

**Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area:
Preliminary Information on the 2017 fishery**

- **All data for FY 2017 are preliminary and subject to change.** In 2017, GARFO tracked landings from the Northern Gulf of Maine area using VMS pre-landing reports from LAGC vessels, and daily catch reports from LA vessels. Final landings estimates will be based on dealer data for LAGC, and will not be available until later in 2017. A detailed description of 2017 NGOM catch accounting is provided on pages 4 and 5.
- The NGOM management area opened on March 1, 2017 and closed on March 23, 2017 (23 days).
- The 2017 TAC was set at 73,371 lbs (reduced from 95,000 lbs to account for overage in 2016).
 - This was the first year that the NGOM TAC was set using survey data, not historic landings (70,000 lbs).
- The majority of fishing activity in the NGOM management area (both LA and LAGC vessels) occurred on Stellwagen Bank, in statistical reporting area 514. See Figure 1 and Figure 2.
- The estimated federal landings from the NGOM management area in FY 2017 were 1,043,829 lbs. See Table 1 and Figure 3.
 - LA landings estimate: 999,272 lbs (based on VMS daily catch reports)
 - LAGC landings estimate: 44,557 lbs (based on VMS pre-landing reports)
- A total of 106 unique vessels fished for scallops within the NGOM management area in 2017 between March 1 and March 23. See Table 2 and Table 3.
 - LAGC NGOM: 28
 - LAGC IFQ: 10
 - Total LA: 67 (Mix of full time, full time small dredge, part time small dredge). See Table 2 for additional details.
 - Two LA vessels with LAGC NGOM permits made trips under LAGC NGOM declarations.
- Average self-reported daily catch rates by the LA component ranged from over 3,500 lbs a day early in March to ~2,500 lbs a day just before the area closed for FT LA (double dredge). Single dredge (10.5') LA vessels reported that they averaged around 2,000 lbs per day most of the opening, and ranging as high as 2,500 lbs. See Figure 4.

Table 1 - Overview of NGOM data from FY 2009 - FY 2017.

	Landings by Permit Category			Total NGOM Landings	NGOM closure date, (days open)	LAGC TAC
FY	GC IFQ	GC NGOM	LA*			
2009	0	5,793	0	5,793	n/a, (entire FY year)	70,000
2010	4,762	3,877	0	8,639	n/a, (entire FY year)	70,000
2011	6,092	816	0	6,908	n/a, (entire FY year)	70,000
2012	894	6,546	0	7,440	n/a, (entire FY year)	70,000
2013	8,907	46,543	0	55,450	n/a, (entire FY year)	70,000
2014	11,521	46,321	0	57,842	n/a, (entire FY year)	70,000
2015	26,395	46,151	0	72,546	n/a, (entire FY year)	70,000
2016	26,484	62,599	*292,517	381,600	May 13, (74 days)	70,000
2017	***44,557 ****(51,800 max)		**999,272	1,043,829	March 23, (23 days)	73,371
*Estimated landings value based on VTR reports						
**Estimated landings value based on VMS daily catch reports (LA)						
***Estimated landings value based on VMS pre-landings reports (LAGC)						
****Estimated landings value based on number of completed trips by LAGC.						

Table 2 - Summary of Limited Access activity in the NGOM management area for FY 2016 and FY 2017. Information for FY 2016 is based on dealer and VTR data. Information for FY 2017 is based on VMS catch reports. All information is subject to change.

Limited Access	FY 2016			FY 2017	
Permit Category	Active Permits	Trips	Estimated Landings	Active Permits	Estimated Landings
Full time	5	14	187,127	49	n/a
Full time small dredge	3	3	15,362	15	
Part time small dredge	5	21	90,028	3	
TOTAL	13	38	292,517	67	999,272

Table 3 - Summary of Active LAGC permits with NGOM declarations for FY 2011 - FY 2017

	Number of Active LAGC Permits by Fishing Year	
FY	LAGC IFQ	LAGC NGOM
2011	6	4
2012	3	6
2013	7	11
2014	8	17
2015	8	20
2016	12	25
2017	10	28

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office



Monitoring the Northern Gulf of Maine Scallop Management Area in Fishing Year 2017

March 24, 2017

Benjamin Galuardi (Analysis and Program Support Division)

The Area

The Northern Gulf of Maine Scallop Management Area (NGOM) refers to an area that extends northward, beginning at 42° 20', and encompasses most of statistical areas 511, 512, 513 and about half of area 514. This area has its own TAC, typically 70,000 meat pounds, that is applied to General Category vessels fishing in the area.

General Category

To monitor landings from this area, we rely on Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) declarations. Limited Access General Category vessels fishing in federal waters in the NGOM must make a NGOM VMS declaration. These trips are linked to dealer landings and Vessel Trip Reports (VTR) through the Data Matching and Imputation System (DMIS). From this, we tally all pounds landed on NGOM declared trips in the NGOM. We do this calculation on a weekly basis and post the report on the GARFO website (<https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/aps/monitoring/atlanticseascallop.html>). Currently, even though we report weekly, landed meats are summed monthly to preserve confidentiality of landings.

It is also possible to estimate landings based on prelands. This information is valuable when projecting a closure.

Limited Access

Although not subject to the NGOM TAC, current activity in the NGOM from Limited Access vessels has prompted several requests to examine removals from the area by these vessels. Limited Access vessels fishing the NGOM do so under Open Area Days-at-Sea. There are several factors that make attribution of removals by these vessels in the NGOM less straightforward. First, declarations for these vessels are not specific to the NGOM. VMS activity may be used to flag vessels that are fishing in the NGOM, but for trips

that cross the boundary and fish both sides it is not possible to accurately attribute landings to particular portions of the trip. The NGOM splits statistical area 514 so use of reported statistical area for NGOM activity is not feasible. VTRs have positional information that is intended to represent where the majority of fishing activity occurred. VTR location is that the location may be an estimate or an average of all fishing activity for that trip, but in practice, accuracy is fairly coarse compared to VMS and can be subject to user input error. Even with these caveats, VTR location is currently our best method for assigning landings from a trip to a particular location.

Daily Catch Reports may also be used to estimate removals by LA vessels. Catch reports are less accurate than landings but are available more quickly.

Northern Gulf of Maine Scallop Fishing, FY 2017

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2017-03-24

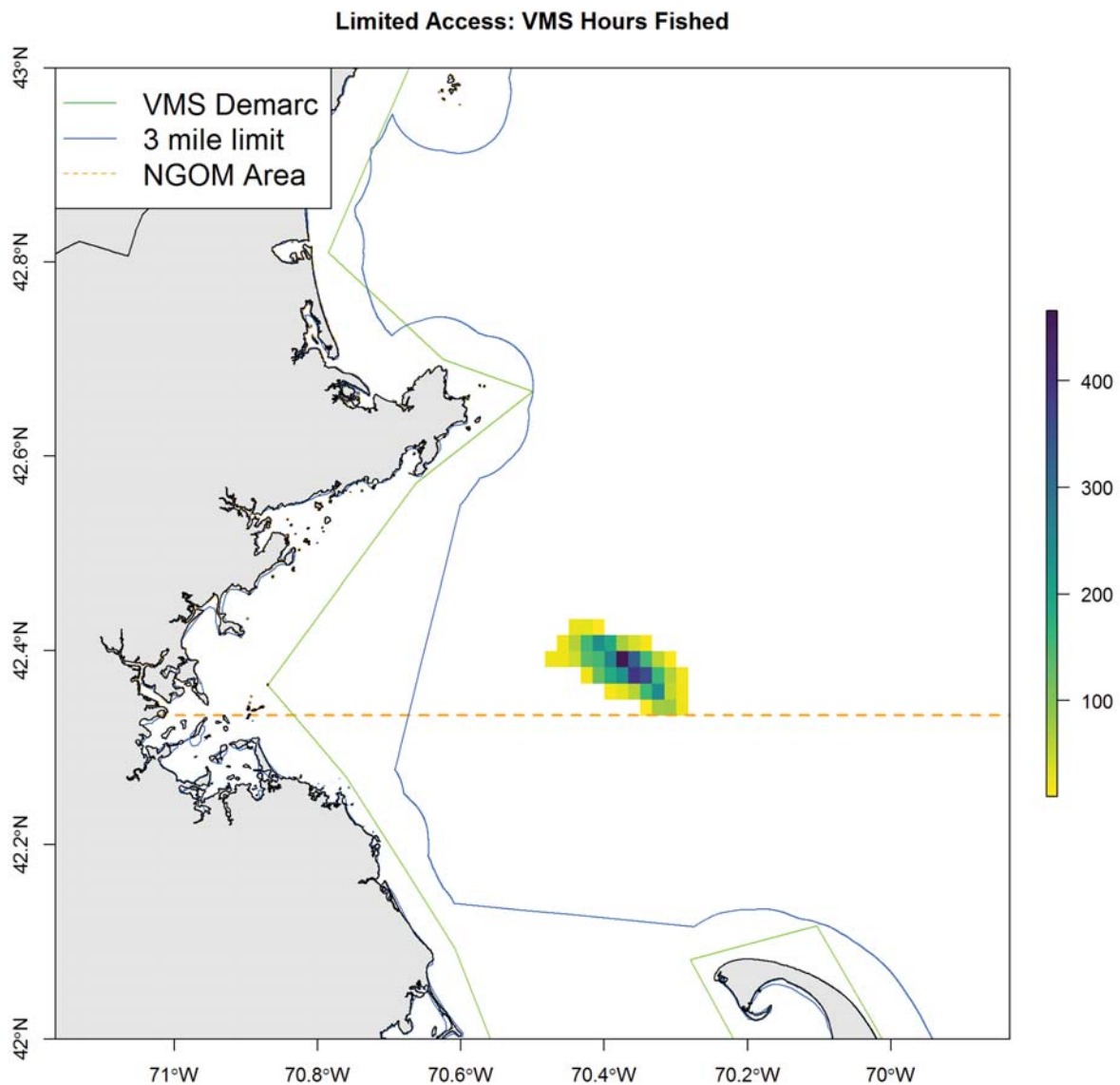


Figure 1: VMS effort in hours (approximate) for Limited Access vessels. Fishing was indicated when speed was >2 and < 5 knots at 1 minute squares with at least 3 boats and at least 10 hours fished/cell. Fleet designation was assigned by declaration.

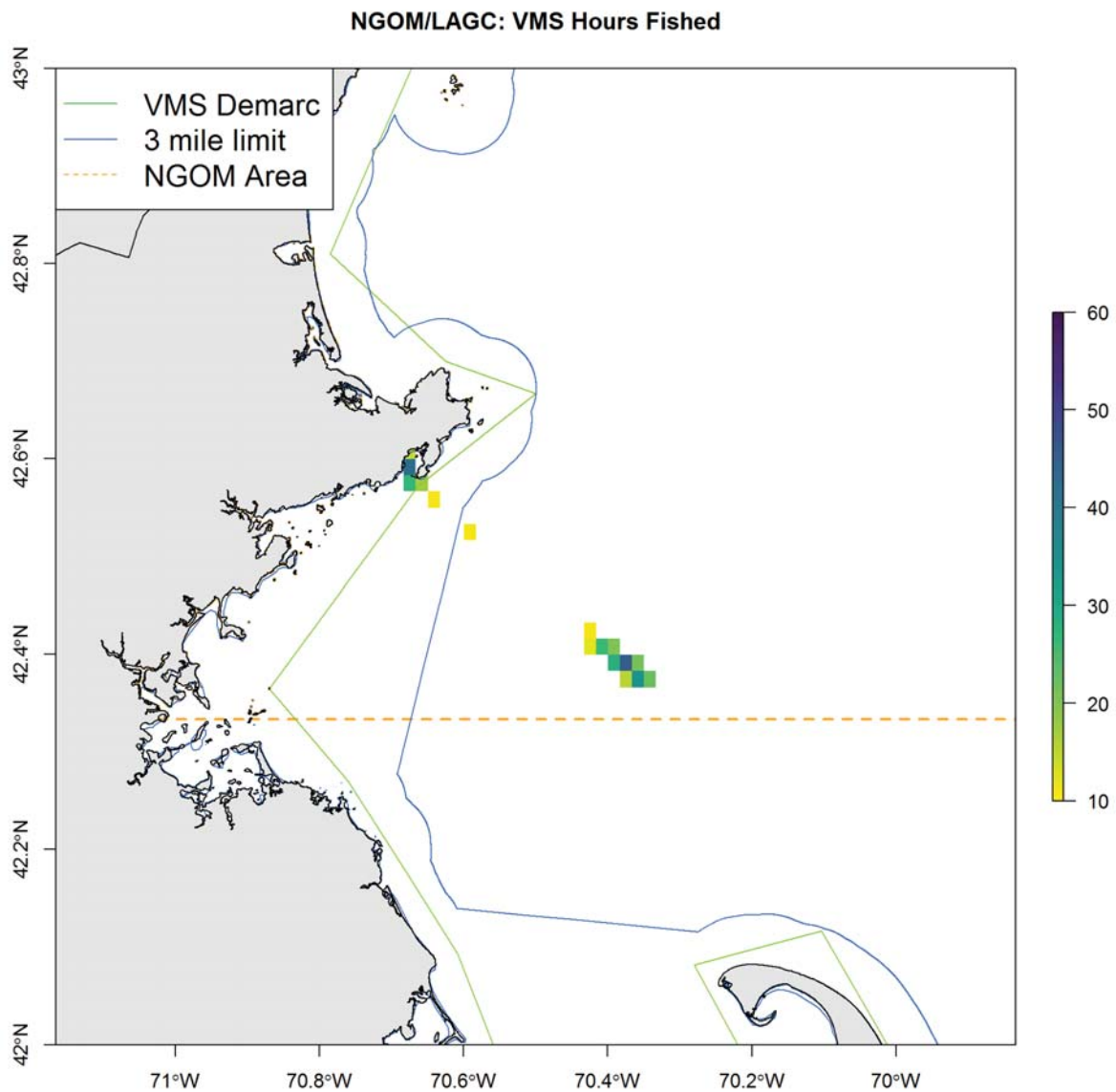


Figure 2: VMS effort in hours (approximate) for General Category vessels. Fishing was indicated when speed was >2 and < 5 knots at 1 minute squares with at least 3 boats and at least 10 hours fished/cell. Fleet designation was assigned by declaration.

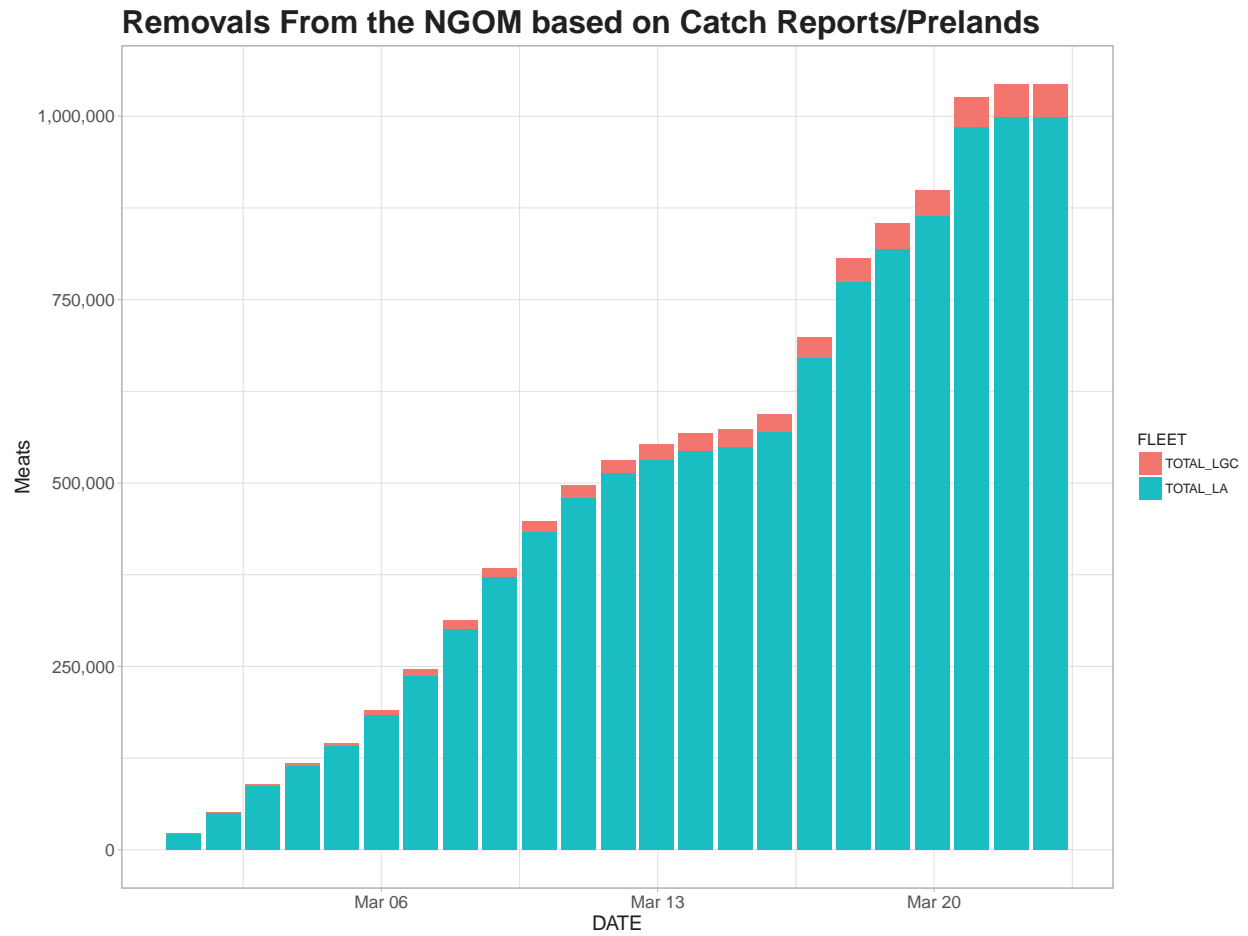


Figure 3: Cumulative Totals by Fleet. Estimated landings based on PRELANDS for LGC and DAILY CATCH REPORTS for vessels respectively.

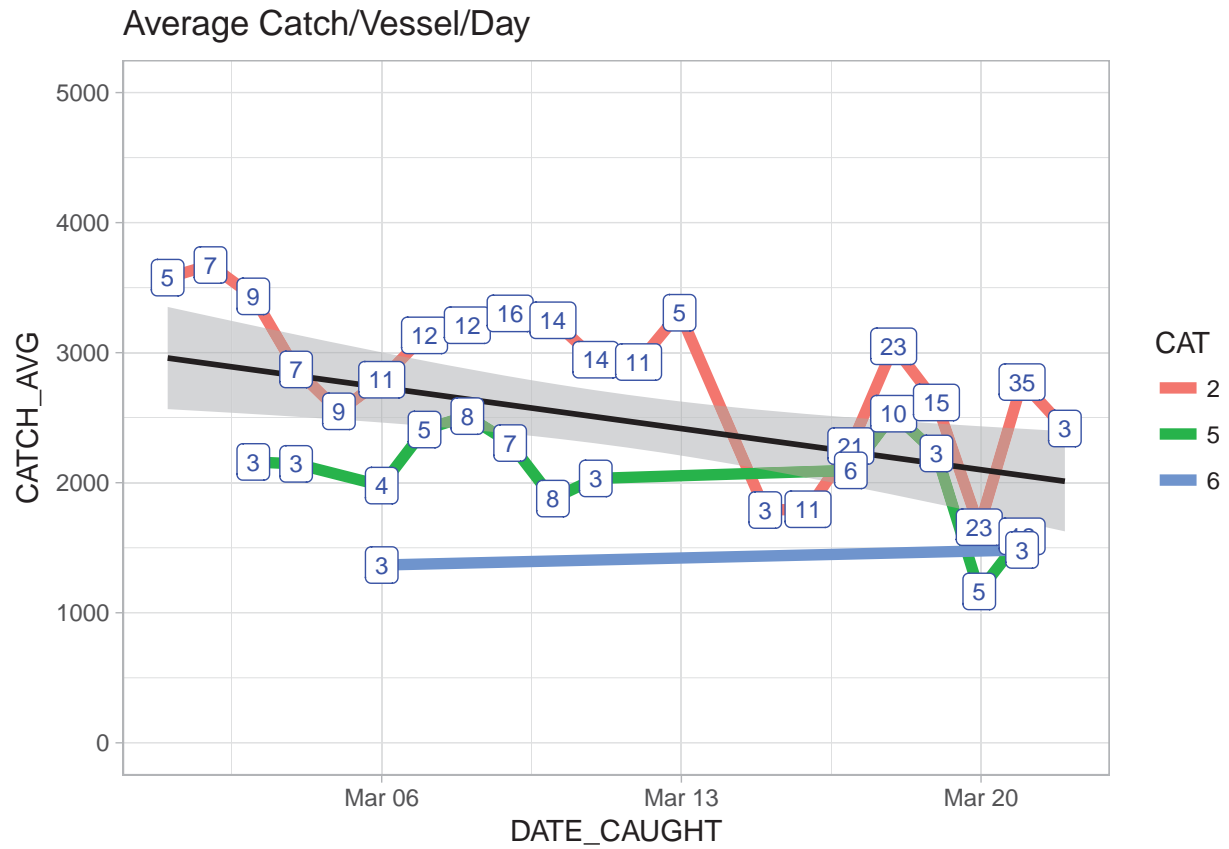


Figure 4: Northern Gulf of Maine Limited Access LPUE based on catch reports in FY 2017. A smoothed trendline is shown in black.