



New England Fishery Management Council

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 11, 2019
TO: Scallop Committee and Advisory Panel
FROM: Vincent Balzano, Scallop Committee Chair
SUBJECT: **Purpose for Scallop AP and Committee meetings on January 17 and 18, 2019**

There is a Scallop AP meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn in Boston, MA on Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 9:00 AM. The Scallop Committee will convene on Friday, January 18, 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 AP and Committee meeting are to:

- 1) Direct work on 2019 Council priorities
- 2) Provide feedback on Amendment 21 scoping document, and the range of issues covered
- 3) Provide input on approaches to mitigate impacts on yellowtail flounder
- 4) Review and discuss the Council's 2019 – 2023 Research Priorities
- 5) Other Business.

The full Council is scheduled to meet in Portsmouth, NH from January 29 - 31. The Scallop Report is scheduled for the afternoon of January 29, 2019.

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
 - a. Staff presentation (*to be provided*)
2. Meeting Memo from Committee Chair, Mr. Vincent Balzano
3. 2019 Priorities Discussion Document
 - a. Overview of Georges Bank Flatfish AMs and GB Yellowtail Background Information
 - b. 2019 NEFMC Council Priorities – Final (1/2/2019)
4. Amendment 21 Scoping Document (draft)
 - a. Amendment 21 Action Plan (draft)
5. NEFMC Scallop Research Priorities (2019 – 2023)
6. Correspondence

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

Update on Framework 30 Implementation

Recent Activity: The Council selected preferred alternatives for Framework 30 at the December Council meeting. A decision draft was submitted to NMFS on December 19, 2018. Council staff plan to send a preliminary submission to NMFS later this month. The implementation of Framework 30 by April 1, 2019 could be impacted by a prolonged government shutdown.

Next Steps/Anticipated Outcomes:

- The AP and Committee will have an opportunity to briefly provide feedback on the Framework 30 process. Input may inform approaches to the 2020/2021 specifications process.

Amendment 21: Northern Gulf of Maine and LAGC IFQ Possession Limits

Recent Activity: The Council plans to develop Amendment 21 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop FMP to address two specific issues: 1) measures related to the Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) Management Area, and 2) Limited Access General Category (LAGC) individual fishing quota (IFQ) possession limits. Council staff have developed a draft scoping document for this action. Staff have worked with the Committee Chair to develop on an overall timeline for this action (see A21 Action Plan), as well as a preliminary schedule for scoping hearings.

Next Steps: Council staff will summarize information contained in the Amendment 21 scoping document. The AP and Committee will have the opportunity review the document and suggest changes at their meetings. The Council is expected to consider approving a scoping document at its January meeting in Portsmouth, NH. Several scoping hearings would be held in the winter/spring of 2019. If this timeline holds, a summary of public input provided through the A21 scoping process would be provided at the June 2019 Council meeting.

Anticipated Outcomes: *Please Review A21 Draft Scoping Document*

1. Provide feedback on contents of the draft scoping document.
 - a. Does the document cover the full range of issues that you think should be considered?
 - b. Are there issues that should be added or removed?
2. Provide feedback on the anticipated range and locations of scoping hearings.
3. Consider a motion for the Council to approve the Amendment 21 scoping document.

Action to Mitigate Impacts on Yellowtail Flounder

Recent Activity: The Council has recommended that the Scallop Committee work on an action to mitigate impacts on yellowtail flounder. The Scallop PDT met on January 9, 2019 to discuss potential ways to approach this issue. The yellowtail stocks that are allocated to the scallop fishery are in poor condition (GB and SNE).

Next Steps: Council staff will summarize the PDT's January 9, 2019 discussion and background information. The PDT is looking for guidance on how to approach this work item going forward in 2019.

Anticipated Outcomes:

4. Potentially develop goals/objectives or a problem statement that would guide the Scallop PDT's work on this item.
 - a. Provide a timeline to the Scallop PDT on when it would be most helpful to see progress. Does the Committee want to see progress by the May/June meetings, ahead of TRAC and TMGC?

Council Research Priorities 2019 – 2023

Recent Activity: Per the Magnuson Stevens Reauthorization Act of 2006, Councils are required to develop five-year research priority plans and submit them to the Secretary of Commerce. The Council had been updating this list once every 5 years. As of September 2018, the Council plans to annually update this list, and is in the process of implementing a research priority setting process. The Scallop PDT met on January 9, 2019 to discuss potential ways to update the Council's research priorities, focusing only on scallop related priorities.

Next Steps: Input from this meeting will be considered by the Council's SSC at an April meeting. The Council is expected to update 5-year research priorities at their April 2019 meeting.

Anticipated Outcomes:

5. Develop input to the SSC and Council for updating the 5-year research priorities (2019-2023).

Overview of Additional 2019 Scallop Work Items:

Recent Activity: The Council approved 2019 scallop priorities in December 2018. The Scallop PDT met on January 9, 2019 to discuss potential ways to approach this work over the coming year.

- The PDT discussed potential ways to approach the evaluation of rotational management.
- With respect to the 2020/2021 scallop specifications, the group also noted that the harvest of small scallops in the NLS-S-deep was not identified as a priority by the Council.
- The Council is expected to receive a final report on the RSA program review at the January Council meeting. Staff noted that there may be some opportunity to address recommendations from this review during the 2020/2021 RSA award cycle.

Next Steps/Anticipated Outcomes:

6. Review PDT input and direct work on ways to approach the evaluation of rotational management.
7. Consider the scope of 2020/2021 scallop specifications.

Other Business

Anticipated Outcomes: Additional items and issues may be taken up under other business.

Please review all documents before the meeting.

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