



New England Fishery Management Council

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 25, 2017
TO: Scallop Advisory Panel
FROM: Mary Beth Tooley, Scallop Committee Chair
SUBJECT: **Purpose for Scallop Advisory Panel meeting on May 31, 2017**

There is a Scallop Advisory Panel meeting at the Courtyard by Marriott Boston Logan Airport in Boston, MA on **Wednesday, May 31, 2017 at 9:30 AM**. Please note there is a Committee meeting at that same location on June 1, 2017. 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 this Advisory Panel meeting are to:

- 1) Review Scallop RSA program information and discuss recommendations for 2018/2019 Scallop RSA research priorities.
- 2) Review progress on potential management measures that may be included in Framework 29, including: 1) flatfish accountability measures; and 2) Northern Gulf of Maine Management.
- 3) Discuss other business as necessary.

The Scallop Advisory Panel will be considering input from the PDT at this meeting. The full Council will meet again from June 20 – 22 in Portland, ME.

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. Staff Presentation (to be provided)
2. Meeting Memo from Scallop Committee Chair, MaryBeth Tooley
3. Scallop PDT/AP meeting summary, May 4, 2017 – including PDT/AP input on RSA FFO
4. Scallop PDT meeting summary, May 22, 2017
5. Scallop PDT recommendations for 2018/2019 RSA Research Priorities
6. Summary of Recent RSA Awards, including 2017/2018 awards
7. Report from PDT sub-group meeting on follow-up to the 2015 scallop survey peer review
8. Background on potential control date to address movement of LAGC permits between categories
9. Northern Gulf of Maine TAC Split Considerations
10. Flatfish Accountability Measure Information
11. Framework 29 Draft Action Plan
12. Framework 29 Draft Discussion Document
13. Correspondence

2018/2019 Scallop RSA Research Recommendations

Recent Activity: At least biannually, the Council recommends the specific research priorities that should be used for the Scallop RSA funding announcement. The Scallop PDT and AP met in Boston, MA on May 4, 2017 to hear presentations on recently funded Scallop RSA projects, and review current RSA research priorities. The group discussed potential changes for the 2017/2018 Scallop RSA funding announcement (Document #3). The Scallop PDT met via webinar on May 22, 2017 to develop PDT recommendations for the 2017/2018 Scallop RSA funding announcement (Document #4 and #5).

Next Steps: Council staff will review Scallop RSA research priority recommendations. The AP may wish to develop additional recommendations for the Committee to consider.

Follow-up to 2015 Scallop Survey Peer-Review

Recent Activity: Several issues emerged in 2016 following the scallop survey season and during the process of updating scallop models. Many of these issues are related to areas where surveys (both dredge and optical) encountered high densities of scallops. A PDT sub-group was formed to address this priority. The group met on April 13th, 2017 by conference call. A report from that meeting is contained in your meeting materials (Document #7)

Next Steps: Council staff will provide you with an update on this work; no action is needed at this time.

Framework 29: Flatfish Accountability Measures and Northern Gulf of Maine

Recent Activity: The Council initiated Framework 29 at its April meeting, and approved a problem statement to guide work on Northern Gulf of Maine management measures. This action is likely to include fishery specifications for 2018/2019, as well as flatfish accountability measures, Northern Gulf of Maine management measures, and measures to modify the CA I access area boundary (post-OHA2 final rule). The Council also sent a letter to the Northeast Fisheries Science Center requesting that the Center explore ways to survey portions of the Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area in 2017. The PDT and AP reviewed information on 2017 priorities at their joint meeting on May 4, 2017.

Next Steps: Staff will review available information relevant to FW29 measures at this meeting. The PDT will begin developing a range of measures for flatfish AMs and NGOM management this summer. The PDT is seeking input from the Committee on the range of approaches that should be developed for consideration. The AP should be prepared to provide the Committee with input at this meeting.

Potential Control Date to Address Movement of LAGC Permits (NGOM and Incidental)

Recent Activity: The Council will be considering a Committee motion to establish a control date at its upcoming meeting (see Document #8).

Next Steps: Brief update by Staff. No Action is required at this meeting.

Please review all documents before the meeting.

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