



New England Fishery Management Council

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DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

Scallop PDT Conference Call

March 9, 2016

The Scallop PDT met via conference call on March 9, 2016 to provide recommendations on five year research recommendations, discuss a draft work plan for the LAGC IFQ five year review, and review a draft discussion document related to the performance of the ACL structure used in the Scallop FMP.

MEETING ATTENDANCE: Deirdre Boelke (Chair), Matt Camisa, Demet Haksever, Trish Cheney, Dr. Bill DuPaul, Chad Keith, Travis Ford, Ben Galuardi, Emily Gilbert, Dr. Dvora Hart, Emily Keiley, Kevin Kelly, and Dr. David Rudders. MaryBeth Tooley the Chair of the Committee, Peter Hughes the Chair of the Scallop AP and at least two other members of the public listened as well.

KEY OUTCOMES:

- The PDT discussed modifications to the existing research priorities and will circulate potential revisions to suggest to the Committee. They had two specific questions about these priorities as well.
- The PDT reviewed the draft work plan for the IFQ review and had no comments for additions or changes.
- The PDT reviewed the draft discussion document on the ACL flowchart issue and recommends it be forwarded to the AP and Cmte for more comment and input.

AGENDA ITEM #1: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FIVE YEAR RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The PDT started the discussion with two general questions. First, how is this five year list used and by whom, do we have a sense of the utility of this list in terms of funding actual research projects and supporting research in this area. Second, the Research Steering Committee made a specific request related to a potential longer term scallop research priority last year. What is the status of that recommendation and do recommendations from the RSC get folded into this process? Staff was not able to directly answer these questions on the call and will seek out the answers.

Next, the PDT reviewed the priorities from five years ago and made several suggestions. The PDT has provided a track changes version of the priorities with eight specific suggestions included that are described below in more detail.

1. Related to fisheries management priorities, the PDT supports that the first two items remain on the list (evaluate ways to control predation and manage spat for seeding); however, the items should be expanded to include reference to evaluating the long-term effects of diseases. Furthermore, the part about seeding should clarify that it is important to first understand the risks of seeding and their impacts before we actively seed areas with scallops from other areas.
2. Also related to fisheries management, the PDT supports leaving in the third element, social and economic impacts of closed and access areas, again with more elaboration to include reference to the impacts on other fisheries and potential distributional effects within the fleet (i.e. vessels homeported near Mid-Atlantic access areas vs. GB access areas).
3. Also related to fisheries management, the PDT supports leaving in the fourth element, factors affecting fishing power, again with more elaboration to include reference to the factors that influence landings per unit of effort per vessel and how those factors influence how the FMP allocated effort.
4. Also related to fisheries management, the PDT recommends adding a final subject related to management uncertainty. Evaluating the issues that drive uncertainty and measure their impact on allocated effort.
5. Related to stock assessment research, the PDT supports leaving in natural mortality and recommended it be expanded to include other sources of non-harvest mortality (i.e. incidental mortality). While several projects have been funded to explore this topic, those results are not in yet and it is too early to remove this subject from the list.
6. The PDT recommends removing all the language under surveys related to scallop area surveys. These intensive industry based surveys are better placed under the RSA program, and the reference to a peer-review of new and existing surveys has recently been conducted so it can be removed from the list.
7. The PDT is supportive of leaving the turtle research item on this list since that is a longer term research topic.
8. The PDT supports the new text drafted by the Habitat PDT specific to scallop specific habitat research. However, notes that one subject may have been omitted. The Scallop PDT recommends that issue be added to the new language drafted by the Habitat PDT. Specifically, projects that directly support evaluation of EFH closures and HAPCs to assess whether these areas are accomplishing their state purposes.

AGENDA ITEM #2: REVIEW DRAFT WORK PLAN FOR FIVE YEAR LAGC IFQ REPORT

Staff reviewed a draft work plan and the PDT did not have any comments or suggestions for changes.

AGENDA ITEM #3: REVIEW DRAFT DISCUSSION DOCUMENT FOR ACL STRUCTURE

The PDT reviewed a draft discussion document and supports forwarding it to the AP and Cmte for additional discussion and input. The PDT has several specific recommendations for additions and clarifications that will be included in the next draft. The PDT also identified a handful of additional analyses that would be useful to have for future discussions including a comparison of projected and realized estimates of fishing mortality, and comparison of target and realized observer coverage, etc.