

# Scallop Research Share Day



**Day I**  
**May 5, 2022**  
**Scallop PDT Webinar**



**New England  
Fishery Management  
Council**



# **Webinar Instructions**

# RSA: Background and Process

- Scallop RSA program began in 1999.
- Evolved over time, 1.275 million pounds set-aside each year to fund research projects.
- About 10-15 projects are funded annually.
- No federal funds – awards in pounds of scallop – allocated through competitive grants process.
- **Council recommends RSA priorities at June meeting for summer announcement of the funding opportunity.**
- Management and Technical Reviews during the fall.
- Final project selections early the following year.



# 2022/2023 - RSA Priorities

[2022/2023 RSA Priorities](#) – *Link to full RSA priorities*

- **Highest Priority - Surveys**
- **High Priority Non-survey research (equal priority)**
  - 2. Scallop Biology
  - 3. Turtle behavior
- **General Research Needs (not in rank order)**
  - 4. Scallop Recruitment Supplementation (Focus on federal fishery, added development of standards and best practices, evaluation on economic feasibility).
  - 5. Bycatch: small scallops and non-target species.
  - 6. Gear: Commercial dredge research.

# Current Enhancement Priority

**2022/2023 RSA Priorities** – *Link to full RSA priorities*

- General research topic.
- “Scallop Recruitment Supplementation: Research to develop the tools, such as spat collection, grow out of juvenile scallops, predator control, and offshore seeding, to supplement natural recruitment of scallops for the federally managed scallop fishery.
- Research could focus on the development of standards and best practices for using husbandry techniques to enhance the wild capture fishery or could evaluate the economic feasibility of enhancement efforts.”

# Committee Motion

**Draft Motions**  
Scallop Committee Meeting  
January 28, 2022  
Webinar

#2

## **Motion 1: Hughes/Alexander**

Move that the Committee task the Scallop PDT to review the “Industry Funded Scallop Transplanting Update” submitted in correspondence by the Coonamessett Farm Foundation, and report feedback and recommendations to the Committee prior to the June 2022 Council meeting.

*Rationale:* The rationale for the NLS-Triangle in Frameworks 32, 33, and 34 has been that: “The NLS-Triangle closure comprises a small area with low scallop densities that could be used for research purposes in the absence of fishing.” The NLS-Triangle has been closed for two years, and the scallop industry has funded transplanting research in this area. The area will be closed again in fishing year 2022. The CFF report should be evaluated by the Scallop PDT to assess the utility of the NLS-Triangle as a closed area in 2023, and to examine the application of transplanting scallops in future Council actions. Need to stop being just regulators and be managers of this fishery. There is a need to apply good science in management. It is important to evaluate the ability to grow scallops in this fishery, it is done in other parts of the world.

# Committee Tasking (cont.)

- **Tasking Motion from Committee re: Industry funded scallop transplanting update**
  - Assess the utility of the NLS-Triangle as a closed area in 2023
  - Examine the application of transplanting scallops in future Council actions
- **Next steps:**
  - Enhancement themed session as part of the Scallop Research Share Day(s), with additional time for PDT review of projects, including CFF work
  - Based on Share Day Discussion → Brief memo from the PDT in May or June, 2022 addressing:
    1. Recommendation for use of NLS-Triangle in the scallop rotational program
    2. Any PDT recommendations on RSA priorities related to scallop enhancement
    3. PDT feedback on CFF report

# Council Interest and Correspondence

- Recent Council interest in enhancement through:
  - Scallop RSA priorities → 5-year research priorities
  - Share day updates from Milford Lab (NEFSC)
  - Industry trip to Japan in 2019
- Industry/AP discussions about moving small, slow growing scallops in the NLS-South-deep area
- Correspondence re: enhancement issues going back to the late 90's...



## COONAMESSETT FARM

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December 1, 1997

# Then....

Mr. Jim O'Malley  
Chairman, Sea Scallop Committee  
New England Fishery Management Council  
5 Broadway  
Saugus, MA 01960

Re: Proposed Sea Scallop FMP Research Program

1. What are the important scallop spawning areas for restocking the best scallop grow-out areas on Georges Bank and in Southern New England?
4. Are there areas that routinely get good scallop sets but show poor survival? Can scallops be economically transferred from these areas to potentially good grow-out areas?
3. What is the effectiveness of different measures to reduce fish by-catch by commercial scallop dredges?
4. Are there areas that routinely get good scallop sets but show poor survival? Can scallops be economically transferred from these areas to potentially good grow-out areas?
5. What would be the economic impact on a vessel fishing one eight foot dredge (with an 8-inch square mesh twine top) with a four man crew?
6. What are the habitat impacts of scallop dredging in different areas? What is the impact of otter trawling on scallop spawning and seed beds?

The above research list is far from being all inclusive but serves to show the range of critical questions that need to be addressed. The list covers subjects that need to be researched for EFH considerations, bycatch reduction, improving scallop production, access to groundfish closed areas, and alternative management approaches. More importantly, with a quick



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January 26 2022

# Now....

To: Eric Read, Chair, NEFMC

From: Ronald Smolowitz

In the past, I have commented that scallop management priorities seem to be overly concerned with allocation (how to split the pie) and not enough with factors that can potentially

In the past, I have commented that scallop management priorities seem to be overly concerned with allocation (how to split the pie) and not enough with factors that can potentially significantly impact the resource (making sure you have a pie). I pointed to the fact that we are entering a new era of increasing water temperatures, changing currents, ocean acidifications, and wind farms. We need to focus on resiliency to the conditions these changes may impose.

Presently, we take a passive approach to managing scallop harvest. We monitor scallop abundance once a year and set harvest targets. I advocate that we take a more active approach; one that identifies sources of scallop natural mortality and takes actions to mitigate that mortality. Logical actions include predator control and transplanting.

such as additional set-asides to pay for this activity. Simple back-of-the-envelope calculations show a \$20 million investment can yield \$200 million in landings. Again, scallop transplanting and predator control can be frame workable measures developed and funded by set-asides. I put the above concepts on the table for discussion purposes. I seriously think we need to get out in front of the anthropogenic (wind farms) and environmental changes that will impact the scallop fishery. "Plan ahead: It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark." ~ Richard Cushing

Here is a rough draft of the concept I am proposing. First thing; the actions I am requesting are frameworkable based on Amendment 7 which is the following:

# Hokkaido (2019)

- Coordinated by NOAA Fisheries.
- Focus: Aquaculture Practices & Governance. Seed-sowing techniques used in Hokkaido.



*Patinopecten yessoensis*

# Discussion

## Issues:

- Ocean warming/changing currents
- Wind farm development, new ocean uses
- Predation
- Fishing practices

## Possible Objectives of Enhancement:

- Increase odds of recruitment success
- Stabilize or Increase production
- Meat size increases





# Current Enhancement Priority

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# Presentations

## Meeting Agenda: Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022

	Presenter	Project/Research
9:00	Jonathon Peros & Sam Asci	Welcome and Overview of Research Share Day, Meeting Logistics, Roll Call and Mic Check
9:30	Mark Dixon	Sea scallop research at the NOAA Fisheries lab in Milford, CT: An update and a look forward.
9:50	Dave Rudders	Upcoming Research: Workshop on the State of Knowledge Related to Scallop Enhancement
10:05	Farrell Davis	Upcoming research: Evaluating the Key Factors that Influence the Efficacy of Transplanting to Supplement Recruitment
10:20	Farrell Davis	Industry Funded Transplanting Update
10:40		<i>Break</i>
11:00	PDT	Feedback on CFF Transplanting Report
11:30	Jonathon Peros	Scallop Enhancement and 2023/2024 RSA Priorities
11:45	PDT	Recommendations on research needs and future focus for scallop enhancement
12:15		Wrap up

# Today's Meeting:

**Objectives:** Researchers to share information about ongoing and upcoming projects. PDT develop input on recent work and recommendations on RSA enhancement research priority.



Milford, CT  
Woods Hole, MA



# PDT Discussion:

## Objectives:

- Provide input on recent work by CFF (11am)
  - Methods/Results
- Develop recommendations on RSA enhancement research priority (11:30am)
  - Continue?
  - Refine?
- Consider NLS-Triangle as a rotational area
  - CFF project (today)
  - Management considerations for 2023 given status of NLS-South (May 24/31)



# Upcoming Meetings (2022)

<https://www.nefmc.org/management-plans/scallops>

- May 6 – Scallop Research Share Day #2
- May 24 – Scallop PDT meeting
- May 31 – Scallop PDT meeting
- June 14 – Scallop AP (in person, Boston)
- June 15 – Scallop Committee (in person, Boston)
- June 28-30 – Council Meeting (in person, Portland)
- [Scoping meeting for Limited Access Leasing \(9\)](#)



**Please join us again on  
May 6, 2022**