



New England Fishery Management Council

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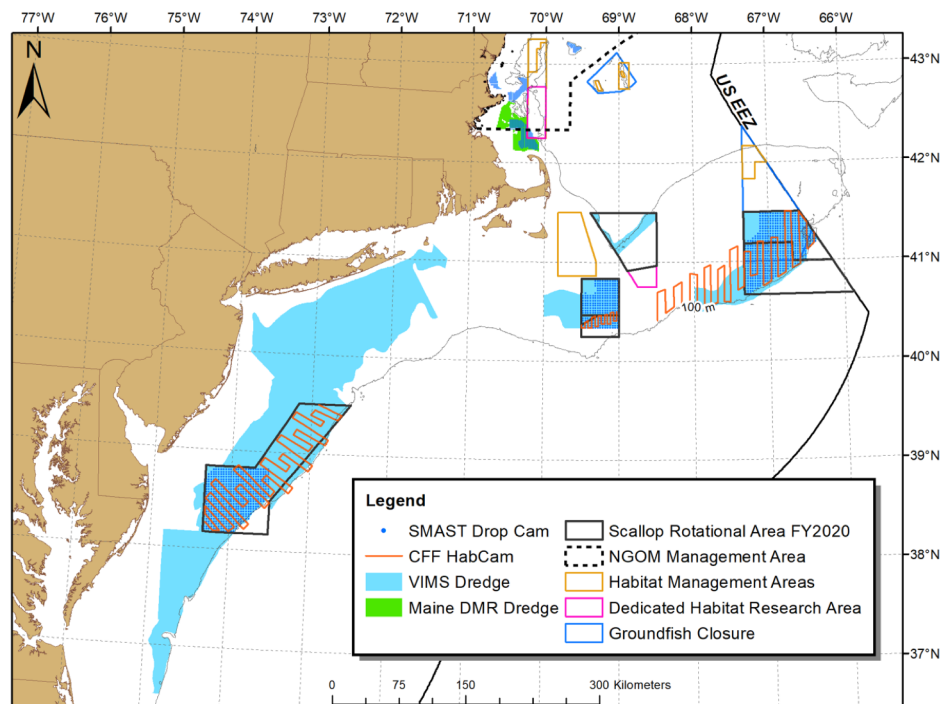
Scallop Research Set-Aside Program Supports 12 Projects for 2020-2021; Resource Surveys Once Again Top the List

The Atlantic Sea Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program will support 12 projects during the 2020-2021 award cycle that address resource surveys, economic impacts of offshore wind development on the scallop fishery, links between environmental factors and scallop meat condition, and many other issues.

The awards were announced on [March 11](#) by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center and the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, which both are part of NOAA Fisheries. The funded projects focus on scallop research priorities identified by the New England Fishery Management Council, which established the Scallop RSA Program in 1999 through [Framework Adjustment 11](#) to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan. The Council and NOAA Fisheries work together to support research-set aside projects. The Council sets priorities, and NOAA Fisheries manages the RSA competition and administers the program.

The Council outlined research priorities for 2020-2021 projects during its [June 2019](#) meeting and gave resource surveys the highest ranking. Annual RSA-funded scallop surveys continue to provide important information that directly helps scientists determine the status of the resource and also helps guide the Council in management decision-making.

No federal money is involved in this industry-funded program. Instead, each year during the specification-setting process, the Council “sets aside” 1.25 million pounds of scallops to carry out RSA projects. The work is conducted collaboratively between fishermen and researchers. Revenue generated from the sale of landed scallops is used to fund the research and compensate industry partners who harvest the scallops.



Areas where 2020-2021 RSA-funded scallop surveys will occur. – NEFMC graphic



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2020-2021 Scallop Research Set-Aside Project Selections

Institution (Collaborators)	Project Title	Set-Aside Award Based on \$9.50 Per Pound of Scallop Meats
Coonamessett Farm Foundation (F/V Kathy Marie)	An Intensive Optical Assessment of Sea Scallop Abundance and Distribution in Select Areas of Georges Bank and Mid-Atlantic: Southern Closed Area II, Southern Flank, Nantucket Lightship South Deep, Elephant Trunk, Hudson Canyon (2-year project)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020 Award: 256,651 pounds • 2020 Value: \$2,438,180 • 2021 Award: 167,467 pounds • 2021 Value: \$1,590,940
Rutgers University (University of Southern Mississippi, Old Dominion, VIMS)	Economic Impacts of Offshore Wind Energy Development on the Commercial Sea Scallop Fishery (2-year project)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020 Award: 138,076 pounds • 2020 Value: \$1,311,722 • 2021 Award: 19,818 pounds • 2021 Value: \$188,267
Maine Department of Marine Resources (University of Maine, F/V Nicole Leigh)	Sea Scallop Assessment on Stellwagen Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020 Award: 18,422 pounds • 2020 Value: \$175,005
Virginia Institute of Marine Science	An Assessment of Sea Scallop Abundance and Distribution in the Nantucket Lightship Closed Area (2-year project)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020 Award: 42,377 pounds • 2020 Value: \$402,578 • 2021 Award: 39,880 pounds • 2021 Value: \$378,863
Virginia Institute of Marine Science	An Assessment of Sea Scallop Abundance and Distribution in the Georges Bank Access Areas and Surrounds (2-year project)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020 Award: 42,020 pounds • 2020 Value: \$399,192 • 2021 Award: 43,460 • 2021 Value: \$412,870
Virginia Institute of Marine Science	Age-Based Assessment in the Sea Scallop <i>Placopecten magellanicus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020 Award: 109,718 pounds • 2020 Value: \$1,042,322
University of Maine (Maine Department of Marine Resources, F/V Shearwater, F/V Eleanor J)	Quantifying Scallop Growth and Evaluating its Spatio-Temporal Variability in the Northern Gulf of Maine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020 Award: 20,451 pounds • 2020 Value: \$194,280
University of Massachusetts (UMass) Dartmouth School for Marine Science and Technology (SMAST)	High-Resolution Drop-Camera Survey Examining the Scallop Recruitment Event in the Gulf of Maine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020 Award: 131,834 pounds • 2020 Value: \$1,252,423

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UMass School for Marine Science and Technology	High-Resolution Drop-Camera Surveys to Track Scallop and Predator Populations in Nantucket Lightship and Elephant Trunk and to Examine the Effects of Increased Quadrat Sampling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020 Award: 91,671 pounds • 2020 Value: \$870,875
UMass School for Marine Science and Technology	Drop-Camera Survey to Track Scallop Aggregations in Closed Area II Access Area and Closed Area II Extension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020 Award: 50,005 pounds • 2020 Value: \$475,049
UMass School for Marine Science and Technology	A Seasonal Video Trawl Survey to Assess the Population Size of Yellowtail Flounder (<i>Limanda ferruginea</i>) and Windowpane (<i>Scophthalmus aquosus</i>) in Closed Area II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020 Award: 121,676 pounds • 2020 Value: \$1,155,924
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (Northeastern University, F/Vs Liberty, Justice, Venture, Edgartown)	Investigating Links Between Environmental Conditions and Scallop Meat Condition to Predict the Regional Vulnerability of Fishing Stocks Under Future Ocean Acidification and Warming (2-year project)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020 Award: 140,148 pounds • 2020 Value: \$1,331,402 • 2021 Award: 75,316 • 2021 Value: \$715,503

More Information At-A-Glance

- Questions about this year’s awards? Contact Ryan Silva, GARFO’s Cooperative Research Liaison, at (978) 281-9326, Ryan.Silva@noaa.gov.
- Visit the Northeast Fisheries Science Center’s 2020-2021 RSA awards [webpage](#).
- More information about all of the region’s Research Set-Aside Programs can be found [here](#).
- Visit the New England Fishery Management Council’s [scallop webpage](#).



– Virginia Institute of Marine Science photo