



## New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116

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

### MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** September 7, 2018  
**TO:** Scallop Committee  
**FROM:** Vincent Balzano, Scallop Committee Chair  
**SUBJECT:** **Purpose for Scallop Committee meeting on September 14, 2018**

There is a Scallop Committee meeting at the Waypoint Event Center/Fairfield Inn and Suites in New Bedford, MA on **Friday September 14, 2018 at 9:00 AM**. Please note there is an Advisory Panel meeting at that same location on September 13, 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 Committee will be considering input from the AP and 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 Committee will meet on October 24, 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](http://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](mailto: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

### **BACKGROUND – Available Online**

- 11. 2018 Scallop Survey Short Reports
  - a. VIMS
  - b. SMAST
  - c. CFF
  - d. WHOI
  - e. NEFSC – HabCam
  - f. NEFSC – Dredge
- 12. LAGC IFQ Program Review: 2010 – 2016
- 13. SAW 65 Draft Appendix III – Gulf of Maine

### **SARC 65: Scallop Benchmark Assessment**

**Recent Activity:** A review of the scallop benchmark assessment was completed as part of SARC 65 (June 26-29, 2018). In 2017 the Atlantic sea scallop resource was not overfished, and overfishing was not occurring. The estimated fishing mortality rate on the scallop population in 2017 was  $F$  of 0.12. SARC 65 updated biological reference points. The biological reference points for the whole stock recommended by the SARC 65 in 2018 are  $F_{MSY} = 0.64$ ,  $B_{MSY} = 116,766$  mt meats,  $B_{Threshold} = \frac{1}{2} B_{MSY} = 58,383$  mt meats, and  $MSY = 46,531$  mt meats. The basis for the increase in  $F_{MSY}$  from 0.48 in the previous assessment is detailed in the full report, but is primarily due to increases in estimated adult natural mortality.

**Next Steps:** Council staff will provide a high-level update on the outcome of SARC 65. Dr. James Weinberg (NEFSC) will brief the full New England Council on the results of the process on Tuesday, September 25, 2018. Dr. Dvora Hart (NEFSC), the lead assessment scientist for the scallop benchmark assessment, will be available to answer detailed questions about the assessment results at the October Committee meeting.

### **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 (SMST) 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 Committee may wish to develop potential specification alternatives for FW30 at this meeting. The results of those SAMS runs will be presented at October 24, 2018 Committee meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn in Boston, MA.

### **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 Committee may wish to recommend next steps to the Council 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"><li>• Specifications for 2019/2020</li><li>• Benchmark (SAW/SARC 65)</li><li>• Support Scallop RSA Program</li><li>• In-season catch accounting</li><li>• Specify Allocation Review Triggers</li></ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Modify Access Areas to be consistent with OHA2</li><li>2. Standard default measures</li><li>3. Monitoring and catch accounting</li><li>4. Consider LAGC IFQ trip limits</li><li>5. NGOM Management measures</li></ol>

**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 Committee may wish to recommend potential 2019 work priorities at this meeting. This will not be the last time that the Committee 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)			