

Executive Order: Promoting Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth

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Scallop Advisory Panel Meeting—May 26, 2020
Scallop Committee Meeting—May 28, 2020



New England
Fishery Management Council

“Removing Barriers to American Fishing”

See Doc.4

- Recently signed by President—promoting seafood competitiveness and economic growth in US
- Section 4 requests regional Councils to identify actions that could “reduce burdens on domestic fishing and increase production within sustainable fisheries...”
- Request is that Councils identify potential actions within 180 days or EO (i.e. due November 8th)
- Sec. of Commerce and Presidential assistants will evaluate recommendations from all Councils and how they might be implemented

Today’s goal: AP motion recommending actions to Committee

Criteria for Recommendations

- Recommended actions may include: changes to regulations, orders, guidance documents, or other similar agency actions
- Must be consistent with requirements of M-S Act, ESA, MMPA, etc.
- Could be larger issues, such as those raised in recent priorities discussions
- Could be administrative actions that make fishery operate more efficiently
 - Some examples are highlighted in next few slides

Area of Interest: AA closure noticing

- When LAGC IFQ AA trips are projected to be landed, process for noticing area closure is burdensome and can take time. Can also lead to premature IFQ AA closures

GARFO estimates when area will close (~week before) → closure notice goes to NMFS HQ for approval (~days before notice) → notice of closure published in Federal Register (~days before closure)

- **Suggestion:** streamline area closure noticing through VMS notifications
- Would satisfy requirement of noticing the public, but would significantly reduce the time needed to publish notice relative to FR
- Streamlined noticing means AA closures would be more accurate and economically benefit the fleet (i.e. areas won't close early)

Area of Interest: LA trip exchanges

- Trip exchanges in LA fishery are currently handled through signed paper forms, can take up to 15 days to process
- Suggestion: transition LA trip exchanges to online platform (FishOnline)
 - Would use existing online platform to make trip exchanges almost instantaneous
 - Would ensure that trip exchanges are in compliance with regulations
 - Streamlining this process would improve flexibility in LA fishery, economic benefit in terms of planning business in real-time

Next Steps

- Council will discuss at its June meeting and decide how to respond.
- Still unclear what happens after DOC considers recommended actions from regional Councils—for example, the link between recommended actions and changes actually being made.
 - Councils will need to propose how actions would be initiated after DOC reviews list of recommendations
- Council priorities discussion will occur in December—current work priorities (e.g., A21) will continue as planned aside from discussion or recommendations today

Looking for Input

- Recommendations from the AP today will be communicated to the Committee later in the week, to Council at June meeting
- Looking for a motion or consensus statement from AP: recommended actions
 - **Any ideas?**