New England Fishery Management Council
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DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY
Scallop PDT

Conference Call
October 19, 2017

The Scallop PDT met by conference call to: (1) Review progress on Framework 29 alternatives and analyses. The PDT did not discuss all agenda items, and postponed further discussion flatfish AMs the next meeting on October 25, 2017.

MEETING ATTENDANCE: Jonathon Peros (PDT Chair), Dr. David Rudders, Dr. Dvora Hart, Dr. Demet Haksever, Danielle Palmer, Dr. Cate O'Keefe, Tim Cardiasmenos, Chad Keith, Kevin Kelly, Carl Wilson, Dr. David Bethoney, Travis Ford, Benjamin Galuardi, and Sam Asci. Vincent Balzano, Chair of the Scallop Committee was present on the call. There were approximately 5 members of public listening in on the call.

KEY OUTCOMES:

- The PDT discussed the timing of OHA2 relative to FW29.
- The PDT discussed preliminary results of several SAMS runs, and provided input on model assumptions to use going forward.
- The PDT felt that additional clarification is needed on the objectives of an access area trip in the NLS-S on slow growing animals that are likely 50-60 count.

The meeting began at 10:04 am. Council staff welcomed the PDT to the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

Committee updates, and PDT membership and Conduct
Council staff updated the PDT on changes to Advisory Panel and Committee assignments, as well expected conduct and participation in the PDT process. Staff also noted that the SSC met on October 12, 2017 to review 2018 and 2019 (default) ABC and OFL recommendations.

OHA2 Timeline Update and Interaction with Framework 29
Council staff explained that NMFS has published a notice of availability for the Omnibus Habitat Amendment, and that the agency will make a decision on areas that may open through this action by January 4, 2018. What is less certain is when the final rule for OHA2 will public, and implementation date of this action. Council and GARFO staff are still working though the mechanics of activating harvest from areas that may open through OHA2, will provide another update at the AP and Committee meetings on October 25 and 26, 2017.

The Council has developed measures in FW29 that could facilitate access to the resource in 4 different ways in the 2018 FY:

1. No change to the areas that can be fished in FW29.
2. Only NLS-NA area opens, in which case a new NLS-WEST access area could be used to facilitate access to these scallops. See Figure 1.
3. Only CAI-NA-N area ("sliver") opens, in which case CAI AA could be expanded to facilitate access to this area.
4. Both NLS-NA and CAI open.

Staff also explained that if Closed Area I opens, there is likely enough exploitable biomass to support a full trip and the harvest of 1.6 million carryover pounds that have been on the books for several years after the area was closed through emergency action. Staff explained that one way forward is to add the carryover pounds associated with each vessel to their trip allocation, but not change the overall trip limit.

Table 1 - CAI Carryover Information - number of vessels by the range of allocated pounds that were under-harvested.

FY2012 scallop limited access sub-ACL Closed Area 1: number of vessels by range of allocated pounds under-harvested	
Number of Vessels	**Under-harvested (lb)**
129	0-100
22	101-200
11	201-300
9	301-400
9	401-500
7	501-600
5	601-700
7	701-800
4	801-900
7	1000-2000
6	2001-4000
5	4001-6000
4	8000-10000
8	10001-15000
10	16000-19000
5	25000-35000
4	35001-36000

Update on SAMS model Runs:

Dr. Dvora Hart presented preliminary information on a range of SAMS runs, and raised several questions about assumptions to use in the SAMS model runs this year. Council staff noted that CAIIS could not support a full AA trip on its ownThe first issue the PDT addressed was around assumptions of fishing effort in Delmarva. In the initial SAMS run, the model predicted that the LA fleet would fish around 1,083 DAS in Delmarva. However, based on effort data from 2016 and 2017, there has been very little effort in this area relative to the Elephant Trunk and Hudson Canyon. The original model run predicted that the F in DMV would be 0.45. The PDT discussed

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several approaches to treating Delmarva, noting that the presence of nematodes may be a limiting factor, and that using a lower F rate may be appropriate.

The PDT also discussed how to treat the NLS-ext. Dr. Hart explained that the BASE model run at F=0.48 predicted that 935 DAS would be fished in the extension, and that the LPUE in this area would be 3,490 lbs/day. A point was raised that these are attractive catch rates, and that one approach could be to delay a opening to May or even June to get better yields and perhaps address what could be a derby if this area is considered open bottom. The PDT discussion focused on how to treat the entire NLS area, including making the NLS-ext open bottom. The PDT noted:

- **NLS-N:** If the NLS-N is open, most of the fishing in 2018 would occur there because it holds the largest scallops. In the BASE .48 run, the LPUE in this area was over 3,700 lbs a day. If the full trip were taken in the NLS-N, it would likely result in an F=0.7. If the NLS-N was kept closed in 2018, with expected growth the area could support a full trip on its own in 2019. Catch rates will likely decline in the NLS-N, and vessels may move around to maximize LPUE within the area.
- **NLS-EXT:** The animals in the NLS-ext were likely 30 count in 2017, and the PDT expects some growth by the 2018 FY. This area has not been fished for several years, the animals are 6 years old this year. Making the NLS-ext part of the NLS AA would address derby fishing in this area (if it was part of open bottom). There was interest from some members of the PDT to see a model run that puts the NLS-ext into the NLS-N. Initial model runs suggested that keeping the NLS-ext part of the NLS AA would reduce DAS by 2.
- **NLS-S:** In the NLS-Shallow, harvest may be U12s and 10-20 count in 2018. The pDT has discussed modifying this SAMS area to combine the NLS-S shallow with the NLS-N in the future.

With regard to Committee tasking to develop an option for accessing the small, slow growing scallops in the deep portion of the NLS-S area, the PDT felt that additional clarification is needed on what the objective of this trip would be. The PDT noted that "culling" the area may not make a big impact in this area given that there are billions of animals in high density in this area. There is not a clear biological downside, the biomass is around 50,000 mt, and one access area trip is around 2,300mt. The concept of the NLS-Notch area was briefly reviewed during the call. This configuration would allow for transit within a NLS access area, and is drawn around the slow growing scallops in the NLS-S (see Figure 1 and Figure 2).

The PDT briefly touched on potential SAMS runs that could include areas that may open through OHA2. The group felt that out years should be treated the same in these runs as other runs. This discussion began at the end of the meeting, and was deferred to the next in-person meeting for further consideration. The PDT expects to have some analysis on this scenario available at the next round of AP and Committee meetings.

Other business

No other business was discussed. The meeting concluded around noon.

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Figure 1 – Results of 2017 Coonamessett Farm Foundation HabCam survey of the Nantucket Lightship, showing potential configurations of the NLS-West and NLS-Notch, along with number of scallops per annotated image within the 75-100mm range. Courtesy of Connamessett Farm Foundation.

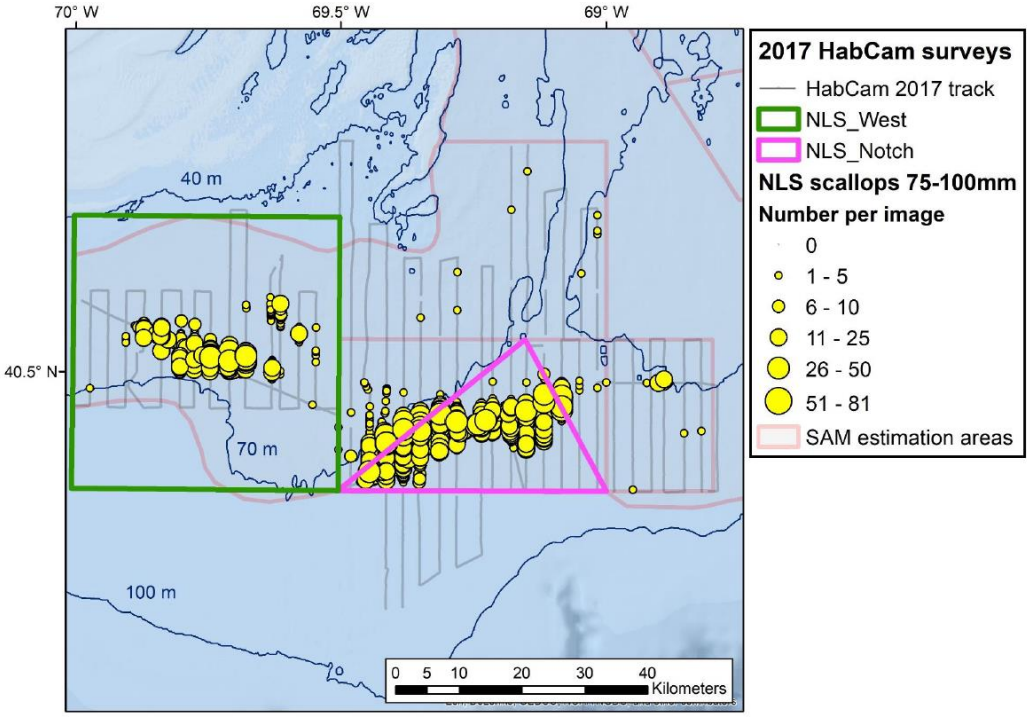

Figure 2 - Results of 2017 Coonamessett Farm Foundation HabCam survey of the Nantucket Lightship, showing potential configurations of the NLS-West and NLS-Notch, along with number of scallops per annotated image within the 100-125mm range. Courtesy of Connamessett Farm Foundation.

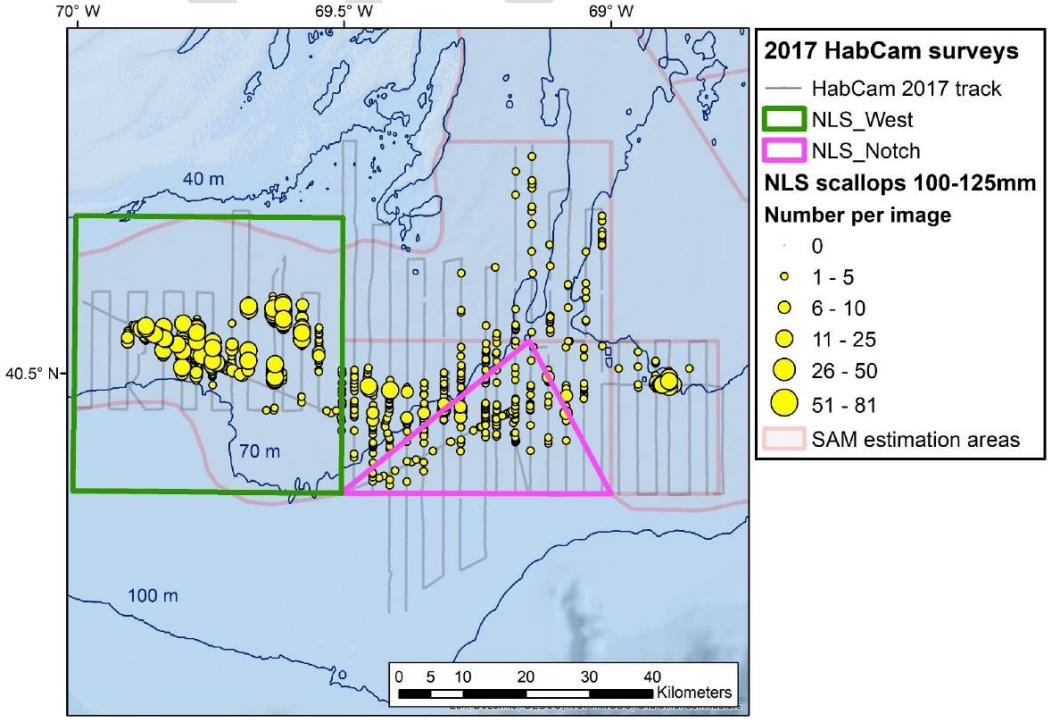

Table 2 - Range of Anticipated SAMS Runs based on PDT discussion.

	RUN	FW28 -Status Q	NO Action	BASE .48	BASE .4	BASE .36, DMV=0	"NLS-South"	OHA2 Run - 1 (Assumig CAI and NLS-W open)	OHA2 Run - 6trip (Assumign CAI and NLS-W open)
	Trip Limit	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
	Total AA	4	1	5	5	5	5	5	6
	Open area	F=0.44	DAS=21.75	F=0.48	F=0.4	F=0.36, DMV F=0	F=0.4	F=0.4	Landings = OHA2 run 1
AA TRIP	SAMS AREAS								
Closed Area I	CL1ACC CL1NA	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	1 Trip - CAI	1 Trip - CAI
Closed Area II	CL-2(S)	1 Trip - CAII	Closed	1 Trip - CAII	1 Trip - CAII	1 Trip - CAII	1 Trip - CAII	Closed	Closed
	CL2Ext	Closed	Closed					Open	Open
Nantucket Lightship	NLSAccN	1 Trip - NLS	Closed	1 Trip - NLS	1 Trip - NLS	1 Trip - NLS	Closed	Closed	Closed
	NLSAccS		Closed				1 Trip - NLS	Closed	Closed
	NLSExt		Closed	Open	Open	Open		Open	Open
Nantucket Lightship - West	NLSNA	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	2 Trips - NLS W	2 Trips - NLS W
Mid-Atlantic Access Area	HCSAA	1 Trip - MAAA	1 Trip - MAAA	3 Trips as MAAA (no Flex)	3 Trips as MAAA (no Flex)	3 Trips as MAAA (no Flex)	3 Trips as MAAA (no Flex)	2 Trips MAAA	3 Trips as MAAA (no Flex)
	ET Open								
	ET Flex	ET-Flex	Closed						
	DMV			Open	Open	Open, DMV@F=0	Open	Open	Open

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Table 3 - Range of anticipated SAMS runs with associated F rates based on PDT discussion.

	RUN	FW28 -Status Quo	NO Action	BASE .48	BASE .4	BASE .36, DMV=0	"NLS-South"	OHA2 Run - 1	OHA2 Run - DH6
	Trip Limit	**18,000**	**18,000**	**18,000**	**18,000**	**18,000**	**18,000**	**18,000**	**18,000**
	Total AA Trips	**4**	**1**	**5**	**5**	**5**	**5**	**5**	**6**
	Open area F	**F=0.44**	**DAS=21.75**	**F=0.48**	**F=0.4**	**F=0.36, DMV F=0**	**F=0.4**	**F=0.4**	**Landings OHA2:1**
AA TRIP	**SAMS AREAS**								
Closed Area I	CL1ACC	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	1 Trip - CAI	1 Trip - CAI
	CL1NA								
Closed Area II	CL-2(S)	CA II AA	Closed	F=0.48	F=0.48	F=0.48	F=0.48	Closed	Closed
	CL2Ext	Closed	Closed	F=0.37	F=0.37	F=0.37	F=0.37	Open	Open
Nantucket Lightship	NLSAccN	NLS AA	Closed	F=0.54	F=0.54	F=0.54	Closed	Closed	Closed
	NLSAccS	NLS AA	Closed	F=0.17	F=0.17	F=0.17	NLS-South AA	Closed	Closed
	NLSExt	NLS AA	Closed	Open	Open	Open	NLS-South AA	Open	Open
Nantucket Lightship - West	NLSNA	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	2 Trips - NLS W	2 Trips - NLS W
Mid-Atlantic Access Area	HCSAA	MAAA	MAAA	F=0.35	F=0.35	F=0.35	F=0.35	2 Trips MAAA	F=0.35
	ET Open	MAAA	MAAA	F=0.35	F=0.35	F=0.35	F=0.35		F=0.35
	ET Flex	ET-Flex	Closed	F=0.22	F=0.22	F=0.22	F=0.22		F=0.22
	DMV	MAAA	MAAA	Open	Open	Open, DMV@F=0	Open	Open	Open

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The following information on NGOM surveys was sent to the PDT, but not discussed on the call.

NGOM Survey Results
October 19, 2017
v.2

Table 4 - 2017 scallop survey biomass estimates for Stellwagen Bank and Jeffreys Ledge

	2017 NGOM Scallop Survey Estimates										
	Drop Camera (Digital)				Habcam				Means		
Gulf of Maine	**NumMill**	**BmsMT**	**SE**	**MeanWt**	**NumMill**	**BmsMT**	**SE**	**MeanWt**	**NumMill**	**BmsMT**	**SE**
Jeffreys Ledge					5	177	42	35.4	5	177	42
Stellwagen	14	356	69	25.8	18	511	75	28.4	16	434	102
TOTAL	**14**	**356**	**69**	25.82	**23**	**688**	**86**	**29.9**	**21**	**611**	**110**

As a follow-up to our last PDT meeting, Mr. Mike Torre recalculated biomass estimates for areas of the NGOM that were surveyed in 2016 (excluding estimates from Jeffreys Ledge and Stellwage) using different natural mortality assumptions. The results of this work are shown below. See meeting materials from the September 25, 2017 for his full presentation.

Linf = 134.6

k = 0.433

Table 5- 2018 exploitable biomass estimate for NGOM areas outside of Jeffreys Ledge and Stellwagen Bank, at 15th percentile and different assumptions of natural mortality.

M	biomass at 15th % (MT)	biomass at 15th % (lbs)
0.10	429.22	946,268
0.15	386.75	852,637
0.20	349.22	769,898
0.25	316.21	697,123
0.30	286.51	631,646

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