



New England Fishery Management Council

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 23, 2017
TO: Scallop Committee
FROM: Mary Beth Tooley, Scallop Committee Chair
SUBJECT: **Purpose for Scallop Committee meeting on March 30, 2017**

There is a Scallop Committee meeting at the Hotel Providence in Providence, RI on **Thursday, March 30, 2017 at 9:30 AM**. Please note there is an AP meeting at that same location on March 29, 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 Committee meeting are to:

- 1) Review and begin work on the 2017 scallop work priorities. The Committee should be ready to task the PDT with the development of measures from the 2017 priority list that may be incorporated into a future management action. Council staff will present information on several work priorities.
- 2) Update on the 2017/2018 Scallop RSA award recommendations. The PDT, AP, and Committee will be discussing 2018/2019 RSA priorities at upcoming meetings.
- 3) Discuss other business as necessary.

The Scallop Committee will be considering input from the PDT and AP at its meeting. The scallop report at the April Council meeting will be on April 18, 2017.

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. 2017 Priorities for Scallop FMP
Northern Gulf of Maine Management Measures
 - 4a. Northern Gulf of Maine discussion document
 - 4b. Update on 2017 NGOM fishery
Flatfish Accountability Measures
 - 5a. Scallop fishery flatfish sub-ACLs and Accountability Measures Discussion Document
6. Outlook and plans for follow-up to scallop survey peer-review
7. Background on potential modifications to access areas in future scallop action
8. 2017/2018 Scallop RSA Award Announcement, including RSA-funded survey coverage maps

- 9. March 1, 2017 Scallop PDT meeting summary
- 10. March 21, 2017 Scallop PDT meeting summary
- 11. Correspondence

2017 Scallop Work Priorities

Recent Activity: The Scallop PDT has met in person and by conference call, and has had initial discussions regarding the 2017 work priorities.

Next Steps: Council staff will review the 2017 work priorities, and present initial PDT input on these issues. The Committee should be prepared with tasking motions to direct the PDT’s work over the coming months at this meeting.

Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area

Recent Activity: The Council has identified Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area measures as a priority for 2017. The Council took action to set the 2017 TAC based on recent survey data, and eliminate the ability of LA vessels to circumvent the DAS system and process scallops off the clock through FW28.

The Northern Gulf of Maine management area closed to all scallop fishing on March 23 when NMFS determined that the LAGC component had reached the TAC for the year. Both Limited Access and LAGC vessels operated in the area again this year. Council staff plan to provide an update on the 2017 NGOM effort and landings at the meeting.

Next Steps: Council staff will present background information on the NGOM management area, the 2017 fishery, and initial PDT input on this work priority. The Committee should be prepared to provide tasking to the PDT at this meeting.

Flatfish Accountability Measures

Recent Activity. The Council has identified the development of flatfish accountability measures as a priority for 2017. The Council took action in Groundfish Framework 56 to develop a scallop fishery sub-ACL for northern windowpane flounder, set at 21% of the overall ACL. The Council needs to develop accountability measures for this stock for the 2018 fishing year (regulatory requirement). The Council has also signaled interest in modifying existing Georges Bank and Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail AMs with a focus on requiring gear modifications vs. time area closures. The PDT discussed scallop and flatfish catch data at its first two meetings.

Next Steps. Staff will review scallop and flatfish catch data with the Committee. The Committee should be prepared to provide tasking to the PDT at this meeting.

Update on other 2017 priorities

Recent Activity: The Council also identified the modification of access areas to be consistent with OHA2, gear modifications to protect small scallops, and integrating findings from the sea scallop survey peer review.

Next Steps: Council staff will provide an update these work items. The Committee may wish to provide PDT tasking for these work items at this meeting.

2017/2018 Scallop RSA Recommended Awards

Recent Activity: The 2017/2018 Scallop RSA recommended awards were announced on March 17, 2017. See Document 8 for details.

Next Steps: No Action is required at this meeting. The PDT, AP, and Committee will be discussing 2018/2019 priorities at upcoming meetings in May and June.

Please review all documents before the meeting.

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