

DISCUSSION DOCUMENT
Fishery Data – Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area
FRAMEWORK 28

- [Background information on scallop fishing in the Northern Gulf of Maine \(Staff memo to Council, April 8, 2016\)](#)

Major elements of the NGOM program:

- 1) Hard TAC of 70,000 pounds (currently, may change)
- 2) Possession limit of 200 pounds for all LAGC IFQ and NGOM vessels
- 3) LAGC IFQ catch is applied against the TAC as well as individual IFQ
- 4) LAGC Incidental catch is not applied against the TAC, 40 pound possession limit
- 5) LA catch is not applied against the TAC, vessels under DAS management
- 6) Once the TAC is reached, all federal vessels are prohibited to fish in NGOM area

AP & Committee: Review the following fishery data from the NGOM management area for our discussion on the FY 2017 NGOM TAC.

Available data on total landings from the NGOM management area:

Total landings by all fishery components from the NGOM management area have increased over time, reaching a high of over 375,000lbs in FY2016 (Table 1). From 2009 – 2015, all landings attributed to the management area came from LAGC IFQ and LAGC NGOM fishing. In FY 2016, LA vessels are estimated to have harvested close to 300,000 lbs from the NGOM Management Area (working in areas east and southeast of Cape Ann). The FY 2016 estimate assigns LA landings to NGOM based VTR point locations. LA vessels operating under DAS may fish inside and outside of NGOM management area within the same statistical reporting area (ex: SRA 514) on the same trip (or haul). The NGOM area closed to all scallop fishing on May 13, 2016.

Table 1 - Total landings attributed to NGOM Management Area by permit type, FY2009 - FY2016.

FY	Landings by Permit Category			Total NGOM Landings	NGOM closure date, (days open)
	LAGC IFQ	LAGC NGOM	LA		
2009	0	5793	0	5793	n/a, (entire FY year)
2010	4762	3877	0	8639	n/a, (entire FY year)
2011	6092	816	0	6908	n/a, (entire FY year)
2012	894	6546	0	7440	n/a, (entire FY year)
2013	8907	46501	0	55408	n/a, (entire FY year)
2014	13286	48900	0	62186	n/a, (entire FY year)
2015	26894	46879	0	73773	n/a, (entire FY year)
2016	24840	62263	291232*	378335	May 13, (74 days)

*Most recent estimate using VTR point locations.

Limited Access Fishery Data:

Figure 1 depicts the Limited Access landings based on VTR fishing locations in the NGOM management area, aggregated by 10 minute squares. A significant proportion of LA landings (kept catch) came from areas to the southeast of Cape Ann in Massachusetts Bay, particularly along the southern extent of the NGOM management area.

Table 2 and Figure 2 describe the range of LA landings for FY 2016. As noted in both, trip level landings varied greatly. Median landings per LA trip (50%, central tendency, middle score of the data) was 3,258 lbs, while the mean landings (average) was 7,125 lbs. The majority of LA trips landed less than 10,000 lbs, though several trips landed in excess of 20,000 lbs (high of 32,294 lbs).

Figure 1 - FY 2016 Limited Access landings based on VTR fishing locations in the NGOM management area (as of 6/10/16).

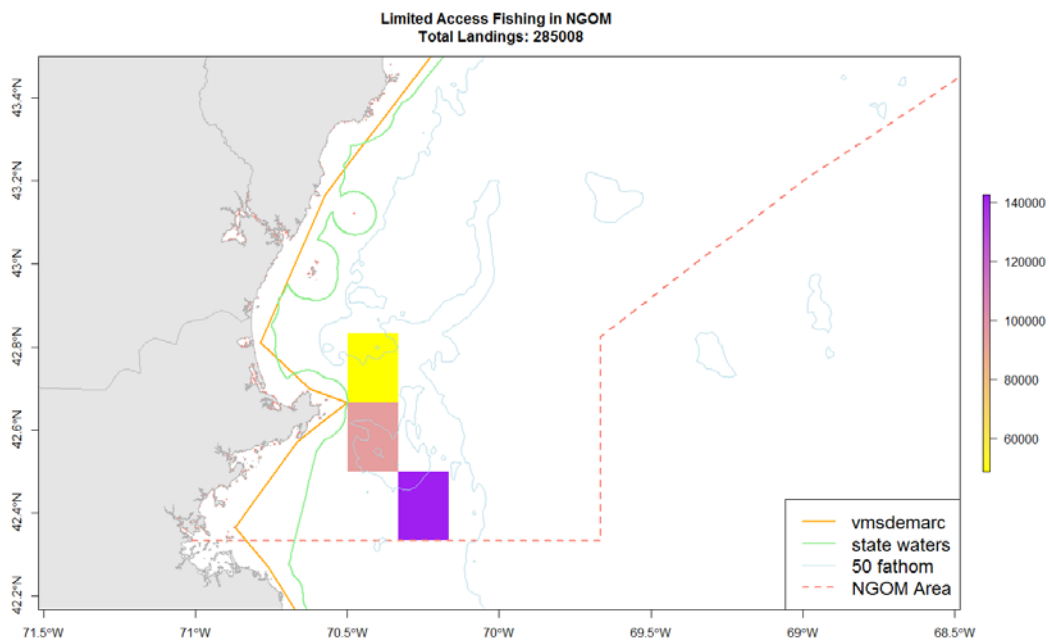


Figure 2 - Boxplot of the distribution of LA NGOM landings by trip in FY 2016 (N = 32).

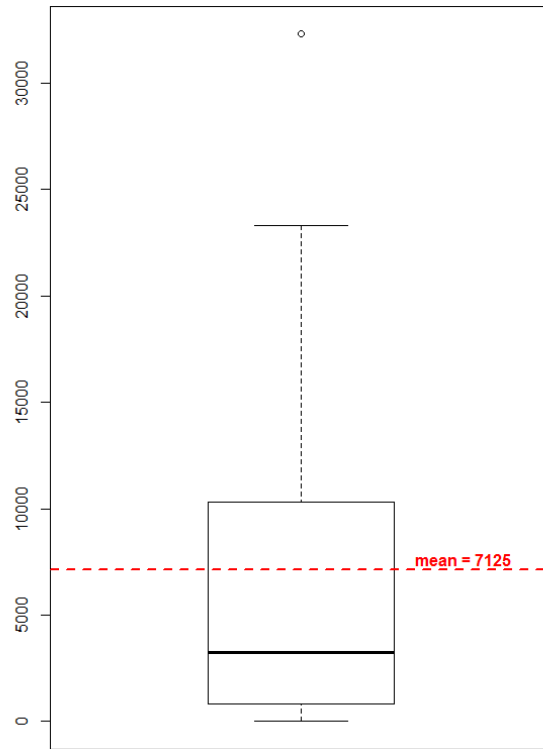


Table 2 - Quantile of landings per trip, Limited Access vessels (N = 32).

0%	25%	50%	75%	100%
0	929	3,258	9,969	32,294

Limited Access General Category Fishery Data:

Both LAGC NGOM and LAGC IFQ vessels have fished in the NGOM. The majority of annual landings from the area have come from NGOM permit holders since FY 2012 (Table 3). LAGC IFQ activity has almost exclusively been in southern area (north of Cape Ann and along southern boundary). NGOM effort focused on Platt’s Bank effort in 2013 and 2014. The average landings per trip for NGOM and IFQ vessels have been similar each FY, with average landings increasing by over 50lbs from FY 2015 to FY 2016. More LAGC NGOM permits are fishing in the area compared to IFQ vessels. The number of permits with associated landings increased for both IFQ and NGOM in FY 2016, to a total of 37 LAGC IFQ and NGOM. (Table 4). Since the start of the NGOM management program, seven LAGC IFQ permits have converted to NGOM permits (Table 5). LAGC landings exceeded the 70,000 lb hard-TAC for the area in FY2015, triggering a pound for pound payback in FY 2016. The NGOM TAC was exceeded for the second consecutive year in FY 2016 (Table 6).

Table 3 - NGOM Landings by LAGC IFQ and LAGC NGOM permits, FY 2011 - FY 2016.

FY	Landings in lbs (% Total Landings)	
	LAGC IFQ	LAGC NGOM
2011	6092 (88%)	816 (12%)
2012	894 (12%)	6546 (88%)
2013	8907 (16%)	46501 (84%)
2014	13286 (21%)	48900 (79%)
2015	26894 (36%)	46879 (64%)
2016	24840 (29%)	62263 (71%)

Table 4 - Average Landings and number of active permits by LAGC permit type, FY 2011 - FY 2016.

FY	Average Landings (lbs)		Number of Permits	
	LAGC IFQ	LAGC NGOM	LAGC IFQ	LAGC NGOM
2011	76	51	6	4
2012	128	115	3	6
2013	87	122	7	11
2014	83	110	8	17
2015	99	104	8	20
2016	154	162	12	25

Table 5 - Number of LAGC IFQ permits converted to LAGC NGOM permits by year.

Fishing Years	Number of Permits Converted
2010 - 2015	7

Data are from the moratorium and vessel permit databases.

Table 6 - Total estimated LAGC landings from NGOM management area.

FY	Total LAGC IFQ & NGOM Landings
2011	6908
2012	7440
2013	55408
2014	62186
2015	73773
2016	87103

LAGC Fishing Locations in NGOM (from April 8 memo to Council, section 3):

Figure 3 through Figure 6 show fishing location heatmaps for FY2013 – March 2016. Maps show concentration/dispersal of effort in terms of number of trips for LAGC (LGC A) and Northern Gulf of Maine (LGC B) in each year. Scale indicates the volume of trips, i.e., 80 indicates 80% of trips occurred within this range. Heatmaps do not show counts of trips; they show how tightly concentrated or widely dispersed trips within the permit category were for that year. Similar maps for LA effort have not been created yet; however, the effort by those vessels in March 2016 is concentrated in the same general areas as the LAGC effort in FY2016 to date.

Figure 3 - Annual Fishing Locations of LAGC IFQ (left) and LAGC NGOM (right) for FY2013

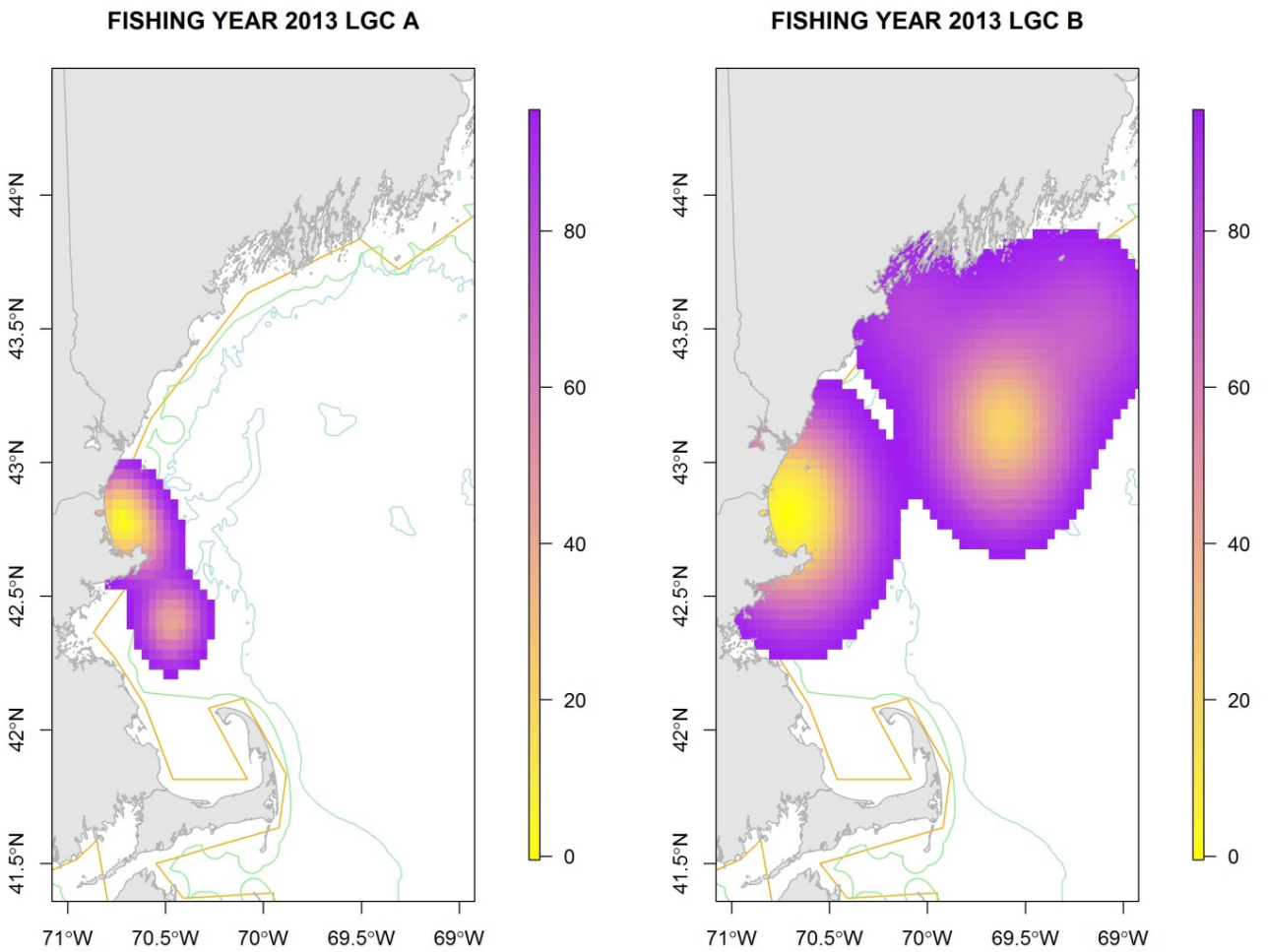


Figure 4 – Annual Fishing Locations of LAGC IFQ (left) and LAGC NGOM (right) for FY2014

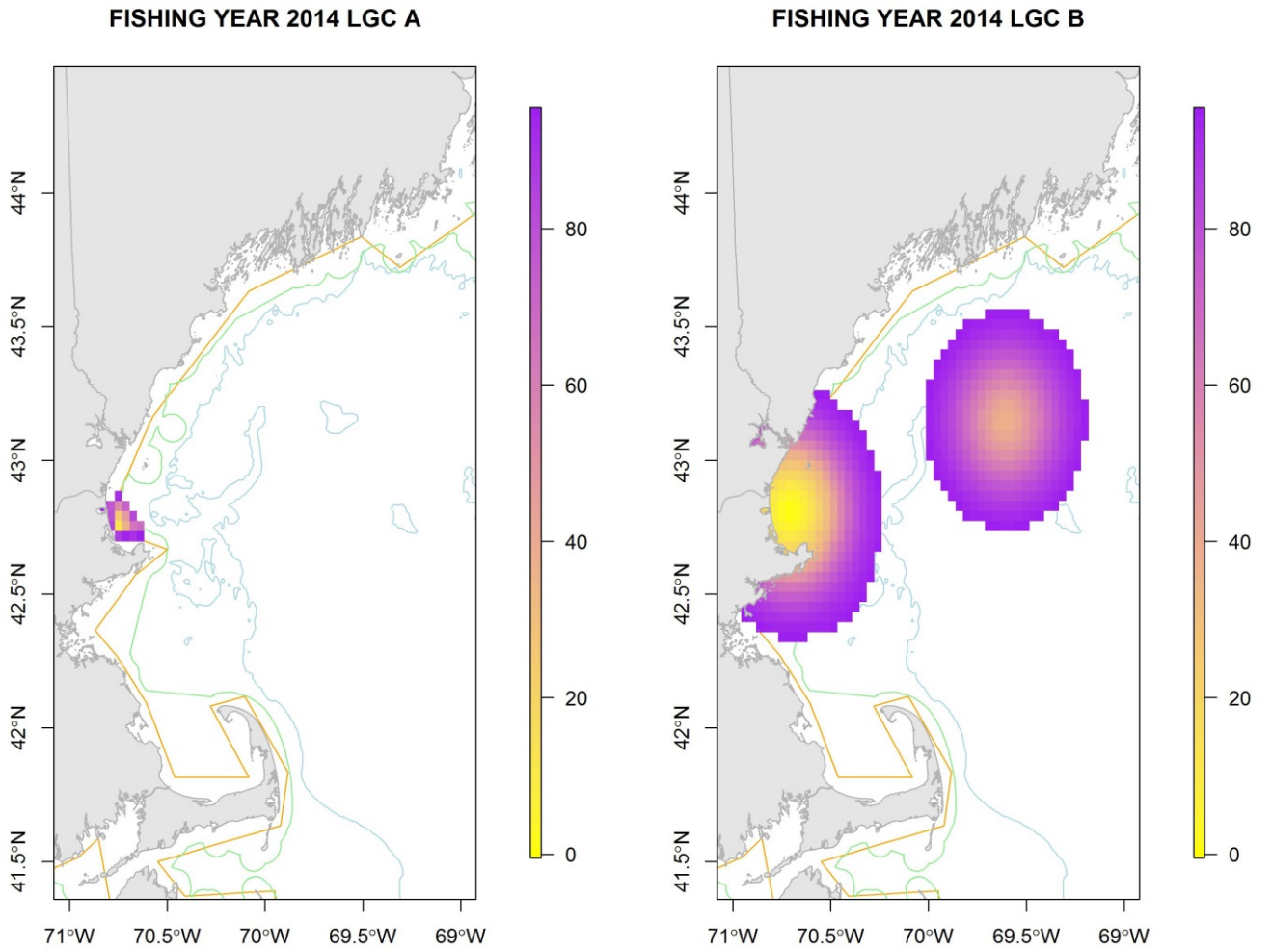


Figure 5 – Annual Fishing Locations of LAGC IFQ (left) and LAGC NGOM (right) for FY2015

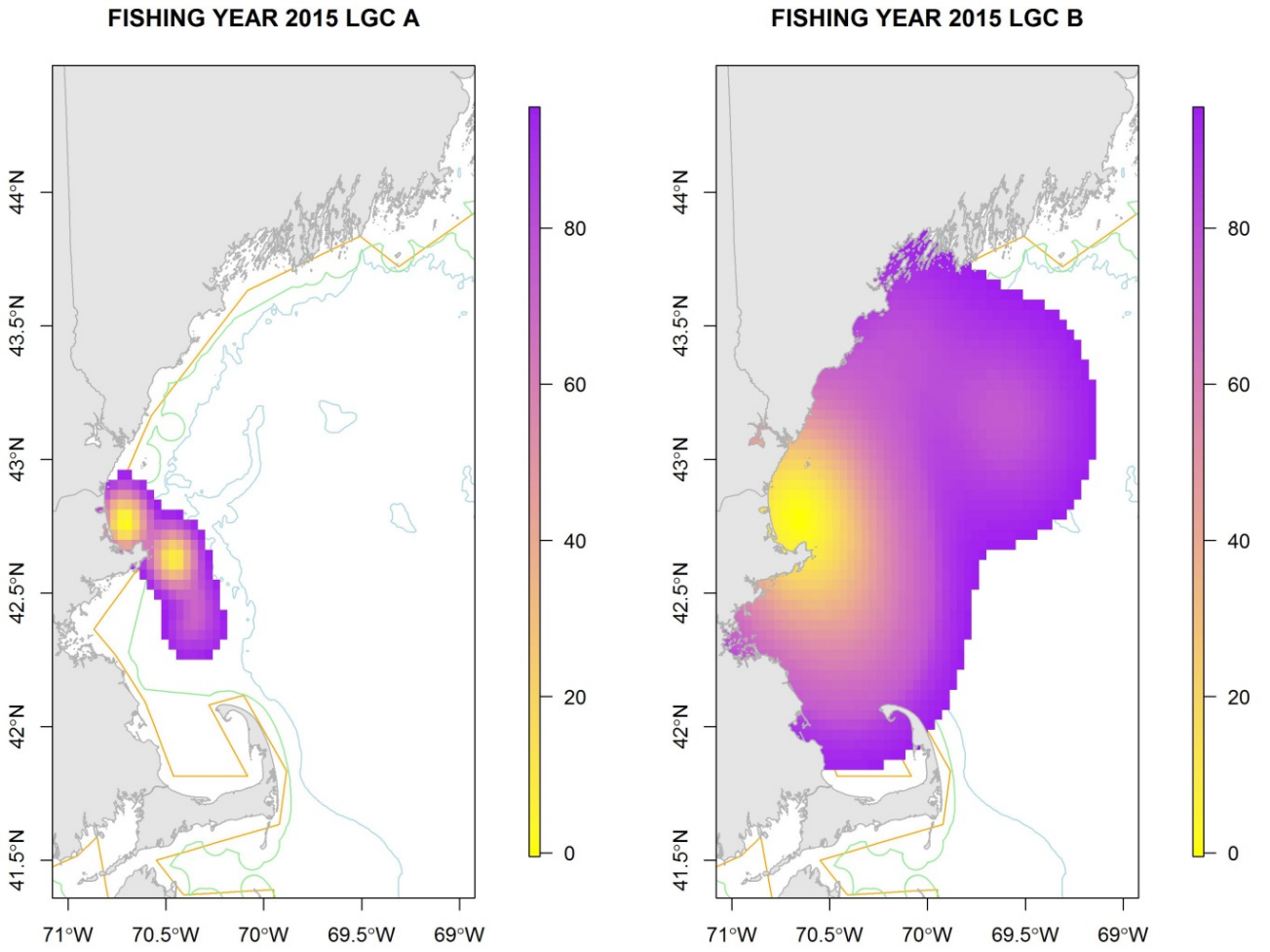
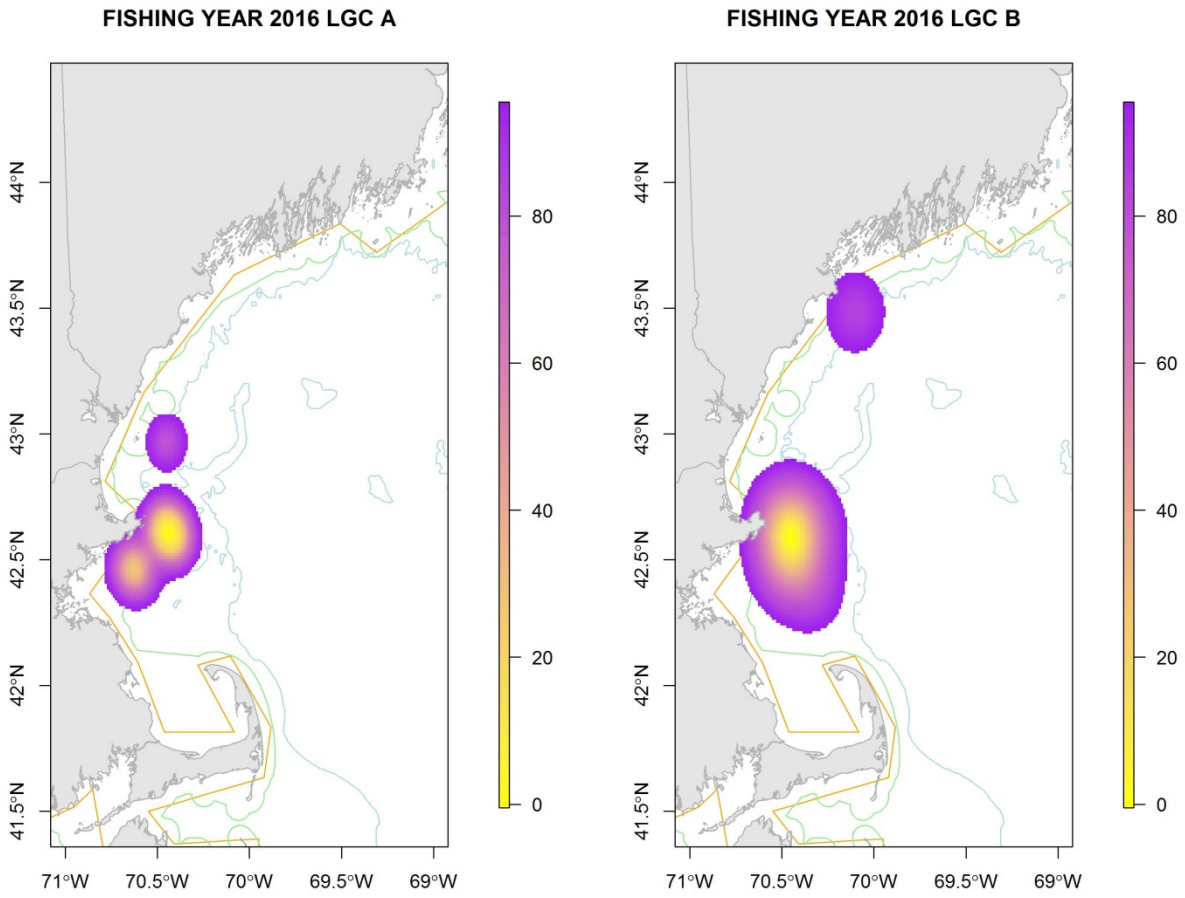


Figure 6 – Annual Fishing Locations of LAGC IFQ (left) and LAGC NGOM (right) for FY2016



DRAFT

Table 7 - FY2016 Catch monitoring of LAGC NGOM landings.

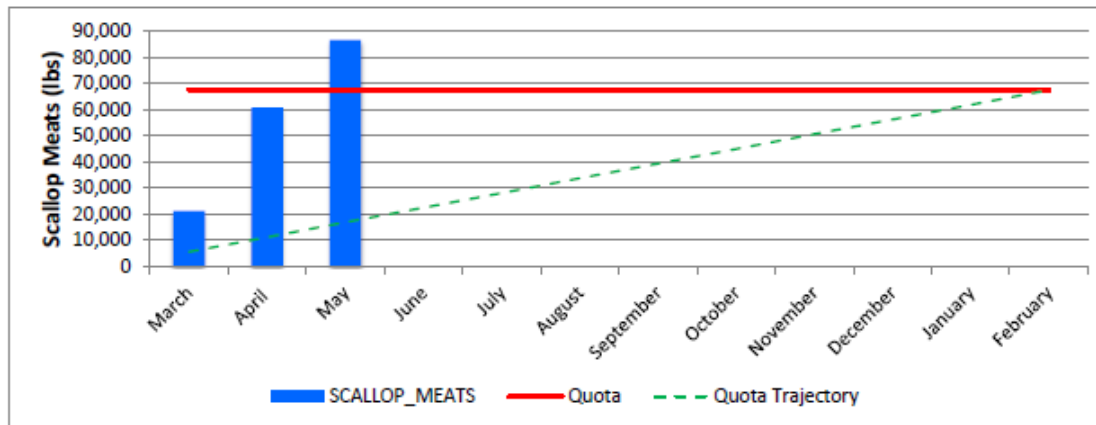
**Limited Access General Category Scallop
Northern Gulf of Maine Landings**

Report run on: June 16, 2016
 For data reported through: June 15, 2016
 Quota period: 2016
 Quota period dates: 03/01/16 to 02/28/17

Month	Pounds	Cumulative Pounds*	Percent of quota (67,454 lb**)
March	21,222	21,222	31.5%
April	39,647	60,869	90.2%
May	25,678	86,547	128.3%
June			
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			
January			
February			

The Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area closed May 13, 2016

*In order to comply with data confidentiality requirements
 this table will no longer show weekly landings
 ** Updated for Framework 27



These data are the best available to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) when this report was compiled. Data for this report are supplied to NMFS from vessels via the Vessel Monitoring System, Scallop Pre-Landing Reports, and Vessel Trip Reports, and dealers via Dealer Electronic Reporting. Data may be preliminary. Discrepancies with previous reports are due to corrections made to the database.