

Scallop Work Priorities Discussion Document

October 24, 2021

Scallop AP and Committee

Scallop outlook by quarter in 2021. How did we spend our time this year? Major Projects

Key: Scallop led project Habitat led project Groundfish led project Center led project, with Staff involvement Possible follow-up and/or implementation

Calendar Year	Jan – Mar	Apr - Jun	July - Sept	Oct - Dec
Scallop Survey Working Group	Form the Scallop Survey Working Group with Center, Hire Contractor	First SSWG Meeting	Sub-Group work and Second SSWG Meeting	Sub-Group work and Third SSWG Meeting
Evaluation of Rotational Management			Eval. Rotational Management (PDT with Contractor Support)	
Framework 33	Final Action in January 2021	Preliminary and Final Submission		
Framework 34			2023/2024 (default) Specifications, Implement A21 measures	
Amendment 21	Preliminary and Final Submission			Proposed Rule, Decision
Scallop RSA		Share Day and Set Priorities		Support RSA Program

Background on SSWG

Previous recommendations related to scallop surveys:

Scallop Survey Peer Review – 2015:

Devise an optimal and integrated survey design recognizing the value of different sampling methodologies and designs

Council RSA Program Review – 2019:

Survey strategy with consistent implementation of a structured design would be effective and efficient for stock assessment and management purposes

Scallop Assessment SARC 65 – 2018:

Further investigate methods for better survey coordination between survey programs, including survey design, timing, and standardized data formatting for easier sharing

Scallop Survey Working Group (SSWG)

- Scallop Survey Working Group (SSWG) Council website:
 - <https://www.nefmc.org/committees/scallop-survey-working-group>
- Purpose:
 - Facilitate collaboration around integrated approaches to conduct scallop surveys that support stock assessments and management
 - Explore mechanisms to implement approaches
- Approved TORs (shorthand here, see website):
 - Describe the current survey system
 - Describe and assess a coordinated strategy for sea scallop resource assessment
 - Identify survey methods, tools, and designs to monitor and assess the scallop resource...that includes offshore wind installations and changes in resource and fishery distribution.
 - Identify and catalogue the survey data products needed to support stock assessment approaches in the future.

SSWG Work Plan

- Incremental approach to TORs
 - Simultaneous effort across multiple TORs
 - Sub-groups working between SSWG meetings
- Work would benefit from an in-person meeting (2022?)
- Updated Meeting schedule
 - November 2021 – Progress report on TORs; sub-group updates; initial recommendations
 - January/February 2022 – Advance recommendations and implementation strategies
 - ~~April 2022~~ June 2022? – Final recommendations
 - Final report complete in July 2022?



Petition for Rulemaking Process:

Scallopers Campaign Request for LA Leasing

Key Issue: DOC/NMFS has been asked to prepare an amendment to the Scallop FMP on LA leasing outside of the Council process.

Process so far:

- Request to the Secretary of Commerce on January 15, 2021
- NMFS letter to the Council on March 10, 2021
- **Council reply to NMFS on July 19, 2021 (see correspondence)**
- Scallopers Campaign letter to NMFS on July 29, 2021
 - Asked the agency to delay response to the Campaign's petition until after the Council's vote on 2022 scallop work priorities in December.

Next Steps:

- NMFS response to Campaign's petition (TBD – likely after December 2021)

Two work items from last year's discussion that are currently on the list of possible priorities for next year.

Current List of Possible Scallop Priorities for 2022

From September Council meeting.
This list was sent to Council members to rank priorities (High/Medium/Low).

Number Priority/Task Title

- | | |
|----|---|
| 29 | Prepare a specifications package to set FY 2023 (2024 default) specifications (i.e. setting DAS, access area trips, Northern GOM TAC, limited access general category IFQ allocations, etc.). |
| 30 | Support action for access to Northern Edge HMA (see Habitat), including development of access area program for modified area |
| 31 | Continue work of Scallop Survey Working Group |
| 32 | Evaluate rotational management program |
| 33 | Conduct scoping or listening sessions on a LA DAS and AA trips leasing program to assess the need for a leasing program and whether to move forward with developing an amendment. |
| 34 | Develop limited access vessel DAS and access area trip leasing suggested by the Scallopers Campaign |
| 35 | Complete ongoing actions (Framework 34) |
| 36 | Develop management and policy approaches for scallop seeding and grow out , including predator management |
| 37 | 5-Year LAGC IFQ program review (2016 to 2020) |
| 38 | Support the review of scallop sub-ACLs for GBYT and SWP (Groundfish) |
| 39 | Develop long-term (3-5 year) strategic plan for managing scallop fishery |
| 40 | Revisiting DAS clock counting system to address changes in resource distribution |
| 41 | Develop measures to improve enforceability of landings limits (bag tags) |
| 42 | Participate in Spring 2023 management track review of projection models (staff - 2022 calendar year) |
| 43 | NMFS and PDT have annual responsibilities related to estimating scallop, yellowtail, and windowpane catch during the year (i.e. LA AM exception, re-evaluation of YT sub-ACL based on updated information). |
| 44 | Support annual scallop RSA process, including priority setting, and technical and management reviews. |

Current List of Possible Scallop Priorities for 2022

Number Priority/Task Title

29	Specifications package to set FY 2023 (2024 default)
30	Support action for access to Northern Edge HMA (see Habitat), including development of access area program for modified area
31	Continue work of Scallop Survey Working Group
32	Evaluate rotational management program
33	Conduct scoping or listening sessions on a LA DAS and AA trips leasing program to assess the need for a leasing program and whether to move forward with developing an amendment.
34	Develop limited access vessel DAS and access area trip leasing suggested by the Scallopers Campaign
35	Complete ongoing actions (Framework 34)
36	Develop management and policy approaches for scallop seeding and grow out , including predator management
37	5-Year LAGC IFQ program review (2016 to 2020)
38	Support the review of scallop sub-ACLs for GBYT and SWP (Groundfish)
39	Develop long-term (3-5 year) strategic plan for managing scallop fishery
40	Revist DAS clock counting system to address changes in resource distribution
41	Develop measures to improve enforceability of landings limits (bag tags)
42	Participate in Spring 2023 management track review of projection models (staff - 2022 calendar year)
43	NMFS and PDT have annual responsibilities related to estimating scallop, yellowtail, and windowpane catch during the year (i.e. LA AM exception, re-evaluation ofYT sub-ACL based on updated information).
44	Support annual scallop RSA process, including priority setting, and technical and management reviews.

READ ME: Items shown in gray are ongoing or regulatory requirements, and have been included in the multi-year timeline on the next page

There is opportunity to address some of the projects that are not highlighted in green in 2022.

Planned Work and Multi-year Scallop FMP outlook

Key:

- Scallop led project
- Habitat led project
- Groundfish led project
- Center led project, with Staff involvement
- Possible follow-up and/or implementation

Calendar Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025		
Surveys, Projections, Assessments	SSWG <small>(Contractor Support, Joint with Center)</small>	Implement recs of SSWG: Surveys, Wind, Modeling Approaches	Review of Projection Model <small>(SAMS & GeoSAMS)</small>	Implement recs of the projection review	Research Track Assessment for Scallops	Implement recommendations of the research track assessment	
Evaluation of Rotational Management	Eval. Rotational Management <small>(Contractor Support)</small>	Implement recommendations in future action OR continue the evaluation					
Frameworks <small>(Assuming Annual Specs)</small>	FW34 <small>(Implementing A21)</small>	2023/2024 (default) Specifications	2024/2025 (default) Specifications	2025/2026 (default) Specifications Implement Assessment Results			
LAGC IFQ Program Review		Start in <u>late</u> 2022, focusing on FY2016-2021. Complete and present report in 2024.					
Northern Edge <small>(Habitat Led)</small>	Determine if Council will take action	Possible Development of access area program for modified area					
Review Sub-ACLS <small>(Groundfish Led)</small>		GBYT and SWP sub-ACL review in 2022	Implement any changes in 2023 specs		Northern Windowpane sub-ACL review in 2025-2027		
Scallop RSA	Support RSA Program	Share Day, Set Priorities	Support RSA Program	Share Day, Set Priorities	Support RSA Program	Share Day, Set Priorities	Support RSA Program

2022 Priorities – PDT and Staff input

PDT Input:

- Anticipate and budget time needed to implement recommendations of SSWG and the Evaluation of Rotational Management (shown in timelines).
- Evaluation of rotational management: Consider additional research and analyses beyond the scope of the current project plan.

Staff Input:

- Should be time to begin new projects in the 2022 calendar year, or to expand on ongoing efforts (ex: evaluation of rotational management).
- Contractor support for SSWG and evaluation of rotational management continue into 2022.
- Expect to begin addressing LAGC IFQ program review in November or December of 2022, with most of the work occurring in 2023/2024.
- Early part of the year will be very busy with ongoing work (FWV34, SSWG, ERM)
- Timelines provided indicate roughly when we expect to be working on each project. Time commitments will vary.

2022 Priorities – Staff input (continued)

Staff Input:

- Available staff resources will be determined by the final Council/FMP-wide work priorities.
- ~10 months of staff time per person available each year. Can't do everything that is on the list in one year.
- Consider providing guidance on what a “long-term strategic plan” for the scallop fishery would be? Concept is not well described yet. Looking for discussion on this topic.
 - FMP focus vs. Council wide-focus. [SAFMC focused visioning on snapper grouper fishery.](#)
 - Way to strategically address priorities of the scallop fishery over several years, as defined by stakeholders and the Council? Spend 2022 developing, and start in 2023?
 - Time scale: Medium term strategic planning (e.g., 3-5 years)?
 - Difficult to address short term requirements for annual specifications and other short-term needs, and to simultaneously address medium term challenges and opportunities.

Scallop outlook by quarter in 2022 for ongoing and regulatory requirements.

Please note: There is opportunity to address additional projects that are not shown in this timeline in CY2022.

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Surveys, Projections, Assessments	SSWG (Contractor Support, Survey Group Involvement, Joint with Center)	Implement recs of SSWG: Surveys, Wind, Modeling Approaches		Review of Projection Model (SAMS & GeoSAMS)
Evaluation of Rotational Management	Eval. Rotational Management (Contractor Support)	Implement recommendations in future action OR continue the evaluation		
Frameworks (Assuming Annual Specs)	FW34 submission (Implementing A21)		2023/2024 (default) Specifications	
LAGC IFQ Program Review				Focusing on FY2016-2021. Complete and present report in 2024.
Northern Edge (Habitat Led)	<i>Dependent on 1) pursuing an action AND 2) schedule of the Habitat Committee</i> <i>Possible</i> Development of access area program for modified area			
Review Sub-ACLS (Groundfish Led)		<i>Dependent on GF priorities; schedule of the Groundfish Committee and PDT</i> GBYT and SWP sub-ACL review in 2022		Implement any changes in 2023 specs
Scallop RSA		Share Day and Set Priorities (Implement SSWG recs?)		Support RSA Program

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Recommendations on what the AP and Committee want the Council to work on. (Motion or consensus)