

Potential Scallop Work Priorities for 2015

1. Initiate **Framework 27** to potentially modify GB scallop access areas and allocations at the same meeting the Council takes final action on the EFH Omnibus Amendment (currently scheduled for January 2015).
Potential Timeline - Best case scenario – Initiate in January 2015, Final action in June 2015, Implementation in December 2015.
2. Initiate **Framework 28** to set fishery specifications for FY2016 and FY2017 and default measures for FY2018
Potential Timeline - Best case scenario – Initiate in June 2015, Final action in November 2015, Implementation in May 2016.

Other issues that have been raised by the Council as potential work priorities

1. Scallop AP Motion and discussion by Council to consider – *measures to better address bycatch in the LAGC IFQ fishery*
Notes: This may be less of an issue if FW26 modifies the seasonal closed area AMs to seasonal gear restricted areas.
2. Scallop AP Motion and discussion by Council to consider – *measures to address localized depletion of inshore areas and the impacts on the LAGC IFQ fishery*
Notes: Depending on the measures developed this could trigger an EIS, or even an Amendment if the measures are not frameworkable.
3. Catch verification program for the LAGC IFQ fishery – as follow-up from IFQ report
4. Consider adjustments to the Scallop RSA Program – RSC Committee began discussing if there are ways to make the program more effective. Changes may require framework action, none identified yet.

Other issues the Scallop PDT and Committee will be working on in 2015

1. **Scallop Survey Methods Peer Review** – Meeting scheduled for March 2015
Members of Scallop PDT will likely be involved between January 2015 – April 2015 preparing analyses and assisting with final report.
2. **Support for EFH Omnibus Amendment** – late 2014 - early 2015
Members of the Scallop PDT will likely help finalize impacts of proposed action for EFH Omnibus Amendment
3. **Review of RSA proposals** – Annually around December/January each year
Members of Scallop PDT, AP, and Committee review RSA proposals and may participate in management review meeting. Council also needs to identify priorities annually (April or June Council Meeting).

Considerations for 2016

1. **LAGC IFQ Fishery Five Year Report**

Action Item: Scallop PDT, AP, and Committee Recommendations

**PDT input – only one framework in 2015 (specs for 2016 and 2017 as well as consideration of modifications to GB access areas based on EFH final action).
Effective May 1, 2016**

Potential Timeline for Scallop FMP for 2014 – 2016

2014						2015						2016																			
Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Framework 26 - Specifications for FY2015; NGOM issue; turtle issue; AMs for WP and YT; VMS corridor																															
							Framework 27 - modify GB access areas and allocations																								
												Framework 28 - Specifications for FY2015 and FY2016																			
NEFSC - SARC59 Scallop benchmark assessment							NEFSC - Scallop Survey Methods Review																								
Complete Final IFQ Report							Support with EFH analyses																								
																		LAGC IFQ Report - 5 year review													

Note: Final action for the EFH Omnibus Amendment is listed as January 2015 in the timeline above.

Staff does not think it is likely that the DEIS will be available for final action in November 2014, but the Executive Committee has not met to discuss or consider a delay. These issues will be discussed in more detail at the September Council meeting.