



New England Fishery Management Council

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John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: Oct. 11, 2016
TO: Scallop Committee
FROM: Mary Beth Tooley, Scallop Committee Chair
SUBJECT: **Purpose for Scallop Committee meeting on Oct. 17, 2016**

There is a Scallop Committee meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn in Boston, MA on **Monday, Oct. 17, 2016 at 10:30 AM**. Please note there is a joint Scallop PDT and AP meeting at that same location on October 13, 2016, and that the SSC will be meeting on October 18, 2016 at this location to recommend scallop ABC and OFL values to the Council. Paper copies will not be mailed to you before the meeting. Documents for this meeting will be e-mailed to you as they become available.

Purpose: The main goals of this Committee meeting are to:

- 1) Review 2016 scallop survey results, OFL/ABC estimates, and model runs, and discuss potential specification alternatives to be considered in Framework 28. The Committee may wish to task the PDT with additional model runs based on input from PDT & AP, as well as new information.
- 2) Review PDT progress on tasking from the Sept. Committee meeting.
- 3) Review progress on management measures in FW28, including: 1) measures to restrict the possession of shell stock inshore of 42° 20' N; 2) measures to apply spatial management to fishery specifications (ACL flowchart); 3) Measures to modify the Closed Area I access area boundary, consistent with potential changes to habitat and groundfish mortality closed areas.
- 4) Provide input on potential scallop work priorities for 2017.

The Scallop Committee will be considering input from the PDT and AP at its meeting. The AP and Committee will meet again on Nov. 2 and 3 in Warwick, Rhode Island to review progress on this Framework and to make final recommendations to the Council. The full Council is scheduled to take final action on Framework 28 at the November Council meeting in Newport, RI.

Meeting Materials: Paper copies of the documents listed below will be provided at the meeting. A PDF of each document will be posted to www.nefmc.org. Staff will provide copies of any additional meeting materials that are not included in this package. If you have any questions about the documents, please contact Jonathon Peros (jperos@nefmc.org; 978-465-0492 ext. 117).

Documents:

1. Framework 28 Action Plan v3
2. Draft Framework 28 management measures, dated October 6, 2016 (*may be updated before mtg*)
3. Scallop Committee Motions, Sept. 14, 2016
4. Scallop Advisory Panel Motions, Sept. 13, 2016
5. Northern Gulf of Maine Documents
 - a. Northern Gulf of Maine TAC options
 - b. Draft Northern Gulf of Maine Fishery Data Discussion Document
6. Closed Area I Carryover Trip Discussion Document
7. Scallop PDT Meeting Summaries
 - a. Scallop PDT Summary – July 21, 2016
 - b. Draft Scallop PDT Summary – August 30/31, 2016
 - c. Draft Scallop PDT Summary – September 29, 2016
8. Scallop PDT memo to the SSC re: 2017 and 2018 (default) OFLs and ABCs
9. Potential 2017 work priorities for the Scallop FMP
10. Correspondence
11. Scallop Advisory Panel Motions, Oct. 13, 2016 (*to be provided at meeting*)

2016 Scallop Survey Results and Specification Alternatives in FW28

Recent Activity: The Scallop PDT has met in person and by conference call several times to review updated 2016 scallop survey results and SAMS model results. The PDT discussed 2017 and 2018 (default) OFL and ABC recommendations to the SSC on Oct. 6 by conference call. The scallop Committee tasked the PDT to develop specifications alternatives at its Sept. 14 meeting (Doc. 3).

Next Steps: Council and NEFSC staff will review updated 2016 scallop survey estimates, and present information on potential specification alternatives to be considered in Framework 28. The Committee may wish to develop additional specification alternatives to be considered in this framework. The AP and Committee will have the opportunity to select preferred alternatives at their meetings on Nov. 2 and 3 in Warwick, RI.

Committee tasking re: NGOM TAC alternatives and Closed Area I Carryover Trips

Recent Activity: In September the scallop Committee tasked the PDT to analyze a range of NGOM TAC alternatives to include additional options, and evaluate how CAI carryover trips could be taken in FY2017 and look into how to access area and open area fishing would impact the specifications setting process. The PDT discussed these issues on Sept. 29, 2016 in Boston, MA.

Next Steps: Council staff will update the group on progress to-date. The Committee may also wish to provide guidance to the PDT on these issues.

Review progress on management measures in FW28

Recent Activity. The Scallop AP and Committee reviewed and refined FW28 management measures at their September meetings in New Bedford, MA. In some cases, the AP and Committee indicated support for management measures. The Committee also recommended that some items be moved to the

considered and rejected portion of the framework. Management measures in FW 28 include: 1) measures to restrict the possession of shell stock inshore of 42° 20' N; 2) measures to apply spatial management to fishery specifications (ACL flowchart); 3) Measures to modify the Closed Area I access area boundary, consistent with potential changes to habitat and groundfish mortality closed areas. The PDT has updated FW 28 to reflect the Committee's work.

Next Steps. Council staff will update the group on the current status of management measures. Note that measures to apply spatial management to fishery specifications will be discussed in the context of the 2017 and 2018 fishery specification process, and that decisions on this management measure may impact the allocation associated with specification alternatives, particularly for the LAGC IFQ component. The AP and Committee will have the opportunity to select preferred alternatives at their meetings on Nov. 2 and 3 in Warwick, RI.

2017 Scallop Work Priorities

Recent Activity. The Council identified a list of potential work priorities for 2017 at its September meeting. The scallop PDT discussed 2017 work priorities at its meetings on July 21, 2016 and Aug. 31. The AP and Committee reviewed preliminary lists at their meetings in September.

Next Steps. Staff will review potential work priorities for 2017. The Committee should be prepared to provide input on the current list of potential 2017 work priorities, and rank them (if possible). The Council will be setting 2017 work priorities at the November meeting.

Please review all documents before the meeting.

If you have any questions about these enclosures please contact Jonathon Peros (978-465-0492 ext. 117).