

2018 Scallop Work Priorities

Version 3

Scallop PDT Meeting

July 25, 2018

Boston, MA

Version 1 - April 6, 2018

Version 2 – June 1, 2018

Version 3 – July 19, 2018

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1.0 RECENT AND UPCOMING SCALLOP RELATED MEETINGS

1.1 Recent Scallop Meetings

- February 5 – 8, 2018 – Stock Assessment Workshop (Woods Hole, MA)
- February 28, 2018 – Scallop PDT Conference Call
- March 2, 2018 – Maine Fishermen’s Forum session on NGOM (Rockland, ME)
- March 12, 2018 – Scallop PDT Conference Call
- March 21 & 22, Scallop Advisory Panel and Committee meetings (Providence, RI)
- March 26 – 28, 2018 – Stock Assessment Workshop (Woods Hole, MA)
- April 26, 2018 – Scallop PDT Conference Call
- April 30 – May 4 – Stock Assessment Workshop (Woods Hole, MA)
- May 8th – In-person PDT meeting at Mariners House (Boston, MA)
- May 23 & 24, 2018 – Scallop Advisory Panel and Committee meetings (Providence, RI)
- May 30, 2018 - Stock Assessment Workshop (Woods Hole, MA and Conference Call)
- June 12 – 14, 2018 – Council meeting (Portland, ME)
- June 26 – June 29, 2018 – Scallop and Herring SARC 65 (Woods Hole, MA)

1.2 Upcoming Scallop Meetings

Please note that additional meetings will be added as the year progresses.

- July 25, 2018 – In-person PDT meeting at Mariners House (Boston, MA)
- August 28 & 29, 2018 – In-person PDT meeting at Coonamesett Inn (Falmouth, MA)
- September 13 & 14, 2018 – AP and Committee at Fairfield Inn (New Bedford, MA)
- September 25 – 27 – Full Council meeting at Hotel 1620 (Plymouth, MA)
- October 10, 2018 – SSC: OFL and ABC for FY 2019 and FY 2020 (TBD)
- December 4 – 6 – Full Council Meeting at Hotel Viking (Newport, RI)

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2.0 2018 SCALLOP PRIORITIES (AS RANKED BY THE COUNCIL IN APRIL 2018)

Link: 2018 priorities for all FMPs http://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/180119_2018_Final.pdf

Table 1 - Scallop Committee's recommendations for work on 2018 priorities

Regulatory Requirements & Ongoing work	Council Ranking
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specifications for 2019/2020• Benchmark (SAW/SARC 65)• Support Scallop RSA Program• In-season catch accounting• Specify Allocation Review Triggers	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Modify Access Areas to be consistent with OHA22. Standard default measures3. Monitoring and catch accounting4. Consider LAGC IFQ trip limits5. NGOM Management measures

3.0 SUMMARY DESCRIPTIONS FOR EACH 2018 WORK ITEM

3.1 Set specifications (allocations) for FY 2019/2020

- The PDT expects to begin some discussions on specifications process after benchmark is complete (late June) before survey results are presented at the end of August.
- The PDT will hold a 2-day meeting at end of August (28th/29th) to discuss:
 - Results of 2018 survey season
 - Update on results of 2018 benchmark
 - Review biological information from samples collected in Nantucket Lightship and the Elephant Trunk (and other areas). Are we still observing slow growth in ET and NLS-S?
 - All survey groups should plan to use SARC 65 SH/MW parameters.
- The Council could consider using the “specifications package” process or a FW this year to complete specifications.

3.2 Modify access areas consistent with OHA2

- Short term:
 - Council will consider modifying access area boundaries as part of the annual specification setting process.
- Long(er) term:
 - This priority could focus on an evaluation of the rotational management program.
 - The Council’s alternative for Eastern GB was not approved in OHA2. The groundfish closed area and the habitat closure will remain in place.
 - The Council’s Habitat Committee is working on the Deep-Sea Coral Amendment, and a clam dredge FW. Any work on modifying boundaries for Eastern Georges Bank will likely begin after work on the clam dredge FW is well under way.

3.3 NGOM management measures

- Council staff authored an appendix to FW29 that chronicles the development of NGOM management measures in recent years
 - Link: <http://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/FW29-Appendix-III-NGOM-Draft-for-preliminary-submission.pdf>
- FW29 was developed as a temporary solution to NGOM management to address the problem of unknown biomass and recent high landings. NMFS expressed support in December 2017 to continue work on this topic to permanently address management.
- The Council may wish to identify NGOM issues to focus on as a way to direct work on this priority.
 - Develop goals and objectives and/or problem statement.
 - Council staff anticipate that major changes (such as allocation, or splitting the area) would require the development of an amendment.
 - The PDT has recommended that NGOM monitoring issues (e.g.: tracking catch and bycatch) be addressed through this priority.
 - The Council passed a motion on April 20, 2016 that identified several issues that a NGOM management priority could address: 1) Changing the opening date of the fishery; 2) Consider consistent gear restrictions; 3) Possession limits; 4) Effort controls.
- TOR #3 from 2018 Benchmark (SAW/SARC 65): Summarize existing data, and characterize trends if possible, and define what data should be collected from the Gulf of Maine area to describe the condition and status of that resource. If possible provide a basis for developing catch advice for this area.
 - An appendix focusing on the Gulf of Maine is being developed to address TOR #3 from the 2018 Benchmark assessment.

3.4 Consider increasing LAGC IFQ trip limits

- Council staff developed a discussion document on this issue that was presented at the March AP and Committee meetings.
- In March 2018 the Committee tasked the PDT to evaluate trip limits from 400 lbs to 1,200 lbs (in 200 lb increments).
 - Council staff are compiling the necessary data for this analysis, and expect to present results to the AP and Committee in September 2018.
 - The Council can work with NOAA General Council to begin sorting out what can be done in a FW vs. what would require an amendment.
- Other issues that are related to this topic:
 - AP discussion about allowing LA vessels to lease/sell IFQ quote to LAGC IFQ only vessels came up last year. NMFS has said that this represents a re-allocation and would require an amendment.
 - How are the dredge exemption areas changing? NMFS is working on this.

3.5 Gear modifications to protect small scallops

- Council voted to remove this from the 2018 priority list in 2018, and asked that it remain under consideration as a priority for future years.

3.6 Monitoring and catch accounting provisions

- In June, the Council sent a letter to NOAA Fisheries requesting that the VMS pre-land reporting requirements be expanded to cover all Limited Access trips (both DAS and access area trips).
- The Council sent two letters to NOAA Fisheries on this issue following motions at the April Council meeting.

3.7 Specify Allocation Review Triggers

- [Presentation at the June Council meeting.](#) (T. Nies)
- This issue relates to the NOAA Policy Directive 01-119: The policy requires that fisheries allocations are periodically evaluated, and are adapted to ensure that OY is being achieved under current conditions.
 - Allocation reviews can be triggered by one or more of the following:
 - 1) public interest criteria,
 - 2) time-based criteria, or
 - 3) performance indicator criteria.
 - Councils must determine trigger(s) applicable to each fishery. Councils have up to 3 years to identify these triggers in a policy document or FMP amendment.

3.8 2018 Scallop Benchmark

- The SARC was held in Woods Hole in late June.
- This is a major effort by Dr. Hart and the SAW workgroup, which includes several PDT members as well as individuals that actively contribute to the scallop PDT.
- Four SAW meetings from February – May, with SARC scheduled for June.
- Terms of reference: <https://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/saw/saw65/saw65-scallop-herring-tor-11-26-2017.pdf>
- Members and meetings dates/times: https://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/saw/saw-wg/sea_scallop/

3.9 In-season catch accounting

- Scallop PDT will continue to track bycatch of yellowtail and windowpane.
 - The Scallop PDT will communicate scallop bycatch estimates to groundfish PDT as part of specifications process. The PDT has provided information on catches of CC/GOM yellowtail flounder and GB winter flounder, in addition to data on the four flatfish stocks that the scallop fishery has sub-ACLs for.
 - Given the scallop fishery catch of GB yellowtail flounder in 2017 while fishing Closed Area II access area, the scallop PDT could write a memo on GB YT to support TRAC/TMGC/SSC process (we did this in 2016 and 2017).

3.10 RSA support

- The Council make recommendations for 2019/2020 RSA research priorities at their June meeting. We expect that a federal funding opportunity will publish over the summer. Management and technical reviews typically occur in December and January.
- No RSA share day this year. Several RSA projects were presented as part of the SAW data meeting.

3.11 Developing Standard Default Measures

- The Council added this priority at their April 2018 meeting in Mystic, CT.
- Council staff developed a discussion document, and drafted alternatives for AP and Committee consideration in May.
- The Committee identified a range of alternatives (indicated preferred alternatives), and staff will be working on impact analyses over the summer of 2018.
- Expect the Council to take final action on these measures in December.

4.0 OUTLOOK FOR COMPLETION OF SCALLOP WORK ITEMS

The following table is intended to describe progress on each priority, relative to the next five Council meetings (June 2018 – April 2019).

DRAFT and subject to change	Expected progress on priorities relative to upcoming Council meetings				
Council Meeting:	Jun-18	Sep-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Apr-19
Regulatory Requirements and Ongoing Work					
Specifications for 2019/2020	Survey cruises	Review survey data, preliminary OFL/ABC projections	Final Action	Submit Specs Package	New specs in place April 1
Benchmark (SAW/SARC 65)	Review Panel meeting	Final report available, Present results to Council in Sept.			
Support Scallop RSA Program	Set 2019/2020 Priorities	FFO Published	Proposals Due, Reviews begin	Proposals in evaluation	Announce 2019/2020 awards
In-season catch accounting	Ongoing		Review bycatch estimates - consider tranfer to GF)		
Specify Allocation Review Triggers	Executive Committee Discussion				
Council's Ranked Priorities					
1. Modify Access Areas to be consistent with OHA2		Consider modifying boundaries in specifications action		Coordinate with Habitat on EGB (TBD), Consider a review of rotational management	
2. Standard default measures	Draft Alternatives for consideration	Review impacts analyses	Final Action		
3. Monitoring and catch accounting	Review letters to NOAA; develop any additional recommendations	Analyze any recommended meausres	Final Action		
4. Consider LAGC IFQ trip limits	PDT gathering data	Present analyses on trip limit increases (Committee tasking)	TBD (Expect CTE input in Sept)		
5. NGOM Management measures	Council staff coordindate GOM appendix (Part of SAW/SARC)	Review GOM appendix from SAW/SARC 65, fishery data	TBD (Expect CTE input in Sept)		