

DECISION DOCUMENT

for

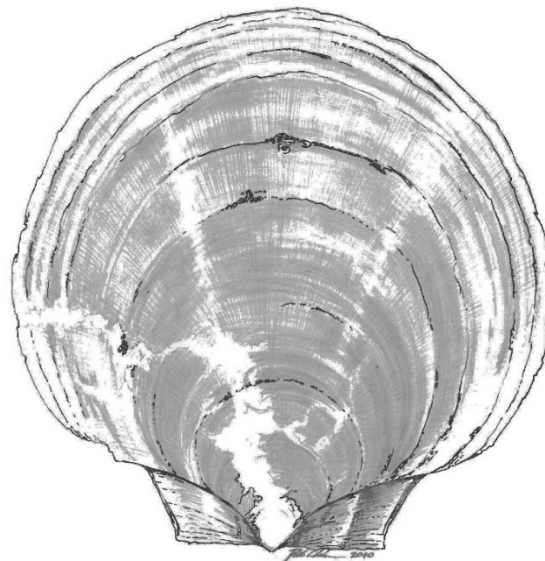
Framework Adjustment 30

to the

Atlantic Sea Scallop FMP

Advisory Panel and Committee Copy (11/21/18, version 1)

This decision document will be updated again for the Council on November 30, 2018, and after the Advisory Panel and Committee meet to reflect their input on alternatives under consideration in this action.



Scallop AP and Committee Meetings

November 27 & 28, 2018

Providence, RI

This decision document was developed to assist the Advisory Panel and Committee to provide the Council with input on measures in Scallop Framework Adjustment 30.

Framework 30 was initiated at the June 2018 Council meeting and currently includes: scallop fishery specifications for FY 2019 and default measures for FY 2020 (ABC/ACLs, DAS, access area allocations for LA and LAGC, hard-TAC for NGOM management area, target-TAC for LAGC incidental catch and set-asides for the observer and research programs). This action also includes the standard default measures.

Council staff will present information on the range of alternatives under consideration in Framework 30. The AP and Committee will have the opportunity to select preferred alternatives at this meeting. This is the final opportunity for both groups to weigh in on FW30 development before the Council takes final action on December 5, 2018 in Newport, RI. Council staff recommends that the AP and Committee work through Framework 30 decisions in the order specified below. The list of anticipated outcomes is intended to help guide discussion, and does not preclude either group from developing additional recommendations. For Alternatives with multiple F rates (ex: F=0.23 and F=0.25), the AP and Committee may wish to discuss the preferred access area configuration first, and then identify preferred F rate.

Anticipated Action by AP and Committee:

1. Select *preferred alternative* for FY 2019 and FY 2020 OFL and ABC (Section 4.1)
2. Select *preferred alternatives* for Northern Gulf of Maine Management Measures (Section 4.2)
3. Select a *preferred specifications alternative* for FY 2019 and FY 2020 specifications.
4. Select a *preferred alternative* for allocating LAGC IFQ access area trips.
5. Select a *preferred alternative* for additional measures to reduce fishery impacts.
6. Select *preferred alternative(s)* for standard default measures (may select multiple preferred alternatives).
 - a. Select a *preferred alternative* for default year specifications.
 - b. Select a *preferred alternative* for setting default LAGC IFQ allocations to access areas.

The numbers at the top of each page correspond to the Anticipated Action listed above.

#1

Section 4.1 – Overfishing Limit and Acceptable Biological Catch

(p. TBD)

Scallop AP and Committee: You may wish to identify a preferred alternative for this section. The Council will consider your input when it takes final action in December.

Section 4.1 - OFL and ABC			PDT Preferred	AP Preferred	CTE Preferred
4.1.1	Alt. 1	No Action			
4.1.2	Alt. 2	Updated OFL and ABC for FY 2019 and FY 2020	**		
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider:					
This measure would update OFL and ABC estimates using the most recent survey information.					
The SSC approved updated OFL and ABC values for 2018 and 2019 (default) at its meeting on Oct. 10, 2018 in Boston, MA.					
Alternative 2, updating the OFL and ABC, is supported by the Scallop PDT.					

#2

Section 4.2 – Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area

(p.TBD)

The Council developed the following problem statement to guide the development of Northern Gulf of Maine Management Measures in Framework 29:

Recent high landings and unknown biomass in the NGOM scallop management area underscore the critical need to initiate surveys and develop additional tools to better manage the area and fully understand the total removals from the management area.

Measures in Framework 30 were developed to be consistent with this problem statement.

Scallop AP and Committee: You may wish to identify a preferred alternative for this section. The Council will consider your input when it takes final action in December.

Table 1 – Comparison of NGOM TAC options under consideration for FY 2019 and FY 20202.

FW 30 Alternative	FW 30 Section	F	2019 TAC (lbs)	2020 TAC (lbs)
1	4.2.1		135,000	0
2, Sub-Option 1	4.2.2.1	0.20	205,000	170,000
2, Sub-Option 2	4.2.2.2	0.25	250,000	200,000

Table 2 - Comparison of Potential NGOM TACs for LA (RSA) and LAGC for FY 2019 (lbs) for each sub-option considered in Alternative 2 of Section 4.2.

FW 30 Alternative	FW 30 Section	F	2019 TAC (lbs)	LA/RSA Share (lbs)	LAGC Share (lbs)
Alternative 1	4.2.1		135,000	32,500	102,500
2, Sub-Option 1	4.2.2.1	0.20	205,000	67,500	137,500
2, Sub-Option 2	4.2.2.2	0.25	250,000	90,000	160,000

#2 (continued)

4.2 - Northern Gulf of Maine TAC			PDT Pref.	AP Pref.	CTE Pref.
4.2.1	Alt. 1	No Action (135,000 lb TAC)			
4.2.2	Alt. 2	Set NGOM TAC using exploitable biomass projections for 2019 and 2020, cap removals for all fishery components, and apply LA share of TAC toward RSA compensation fishing. NGOM TAC split: first 70,000 lbs to LAGC, then 50/50 split	**		
4.2.2.1	Alt. 2 – Sub-Option 1	Set NGOM TAC at F=0.20 2019: 205,000 lbs; 2020: 170,000 lbs	**		
4.2.2.2	Alt. 2 – Sub-Option 2	Set NGOM TAC at F=0.25 2019: 250,000 lbs; 2020: 200,000 lbs			
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider:					
The Council has developed a range of measures in FW30 that are consistent with management changes made through Framework 29.					

#3

Scallop Fishery Specifications for FY 2019 and FY 2020 (default)

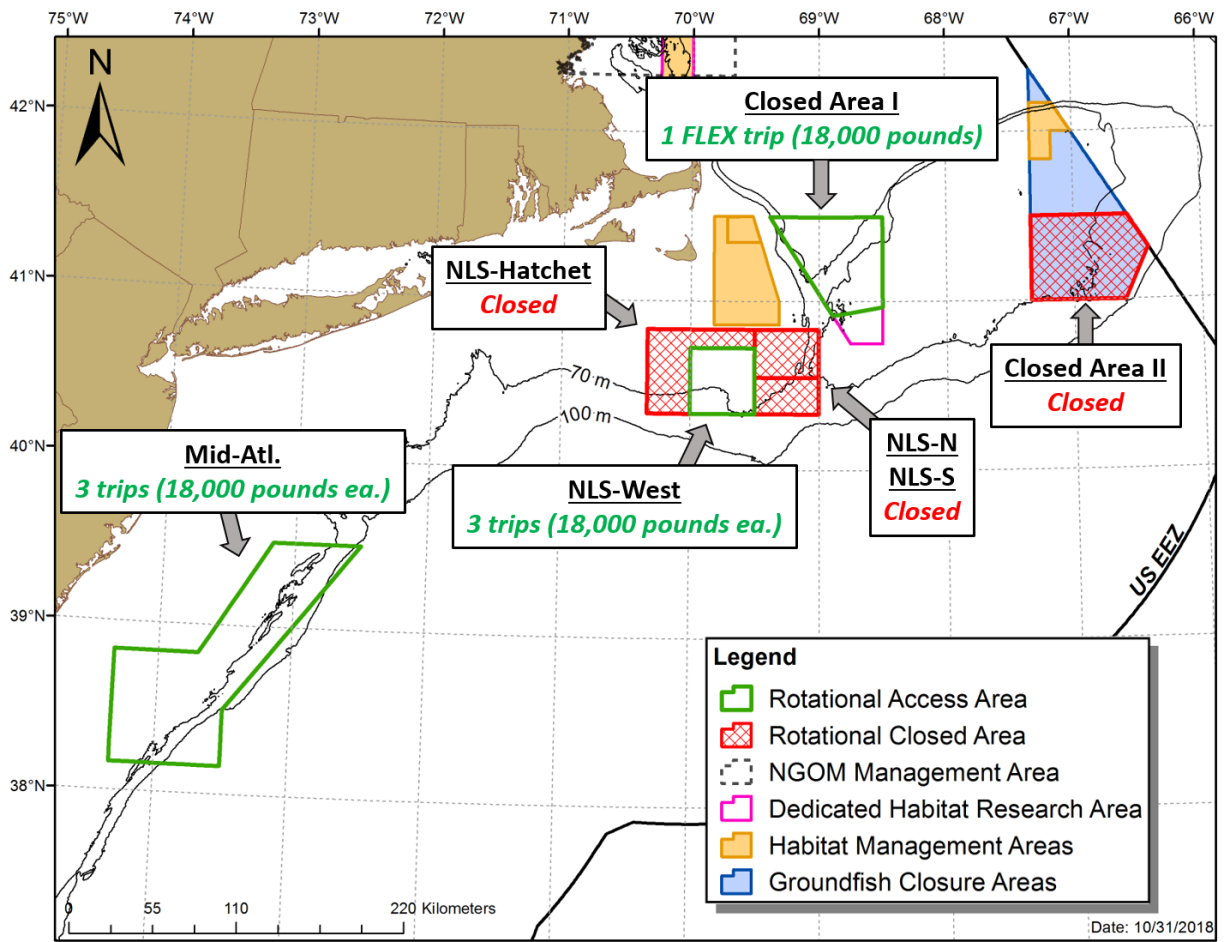
(p. TBD)

4.3 – Fishing Year 2019 & 2020 Specifications		
Section	Alternative	Description
4.3.1	Alt. 1	No Action: 1 trip to MAAA, 18 DAS
4.3.2	Alt. 2	7 Access area trips (15,000 lb trip limit): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Closed Area I • 3 Nantucket Lightship-West • 3 Mid-Atlantic Access Area FT LA DAS: 26 (F=0.25) <i>2020 Default:</i> 1 trip to MAAA, 1 trip to NLS-West (15k lbs), 19.5 FT LA DAS
4.3.3.1	Alt. 3 – Sub-Option 1	7 Access area trips (18,000 lb trip limit): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Closed Area I FLEX • 3 Nantucket Lightship-West • 3 Mid-Atlantic Access Area FT LA DAS: 26 (F=0.25) <i>2020 Default:</i> 1 trip to MAAA, 1 trip to NLS-West (18k lbs), 19.5 FT LA DAS
4.3.3.2	Alt. 3 – Sub-Option 2	7 Access area trips (18,000 lb trip limit): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Closed Area I FLEX • 3 Nantucket Lightship-West • 3 Mid-Atlantic Access Area FT LA DAS: 24 (F=0.23) <i>2020 Default:</i> 1 trip to MAAA, 1 trip to NLS-West (18k lbs), 18 FT LA DAS
4.3.4	Alt. 4	7 Access area trips (15,000 lb and 18,000 lb trip limits): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Closed Area I-FLEX (15k) • 3 Nantucket Lightship-West (18k) • 3 Mid-Atlantic Access Area (18k) FT LA DAS: 24 (F=0.23) <i>2020 Default:</i> 1 trip to MAAA, 1 trip to NLS-West (18k lbs), 18 FT LA DAS

Overview of specifications options considered in FW 30:

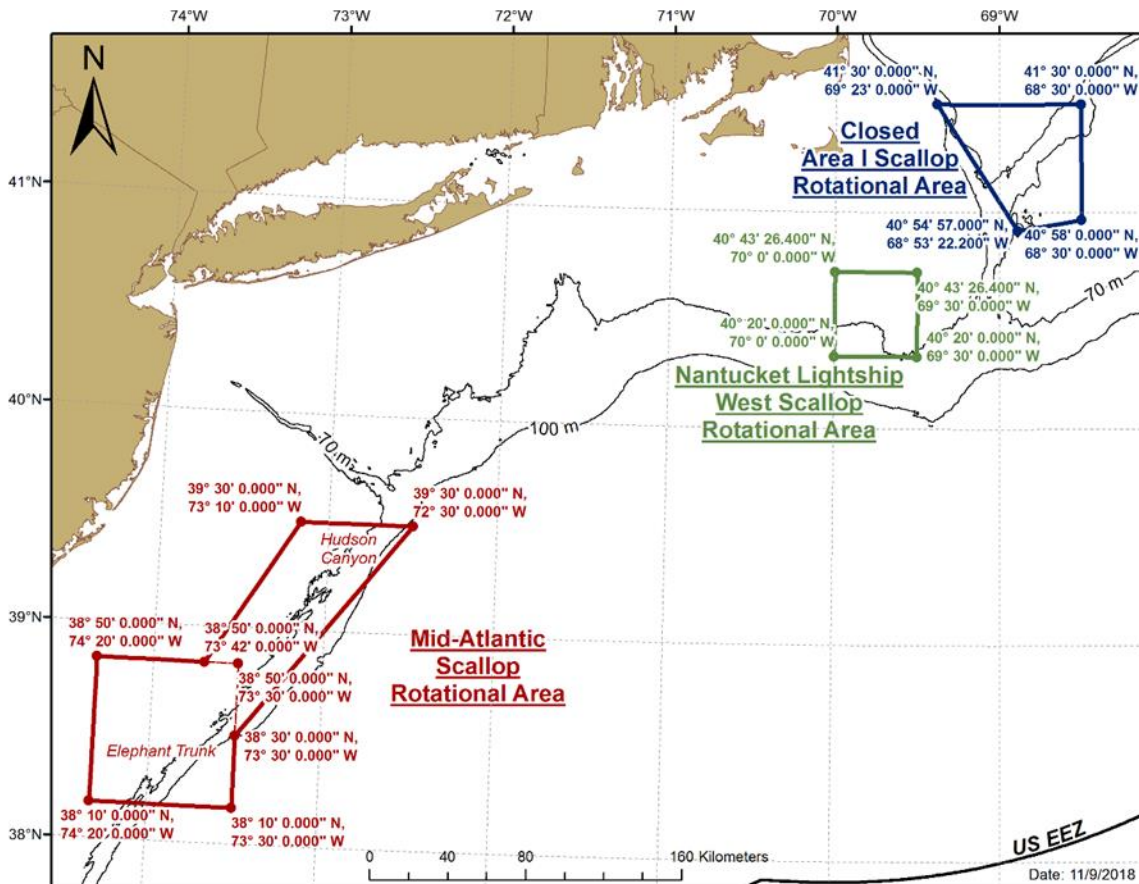
1. All three alternatives that were developed for FW 30 (4.3.2, 4.3.3, 4.3.4) would allocate seven access area trips to the FT LA component. All three alternatives would allocate 1 trip to Closed Area I, 3 trips to the Nantucket Lightship-West (NLS-W), and 3 trips to the Mid-Atlantic Access Area (MAAA). The FT LA trip limits differ for each alternative (15,000 lbs vs. 18,000 lbs).
2. Alternatives 3 & 4 would allocate a FLEX trip that could be fished in either Closed Area I, the NLS-W, or the MAAA. The framework document refers to these trips as “Closed Area I FLEX” trips.
 - a. What is a FLEX trip and why is the Council considering it? The “FLEX” concept in FW30 is similar to what the Council preferred for the ET-FLEX/MAAA in FW28. There are 9 year old animals in CAI that are ready for harvest. This is the oldest dominant cohort in rotational areas. Around 8 million lbs were allocated to CAI in FY2018 which includes CAI carryover. If projections for 2019 exploitable biomass are overly optimistic, it could be difficult for the fishery to achieve the allocation in CAI in FY 2019 (model anticipates F~.6). The FLEX concept would allow vessels to fish their “CAI” trip in the NLS-West or the MAAA if CAI is not producing as anticipated. Vessels could opt not to go to CAI at all, or could land part of their CAI trip, and redirect the remaining FLEX allocation to NLS-W or MAAA. Exploitable biomass in NLS-W and MAAA is projected to be more sufficient to support any redirection from CAI – the PDT anticipates that these areas would be available for access area fishing again in 2020.
3. The FT LA DAS options are 24 or 26 DAS depending on the alternative. The FW also analyzed 18 DAS (No Action – FW29 Default), and 30 DAS (Status Quo Comparison).
4. For Alternative 3 (7 trips at 18,000 lbs), there are two DAS options. *If the AP or Committee select Alternative 3 as preferred, they should also specify which sub-option they recommend.* The options are:
 - a. Sub-Option 1: 26 FT LA DAS (F=0.25)
 - b. Sub-Option 2: 24 FT LA DAS (F=0.23)
5. The PDT recommends the following Part-Time LA allocations for FW 30 measures. These options have been incorporated into the draft alternatives, and can be modified:
 - a. Alternative 2: PT access area allocations would be set at 42,000 pounds, with a trip limit of 14,000 lbs. PT vessels would receive one (1) CAI trip, one (1) NLS-West trip, and one (1) Mid-Atlantic access area trip.
 - b. Alternative 3: PT access area allocations would be set at 51,000, with a trip limit of 17,000 lbs, and PT vessels would receive one (1) CAI-FLEX trip, one (1) NLS-West trip, and one (1) Mid-Atlantic access area trip.
 - c. Alternative 4: LA PT access area allocations would be set at 48,000. LA PT trip limit would be set at 15,000 lbs for one (1) CAI-FLEX trip, 17,000 lbs for one (1) NLS-West trip and one (1) Mid-Atlantic access area trip.

Figure 1 -Spatial management configuration under Alternative 3, Sub-Options 1 and 2 – Seven trips at 18,000 lbs each with a Closed Area I Flex trip option. Note that this is the SAME spatial management configuration as alternatives 2 and 4, but with different access area trip limits.



6. Opportunity to fish FY 2019 AA trips during the first 60 days of FY 2020: Allocated Limited Access access area trips would be available in the same access areas defined by Framework 30 for the first 60 days of FY 2020, even if the area is scheduled to close in FY 2020 (**Error! Reference source not found.**). Vessels planning to fish 2019 access area allocation must start their trip (i.e., position on their VMS unit seaward of the demarcation line) by 23:59 on May 30, 2020. For example, trips allocated to the Nantucket Lightship-West access area could only be fished in the access area boundary defined by FW30 in the first 60 days of FY 2020.

Figure 2 -Proposed Rotational Management Configuration in Framework 30. Access area trips may be fished within the defined boundaries of FW30 for the first 60 days of FY 2020



#3

Scallop Fishery Specifications

(p. TBD)

Table 3 - Anticipated Annual Projected Landings, including Limited Access and LAGC IFQ allocations

Alternative	Section	DAS	Scenario	Total Landing	Annual Projected Landings (set-asides removed)	LA Share (94.5%)	IFQ-only (5%)	LA with IFQ (0.5%)
a	b	c	d	e	f	f x 0.945	f x 0.05	f x 0.005
Alternative 1 - No Action	4.3.1	18 DAS (F=0.18)	One MAAA at 18k	22,925,871	20,369,236	19,248,928	1,018,462	101,846
Alternative 2	4.3.2	26 DAS (F=0.25)	7 trips at 15k	57,569,310	55,012,675	51,986,978	2,750,634	275,063
Alternative 3 (two DAS options)	4.3.3.1	26 DAS (F=0.25)	1 CAI FLEX trip, 7 trips at 18k	64,194,201	61,637,566	58,247,500	3,081,878	308,188
	4.3.3.2	24 DAS (F=0.23)	1 CAI FLEX trip, 7 trips at 18k	62,542,939	59,986,304	56,687,057	2,999,315	299,932
Alternative 4	4.3.4	24 DAS (F=0.23)	1 CAI FLEX trip at 15k, 6 trips at 18k	61,486,925	58,930,290	55,689,124	2,946,514	294,651
Alternative 5 - Status Quo	4.3.5	F=0.295 (30 DAS)	For Comparison Only	63,045,593	60,488,958	57,162,065	3,024,448	302,445
FW29 Pref. (2018)		FW29: 24 DAS	For Comparison Only	60,062,739	57,506,104	54,343,268	2,875,305	287,531

#3 (continued)

Scallop Fishery Specifications

(p. TBD)

4.3 – Fishing Year 2019 & 2020 Specifications			PDT Pref.	AP Pref.	CTE Pref.
4.3.1	Alt. 1	No Action: 1 trip to MAAA, 18 DAS			
4.3.2	Alt. 2	7 Access area trips (15,000 lb trip limit): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Closed Area I • 3 Nantucket Lightship-West • 3 Mid-Atlantic Access Area FT LA DAS: 26 (F=0.25) 2020 Default: 1 trip to MAAA, 1 trip to NLS-West (15k lbs), 19.5 FT LA DAS			
4.3.3.1	Alt. 3 – Sub-Option 1	7 Access area trips (18,000 lb trip limit): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Closed Area I FLEX • 3 Nantucket Lightship-West • 3 Mid-Atlantic Access Area FT LA DAS: 26 (F=0.25) 2020 Default: 1 trip to MAAA, 1 trip to NLS-West (18k lbs), 19.5 FT LA DAS			
4.3.3.2	Alt. 3 – Sub-Option 2	7 Access area trips (18,000 lb trip limit): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Closed Area I FLEX • 3 Nantucket Lightship-West • 3 Mid-Atlantic Access Area FT LA DAS: 24 (F=0.23) 2020 Default: 1 trip to MAAA, 1 trip to NLS-West (18k lbs), 18 FT LA DAS	**		
4.3.4	Alt. 4	7 Access area trips (15,000 lb and 18,000 lb trip limits): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Closed Area I-FLEX (15k) • 3 Nantucket Lightship-West (18k) • 3 Mid-Atlantic Access Area (18k) FT LA DAS: 24 (F=0.23) 2020 Default: 1 trip to MAAA, 1 trip to NLS-West (18k lbs), 18 FT LA DAS			
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider:					
The Council has developed a range of measures that include provisions that are consistent with changes made through Framework 29.					

#4

Section 4.4 – Fishery Allocations to the LAGC IFQ Component

(p. TBD)

Scallop AP and Committee: You may wish to identify a preferred alternative for this section. The Council will consider your input when it takes final action in December.

Table 4 -Potential LAGC IFQ Access Area Trips by Area for FY 2019.

Specs. Alt.	Description	LAGC IFQ Trips	Closed Area I	NLS-West	MAAA
		Total Trips	Allocated LAGC Trips to Each Access Area		
4.3.1 - Alt. 1	No Action	558			558
4.3.2 - Alt. 2	7 trips at 15k	3,331	476	1427	1427
4.3.3 - Alt. 3	7 trips at 18k	3,996	571	1713	1713
4.3.4 - Alt 4	1 trip at 15k 6 trips at 18k	3,902	476	1713	1713

Table 5 - Section 4.5.1 - PDT, AP, and Committee Preferred Alternatives

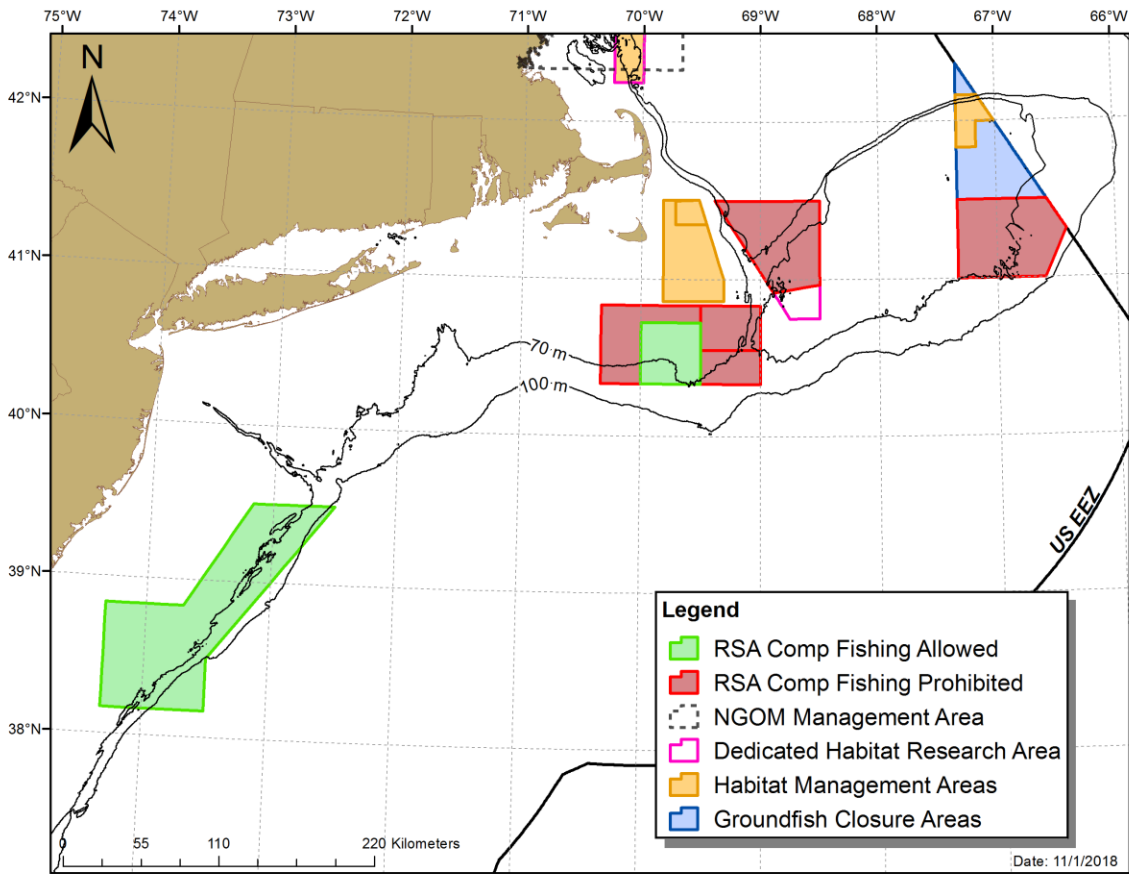
Section 4.5.1 – Allocation of the LAGC IFQ Trips in Access Areas			PDT Pref.	AP Pref.	CTE Pref.
4.4.1	Alt. 1	No Action (558 trips, default measure)			
4.4.2	Alt. 2	5.5% of overall access allocations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trip range: 3,331 – 3,996 • Allocated trips: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1/7th to CAI ○ 3/7th to NLS-West ○ 3/7th to MAAA 	**		
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider:					

Section 4.5 – Additional Measures to Reduce Fishery Impacts

(p. TBD)

Section 4.5 – Additional Measures to Reduce Fishery Impacts			PDT Pref.	AP Pref.	CTE Pref.
4.5.1	Alt. 1	No Action, RSA Comp fishing restricted to open areas			
4.5.2	Alt. 2	Prohibit RSA Compensation fishing in CAI Access Area, and allow limited RSA compensation fishing in the NGOM Management Area.	**		
Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider:					
This decision considers where scallop RSA compensation fishing can occur in FY 2019.					

Figure 3 – Rotational areas where RSA compensation fishing can (shaded green) and cannot (shaded red) occur under Alternative 2.



#6

Section 4.6 – Standard Default Measures

(p. TBD)

Scallop AP and Committee: You may wish to identify a preferred alternative for 4.6.1 and 4.6.2 in this section. The Council will consider your input when it takes final action in December.

Table 6 - Section 4.6.1 - PDT, AP, and Committee Preferred Alternatives

Section 4.6.1 – Default Specifications			PDT Preferred	AP Preferred	CTE Preferred
4.6.1.1	Alt. 1	No Action			
4.6.1.2	Alt. 2	Standardize default open-area DAS for the LA component and LAGC IFQ quota allocation at 75% of the preferred alternative for the previous Fishing Year’s allocation	**		

Table 7 - Section 4.6.2 - PDT, AP, and Committee Preferred Alternatives

Section 4.6.2 – LAGC IFQ Allocations to Access Areas			PDT Preferred	AP Preferred	CTE Preferred
4.6.2.1	Alt. 1	No Action			
4.6.2.2	Alt. 2	Standardize LAGC IFQ access area allocations as 5.5% of the total expected access area harvest	**		

Table 8 - Comparison of LPUE, Area Swept, Days Fished associated with specification alternatives under consideration in FW30

Alt.	Section	Scenario	Open Area F	FT LA DAS	AreaSwept (sq nm)	Average LPUE	Open Area LPUE	MA LPUE	GB LPUE	Total Days (AA + DAS)	APL after set-asides
Allternative 1	4.3.1	NA	0.18	18	1361	2707	2425	2544	2974	8469	20,369,236
Allternative 2	4.3.2	F25_7at15k	0.25	26	2336	2999	2381	2805	3168	19194	55,012,675
Allternative 3	4.3.3.1	F25FLEX18k	0.25	26	2443	3040	2381	2945	3125	21118	61,637,566
Allternative 4	4.3.3.2	24DASFlex18k	0.23	24	2278	3070	2395	2990	3141	20375	59,986,304
Allternative 5	4.3.4	24DASFlex15k	0.23	24	2251	3053	2394	2979	3119	20139	58,930,290
Allternative 6	4.3.5	SQ (Comparison)	0.295	30	2802	2865	2355	2638	3022	22003	60,488,958
FW29 Preferred. (2018)			0.295	24	2271	2837	2581	2471	3087	21170	57,506,104

Table 9 - FY2019 Scallop fishery bycatch projections for four allocated flatfish stocks. Values shown in mt.

Section	Scenario	FT LA DAS	NWP	SWP	SNE MA YT	GBYT	Total
Anticipated 2019 sub-ACL (GF FW58)			18 mt	158 mt	15 mt	17 mt	
4.3.1	No Action	18	5.69	36.88	1.43	9.39	53.39
4.3.2	7 trips at 15k, 26 DAS	26	8.77	63.38	2.86	13.15	88.16
4.3.3.1	7 trips at 18k, CAI FLEX, 26 DAS	26	8.55	67.5	3.05	13.01	92.11
4.3.3.2	7 trips at 18k, CAI FLEX, 24 DAS	24	8.02	64.03	2.9	11.48	86.43
4.3.4	7 trips, CAI FLEX 15k, 24 DAS	24	7.87	64.03	2.9	12.04	86.84
4.3.5	Status Quo (Comparison Only)	30 (F=0.295)	10.3	108.35	4.79	15.1	138.54