

# **DECISION DOCUMENT**

**for**

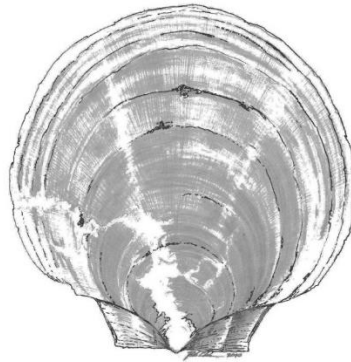
**the development of**

**Framework Adjustment 34**

**to the**

**Atlantic Sea Scallop FMP**

**Advisory Panel and Committee Copy (10/25/21, version 1)**



**October 26 & 27, 2021**

**Scallop AP and Committee Meetings**

### Framework 34

Framework 34 was initiated at the June 2021 Council meeting and currently includes: scallop fishery specifications for FY2022 and default measures for FY2023 (ABC/ACLs, DAS, access area allocations for LA and LAGC, TAL for NGOM management area, target-TAC for LAGC incidental catch and set-asides for the observer and research programs).

#### **Anticipated Action by AP and Committee at this Meeting:**

1. Identify specification alternatives for inclusion in FW34: 2022 and 2023 (*motions*)
  - a. FT LA trip limits (e.g., 15,000 lbs, 18,000 lbs)
  - b. Access area allocations for 2022 (number of trips in each area)
  - c. Trip trading increments
  - d. Open bottom configuration and F rates for calculating open bottom DAS
2. Provide recommendations on possible new closures (ex: NYB and yield closures)
3. Identify whether to include any access area trips as part 2023 default measures, and determine which area(s) to allocate (*motion*)
4. Develop input on part-time access area allocations (40% of FT LA allocations)
5. Provide recommendations on options for distributing LAGC IFQ access area trips for FY 2022.
6. Provide recommendations on default measures for the NGOM for FY2023.
7. Provide input on where Scallop RSA compensation fishing can occur.
8. Provide input on any measures to reduce fishery impacts (e.g., the timing of seasonal closure on eastern GB).

## 1. Specification Alternatives & 2. Potential Closures

### **Framework 34 Specification Tasking Runs:**

	Run 1	Run 2	Run 3	Run 4	Run 5	Run 6
	Status Quo	AP Motion 1; AP Motion 4	AP Motion 2 Run 1; AP Motion 3, 5, 6	AP Motion 2 Run 2, Motion 4, Motion 5/6	AP Motion 2 Run 3, Motion 3	NO ACTION
Open Area F	F=0.3	F=0.3	F=0.3	F=0.3	F=0.3	18 DAS
FT LA Trip Limit	18,000 lbs	18,000 lbs	18,000 lbs	15,000 lbs	15,000 lbs	18,000
Trips trading	9,000 lbs	9,000 lbs	9,000 lbs	15,000 lbs	15,000 lbs	n/a
CL2-SE	CLOSED	18000 lbs	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
CLS-SW	27,000 lbs (1.5 trips)	18,000 lbs	27,000 lbs (1.5 trips)	30,000 lbs (2 trips)	15,000 lbs	CLOSED
CL2-Ext					15,000 lbs	CLOSED
NLS-South	18,000 lbs	18,000 lbs	18,000 lbs	15,000 lbs	15,000 lbs	CLOSED
NLS-North	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
NLS-West	Open Bottom	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	Open Bottom
NLS-Triangle	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
CL2-N (HAPC)	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
CA1	513k lbs LAGC AA	Open Bottom	LAGC IFQ AA from CAII	Open Bottom	LAGC IFQ AA from CAII	CLOSED
NYB	Open Bottom	Open Bottom	NEW CLOSURE	NEW CLOSURE	Open Bottom	Open Bottom
NF, GSC, SF, BI, LI, MAB Nearshore, DMV	Open Bottom	Open Bottom	Open Bottom	Open Bottom	Open Bottom	Open Bottom
MAAA	18,000	Open Bottom	Open Bottom	Open Bottom	Open Bottom	18,000
West of NLS-W (Non-SAMS and not surveyed)			NEW CLOSURE	NEW CLOSURE	n/a	

Limited Access Landings Information - [Data through October 20, 2021 \(Report Run on 10/21/21\)](#)

	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>CA I</b>	<b>CA II 2020</b>	<b>CA II 2021</b>	<b>MID-ATL</b>	<b>NLS-N</b>	<b>NLS-S Deep</b>	<b>MONTHLY TOTAL</b>	<b>CUMULATIVE TOTAL</b>
April	4,299,144	0	155,043	0	660,231	21,400	150,369	<b>5,286,187</b>	<b>5,286,187</b>
May	2,284,958	32,707	337,033	276,530	1,601,384	74,292	619,756	<b>5,226,660</b>	<b>10,512,847</b>
June	1,333,733	17,998	61,043	2,354,638	697,435	23,035	933,946	<b>5,421,828</b>	<b>15,934,675</b>
July	2,066,053	0	0	1,955,746	346,524	0	986,270	<b>5,354,593</b>	<b>21,289,268</b>
August	1,972,071	0	0	1,367,673	237,934	0	864,110	<b>4,441,788</b>	<b>25,731,056</b>
September	1,401,186	0	0	0	552,024	0	1,156,950	<b>3,110,160</b>	<b>28,841,216</b>
October	463,531	0	0	0	313,126	0	554,705	<b>1,331,362</b>	<b>30,172,578</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,820,676</b>	<b>50,705</b>	<b>553,119</b>	<b>5,954,587</b>	<b>4,408,658</b>	<b>118,727</b>	<b>5,266,106</b>	<b>30,172,578</b>	

**Access Area F Rates for CAII Region and NLS-South**

<b>RUN</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Trips</b>	<b>Trip Limit</b>	<b>Access Area Landings</b>	<b>CA2SE</b>	<b>CA2SW</b>	<b>CA2Ext</b>	<b>NLSS</b>
1	Status Quo: 1.5 trips in CAISW+EXT combined, and 1.5 trips in NLS-South.	3	18,000	~18 million	0	0.25	0.2	0.66
2	1 trip in CAII SE & SW combined. 1 trip in CAII EXT. 1 trip in NLS-South.	3	18,000	~18 million	0.15	0.3	0.25	0.4
3	1.5 trips in CAISW+EXT combined, and 1 trip in NLS-South.	2.5	18,000	~15 million	0	0.25	0.19	0.4
4	2 trips in CAISW+EXT combined, and 1 trip in NLS-South.	3	15,000	~15 million	0	0.31	0.2	0.31
5	1 trip CAII SW, 1 trip in CAII EXT, 1 trip in NLS-South	3	15,000	~15 million	0	0.31	0.2	0.31
6	No Action – Default. 1 trip to the MAAA.	HCS, ET open, ET Flex all fished at F=1.2, which results in 1/3 of a trip.			0	0	0	0

**Comparison of Open Area DAS and Landings with varying treatments of CAI and Potential NYB Closure. Red numbers are the difference in open bottom landings compared to Run 2 (i.e., NYB and CAI open bottom).**

**Note: MAAA is open bottom in all scenarios.**

	<i>Run 2</i>	<i>Run 3</i>	<i>Run 4</i>	<i>Run 5</i>
CAI	Open Bottom	LAGC IFQ/RSA	Open Bottom	LAGC IFQ/RSA
NYB Closure	Open Bottom	NEW Closure	NEW Closure	Open Bottom
24 DAS				
F=0.36				
F=0.30	<b>23.2 DAS</b> (19.2 mil)	<b>18.6 DAS</b> (15.9 mil) <b>(-3.3 mil)</b>	<b>19.4 DAS</b> (16.6 mil) <b>(-2.6 mil)</b>	<b>21.4 DAS</b> (18.6 mil) <b>(-600k)</b>

**SAMS Model Outputs (Runs 1-6)**

**Note: Set-Asides are NOT Removed in this table)**

<b>Run</b>	<b>OverallF</b>	<b>OpF</b>	<b>Land (Mil) APL</b>	<b>U10</b>	<b>1020</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>30+</b>	<b>LPUE</b>	<b>OpLPUE</b>	<b>MA LPUE</b>	<b>GB LPUE</b>	<b>TDAS</b>	<b>OpDAS</b>	<b>FTDAS</b>	<b>OpLand (Mil)</b>
Run 1 (SQ)	0.268	0.3	33,686,634	1327	7413	4676	1611	2368	2325	1778	2555	14224	6318	17.14	14,687,196
Run 2	0.287	0.3	37,745,344	1350	8478	5353	1697	2479	2366	2020	2607	15225	8133	23.2	19,239,742
Run 3	0.25	0.3	32,048,599	1150	6872	4633	1628	2400	2308	1740	2553	13352	6876	18.6	15,866,669
Run 4	0.24	0.3	31,788,454	1241	7268	4211	1445	2458	2308	1738	2626	12933	7184	19.4	16,580,967
Run 5	0.247	0.3	34,398,727	1189	8005	4674	1489	2482	2367	2019	2632	13860	7875	21.4	18,642,289
Run 6 (NA)	0.072	0.28	19,940,812	970	5424	1806	615	2322	2392	1995	2725	8589	6941	18	16,600,808

**Landings (APL) and APL with set-asides removed (RSA, Observer, Incidental)**

<b>Run</b>	<b>Land (Mil)</b>	<b>APL after set-asides</b>
Run 1 (SQ)	33,686,634	31,692,816
Run 2	37,745,344	35,751,526
Run 3	32,048,599	30,054,781
Run 4	31,788,454	29,794,636
Run 5	34,398,727	32,404,909
Run 6 (NA)	19,940,812	17,946,994

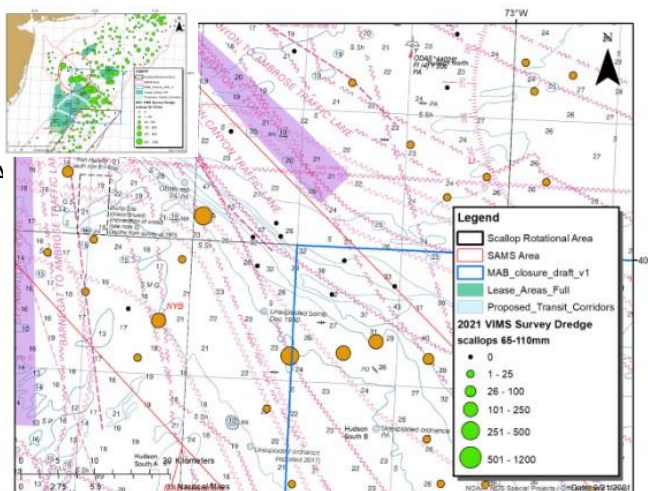
## Access Area Allocations – F rates Summarized

### Nantucket Lightship South

Nantucket Lightship South	F rate	Landings
1.5 trips at 18,000 pounds	0.66	~9 million pounds
1 trip at 18,000 pounds	0.4	~6 million pounds
1 trip at 15,000 pounds	0.31	~5 million pounds

## Framework 34: Open Bottom – CAI and NYB Closures

- Model predicts that the CAI would be fished harder as open bottom vs. IFQ/RSA
  - Open Bottom: CAI sliver  $\sim F=0.35$ ; CAI Access  $\sim F=0.34$  (Above average F for both areas)
  - IFQ/RSA (with IFQ share of CAI AA fishing coming from CAI): CAI sliver  $\sim F=0.26-0.3$ ; CAI AA  $\sim F=0.16$
- Model predicts that the NYB Closure area would be fished at  $\sim F=0.35$  if open bottom



15

## Closed Area I and NYB Sensitivity

- Model results pivot off CAI and the proposed NYB Closure being **OPEN**.  
(23.3 DAS at  $F=0.3$  with predicted LPUE at 2,366, Open Landings = 19.2 Mil. pounds)
- At  $F=0.3$ :
  - Model thinks about 2.6 mil. pounds would come from NYB if it is open bottom.
  - Model thinks around 600k pound would come from CAI areas if they are open bottom.

	Run 2	Run 3	Run 4	Run 5
CAI	Open Bottom	LAGC IFQ/RSA	Open Bottom	LAGC IFQ/RSA
NYB Closure	Open Bottom	NEW Closure	NEW Closure	Open Bottom

24 DAS				
$F=0.36$				
$F=0.30$	<b>23.2 DAS</b> (19.2 mil)	<b>18.6 DAS</b> (15.9 mil) (-3.3 mil)	<b>19.4 DAS</b> (16.6 mil) (-2.6 mil)	<b>21.4 DAS</b> (18.6 mil) (-600k)

16

### 3. Default Measures for FY2023

The Scallop FMP has adopted standard default measures for setting out-year default allocation for the LA and LAGC IFQ.

1. Default specifications: Set DAS and LAGC IFQ quotas at 75% or previous years allocations.
2. Allocate 5.5% of default access area allocations to the LAGC IFQ component for access area fishing.

**Scallop AP and Committee:** You may wish to identify Access Areas to be included as part of 2023 default measures.

### 4. Part Time Allocations

Part-time vessels receive 40% of FT LA allocations.

In Framework 33, LA PT trip limit was set at 14,400 pounds and PT vessels received one (1) MAAA trip and one (1) trip to either Nantucket Lightship South or Closed Area II.

For options that result in FT LA vessels receiving 45,000 lbs of access area allocation (3 trips at 15k, or 2.5 trips at 18k), the corresponding PT LA access area allocation is 18,000 pounds.

**Scallop AP and Committee:** Identify PT LA trip limits and access area allocations in FW34.

### 5. LAGC IFQ Access Area Trips

In Framework 33, LAGC IFQ access area trips were allocated proportional to the LA allocations in each access area, and distributed the LAGC IFQ Closed Area II trip allocation exclusively to Closed Area I.

The PDT used the FW33 approach for distributing the LAGC IFQ share of CAII allocations in the projection runs that were completed for this meeting. It was assumed that the LAGC IFQ would fish its share of the NLS-S access area trips in the NLS-S.

**Scallop AP and Committee:** Identify how LAGC IFQ access area trips should be distributed in FW34.



## 6. 2022 and 2023 (default) NGOM TAL and Set-Aside values

The new process for calculating NGOM TAL and set-asides established in A21 is as follows:

1. Calculate the OFL and ABC for the NGOM based on exploitable biomass in all surveyed areas. This is shown in rows A + B.
2. Calculate NGOM Total Allowable Landings based on F rate prescribed by the Council. The Committee recommended F=0.15, 0.18, and 0.20 be analyzed in FW34. These values are shown in row C.
3. To calculate the NGOM Set-Asides, and determine if there will be a LA or LAGC IFQ share added to the APL, the TAL (row C) is reduced by 1% of the NGOM ABC to support observer coverage (row D), and 25,000 lbs that are added to the overall RSA (row E).
4. For 2022, all NGOM set-aside (row F) options are less than 800,000 lbs, so the directed scallop fishery will be limited to LAGC NGOM & IFQ vessels fishing at 200 lbs a day. (The NGOM set-aside was calculated as:  $C - D - E = F$  for each option)
5. The Council will consider setting NGOM default measures for FY 2023. The PDT discussed this briefly on their October 19, 2021 call. Two options are presented below: 75% of the 2022 NGOM set-aside, and 50% of the NGOM set-aside.

**Scallop AP and Committee:** You may wish to recommend a 2023 default approach, or to task the PDT to develop more options.

	<b>NGOM Exploitable Biomass</b>	2022 (mt)	2022 (lbs)	
A	OFL	907	1,999,593	
B	ABC (F=0.32 all areas)	684	1,507,962	
	<b>Fishing Year 2022 (values in lbs) Stellwagen Bank Only</b>			
		F=0.15	F=0.18	F=0.20
C	Total Allowable Landings	559,974	661,387	727,525
D	1% NGOM ABC for Observers	15,080	15,080	15,080
E	RSA Contribution	25,000	25,000	25,000
F	NGOM Set-Aside	519,895	621,307	687,446
	<b>Possible 2023 Default Approach</b>			
G	75% of 2022 NGOM Set-Aside	389,921	465,980	515,584
H	50% of 2022 NGOM Set-Aside	259,947	310,654	343,723

## 7. Additional Measures to Reduce Fishery Impacts

**Scallop AP and Committee:** Identify areas where RSA compensation fishing can occur.

1. **In 2021, the Council allowed RSA compensation fishing in the MAAA, Closed Area I, NLS-South, Closed Area II (June 1 – August 15), with limited RSA compensation fishing in the NGOM Management Area.**
  - a. Limiting RSA compensation fishing in CAII to June 1<sup>st</sup> through August 15<sup>th</sup> is expected to reduce impacts on Georges Bank yellowtail flounder and Northern windowpane flounder. This measure is intended to compliment other scallop measures which reduce flatfish bycatch on Georges Bank, such as prohibition on the possession of the stock, a seasonal closure in the late summer through fall months, and the use of a 10” twine top.
  - b. In 2021, Closed Area I was designated as an access area for LAGC IFQ fishing and RSA compensation fishing only. Biomass in this area continues to be too low to support effort by the full-time limited access component in 2022. This option reserves access to CAI by the LA component when RSA compensation fishing.

## 8. Additional Measures to Reduce Fishery Impacts

**Scallop AP and Committee:** Consider measures that extend seasonal closure of Closed Area II to further reduce impacts on Georges Bank yellowtail and northern windowpane flounder.

1. The Council has extended the existing seasonal closure of CAII Access Area by two weeks (Aug 15 – Nov 30) for fishing year 2020 and 2021. The goal of this measure is to further reduce impacts of the scallop fishery to GB yellowtail and northern windowpane flounder.
  - a. Consider the low anticipated GB yellowtail sub-ACL (expected FY2022 sub-ACL ~19 mt).
  - b. Northern windowpane sub-ACL for FY2022 anticipated to be ~33 mt.