

*Draft for Discussion – Follow-Up to Survey Peer-Review***1.0 Background**

Several issues emerged in 2016 following the scallop survey season and during the process of updating scallop models. Many of these areas are related to areas where surveys (both dredge and optical) encountered high densities of scallops. Given the substantial crossover of these issues with TORs covered during the scallop survey peer-review, the Council has identified follow-up to the [2015 Scallop Survey Peer-Review \(March 17 – 19, 2015\)](#) as a work priority for Atlantic sea scallops in 2017. With a benchmark assessment planned for the spring of 2018, a sub-group of the Scallop PDT plan to address a sub-set of the issues raised at the scallop survey peer-review. Many of these topics will be relevant to the 2017 specification setting process.

Two track approach:

1. A PDT sub-group of Dr. Bill DuPaul, Dr. Dvora Hart, Dr. Cate O’Keefe, Mr. Jonathon Peros, and Dr. David Rudders will work to address a sub-set of the issues raised at the scallop survey peer-review. This group will report out to the full PDT.
2. 2018 Atlantic sea scallop benchmark assessment process.

2.0 Work Items

Objectives/Deliverables:

1. Explore ways to combine survey estimates (TOR #5), including situations when there may be a large divergence between estimates (ex: dredge and HabCam in NLS-NA, related to dredge efficiency in high density areas, and variance estimates)
2. Explore dredge efficiency in high density areas (TOR #4)
3. Explore the likely under-estimation of biomass variance estimates from HabCam surveys (TOR #4)