. 2018)			
5. NGOM Management measures	Review GOM appendix from SAW/SARC 65, fishery data	TBD (Expect CTE input in Sept)			