

## Overview on GB Flatfish AMs and GB Yellowtail Background Information

### **Scallop Fishery's GB YT AM:**

#### Who:

- The accountability measure applies to the Limited Access and Limited Access General Category components of the fishery.

#### What:

- The scallop fishery is subject to a gear restricted area (GRA) on eastern Georges Bank if the accountability measure is triggered (Figure 1). Required gear: 5 row apron and 1.5:1 hanging ratio.

#### Where:

- The closure covers the Closed Area II Access Area and Closed Area II Extension Area (Figure 1).

#### When:

- The duration of the AM closure depends on the amount (percentage) of the sub-ACL overage. The penalty schedule is used to determine if a “small” (Nov. 15 – Dec 31) or a “large” (year-round) AM is triggered.
- Overages in year 1 (Y1) can trigger accountability measures in either the following year (Y2) or two fishing years after the overage (Y3), depending on when the overage is known. The GB YT AM cannot be implemented in-season.
  - Because final year end catch data is often not available until after the start of the scallop fishing year (April 1 in FY2019), AMs triggered by overages in Y1 are not implemented until Y3.
  - NMFS evaluates scallop fishery catch of GB YT in-season (i.e. on or around January 15<sup>th</sup> of each fishing year). If estimated catch at this point in the year indicates that the scallop fishery has exceeded its sub-ACL by more than 50%, an AM could be put in place for Y2.

#### Why (AM triggers – see Table 2):

- There are two (2) ways to trigger the GB YT scallop AMs. Either:
  - The scallop fishery exceeds its sub-ACL *and* the US ACL is exceeded.
  - The scallop fishery exceeds its sub-ACL by more than 50% (150% of sub-ACL).

*NOTE: The Northern Windowpane Flounder AM for the scallop fishery uses the same GRA, area, and triggers. The rationale for this was that there would be secondary benefits for other stocks in poor condition if one of the AMs was triggered.*

### **Scallop Resource Outlook for FY2019:**

#### Georges Bank Yellowtail Allocations:

- US TMGC negotiated a GB YT TAC of 140 mt.
- The US fishery receives 76% of the negotiated quota (140 mt).
  - U.S. TAC = 106 mt
- Scallop fishery sub-ACL is 16% of the US ABC.
- The scallop sub-ACL for FY2019 would be ~17 mt.

#### Scallop Fishery Access on Georges Bank:

- GB YT bycatch estimate for the preferred alternative in FW30: 12.14 mt
- Bycatch estimate if there was one 15,000 lb FT LA AA trip to CAII: 10.42 mt.

- NOTE: The bycatch estimate for N. windowpane under this scenario is 63.05 mt (FY2019 N windowpane sub-ACL = 18 mt).

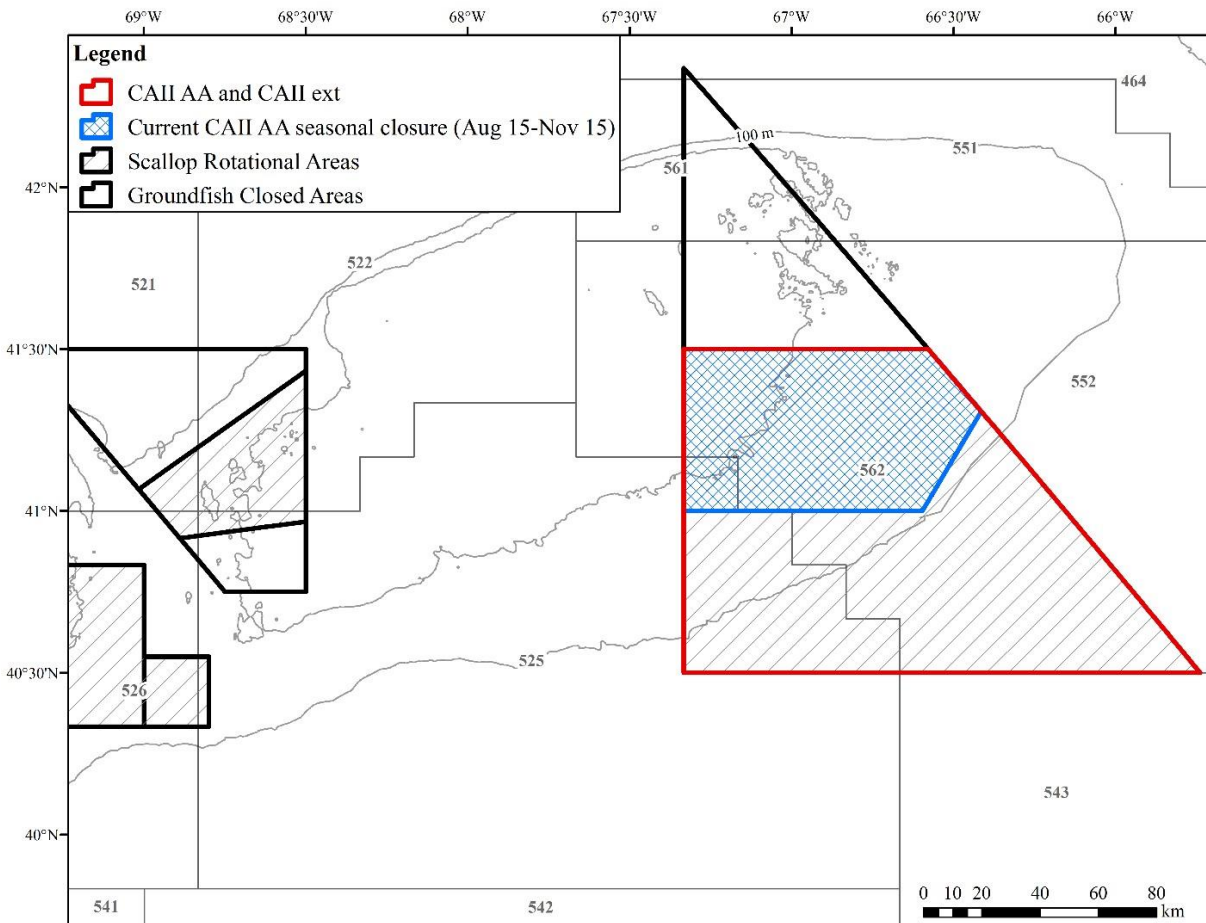
Outlook for FY 2020:

- The PDT anticipates at least 6 million lbs of rotational scallop harvest could come from the southeast part of Eastern Georges Bank (i.e. Closed Area II Access Area) in FY 2020 based on 2018 surveys.
  - Bycatch estimates of GB YT generally spike in years when an access area trip is allocated. In general, rotational management in this area leads to a see-saw effect on bycatch estimates.
- The Council may want to consider the impact of N. windowpane bycatch when Closed Area II re-opens. Projections of 2019 access area fishing in CAII suggested that the scallop fishery could exceed this sub-ACL by 150%.

**Table 1 - Anticipated scallop fishery sub-ACLs for allocated flatfish stocks in FY 2019 and FY 2020**

Stock	FY 2019	FY 2020
GB YT	17 mt	TBD
N Windowpane	18 mt	18 mt
SNE YT	15 mt	16 mt
S Windowpane	158 mt	158 mt

**Figure 1 - Georges Bank yellowtail accountability measure area, shown in RED.**



**Table 2 – Example of the GB YT AM penalty schedule using the anticipated FY2019 GB YT sub-ACL (17 mt).**

<b>~17mt GB YT sub-ACL (FY2019)</b>	<b>Percent overage of YTF sub-ACL</b>	<b>Length of closure</b>
Overage of 3.4 mt or less	20% or less	Nov. 15 – Dec. 31 <sup>st</sup>
Overage greater than 3.4 mt	Greater than 20% (120%)	All year

**Table 3 - Breakdown of the GB YT allocations to the scallop fishery (mt) for FY2019, and 150% of the sub-ACL.**

<b>Anticipated FY2019 GB YT catch limits</b>	<b>Total Shared TAC</b>	<b>US Share of TAC</b>	<b>Scallop 'ABC'</b>	<b>Scallop 'sub-ACL'</b>	<b>150% of sub-ACL</b>
<b>Calculation</b>		76%	16%	95% of ABC	
<b>In mt</b>	140 mt	106 mt	~17 mt	~17 mt	~25mt

**Table 4 - Recent GB yellowtail TACs and scallop fishery sub-ACLs and catches. Values are shown in metric tons (mt).**

FY	Total Shared TAC	US % Share	US TAC (mt)	% US TAC Caught	Scallop sub-ACL	Scallop catch	% Scallop ACL Caught
FY2010	1,500	64%	1,200	68%	146	17.6	12.1%
FY2011	2,650	55%	1,458	76%	200.8	83.9	41.8%
FY2012	1,150	49%	564	68%	156.9	164.0	104.5%
FY2013	500	43%	215	43%	41.5	37.5	90.4%
FY2014*	400	82%	328	37%	50.9	59.0	115.9%
FY2015*	354	70%	248	28%	38	29.7	78.1%
FY2016*	354	76%	269	12%	42	2.1	5.0%
FY2017*	300	69%	207	44%	32	52.6	164.3%
FY2018*	300	71%	213	n/a	33	**	40.4% **
FY2019	140	76%	106	n/a	~17	n/a	n/a

\* retention of GB yellowtail prohibited for scallop fishery

\*\*2018 in-season estimate based on rolling 12 month d/K, 11/27/19 correspondence with GARFO staff.

**Table 5 - Limited Access scallop fishery allocations by FY, recent schedule of CAII access.**

<b>FY</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>LA DAS (Full Time)</b>	<b>FT LA AA trips</b>	<b>CA II AA</b>	<b>Notes re: CA II AA and other management</b>
2011	FW22	32	4 (2 MA)	0.5 trips (157 vessels; 18K lbs/trip)	10% access area bycatch cap; GB stock-wide monitoring of YT sub- ACL; Bycatch Avoidance Program CAI and CAII
2012	FW22	34	4	1 trip (313 vessels; 18K lbs/trip)	GB stock-wide monitoring of YT sub-ACL; Bycatch Avoidance Program CAI and CAII
2013	FW24	33	2	182 trips (13K lbs/trip)	Seasonal closure of CAII Aug 15 – Nov 15; GB stock-wide monitoring of YT sub-ACL; Bycatch Avoidance Program CAII
2014	FW25	31	2	197 trips (12K lbs/trip)	16% GB YT sub-ACL; YT landings prohibited; Seasonal closure of CAII Aug 15 – Nov 15; GB stock-wide monitoring of YT sub-ACL; Bycatch Avoidance Program CAII
2015	FW26	30.86	51K lbs to MAAA	Closed	In-season transfer to groundfish fishery (7.9 mt).
2016	FW27	34.55	3 (51K lbs to MAAA)	Closed	‘CAII Extension’ closure of open areas to protect small scallops; In- season transfer to groundfish fishery (39.8 mt)
2017	FW28	30.41	4 (18K each)	1 trip (313 vessels; 18k lbs trip)	‘CAII Extension’ closure of open areas to protect small scallops; no RSA compensation fishing in CAII; seasonal closure of CAII Aug 15—Nov 15; Bycatch Avoidance Program CAII
2018	FW29	24.00	6 (18K each)	Closed	‘CAII extension’ reverted back to open area. Reactive AM for GB yellowtail changed from time-area closure to gear modification in CAII.
2019	FW30	24.00	7 (18k each)	Closed	‘CAII extension’ still an open area.