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Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2016 2:18 PM

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Subject: RE: RSA research priorities

Hi Jonathon,

I changed the title; the purpose is to generate a conversation of an approach that does not set detailed priorities but defines research areas. I would like it to be distributed and discussed. I am open to suggested rewrites, edits, additions, etc.

I also think that we need to discuss collaboration and cooperative agreements as terms in the RFP.

Ron

An Alternative Approach to Scallop RSA Research Priorities

1. Scallop Production

- Recruitment stabilization
- Ocean Acidification mitigation strategies
- Predation mitigation
- Sources of natural & anthropogenic mortality
- Gear improvements

2. Scallop Marketing

- Improvement in meat yield and condition
- Food safety monitoring

3. Turtle RPMs

- Monitor and assess the distribution of fishing effort **and sea turtles** in the Mid-Atlantic scallop dredge fishery to derive take estimates, detect any adverse effects such as injury or mortality, and collect data from individual encounters.
- Investigate and implement modifications to gears used in these fisheries to reduce incidental takes of sea turtles and the severity of the interactions that occur.
- Review available data to determine whether there are areas or conditions within the action area where sea turtle interactions with fishing gear used in the scallop fishery are more likely to occur.
- Continue to quantify the extent to which chain mats and TDDs reduce the number of serious injuries/deaths of sea turtles that interact with scallop dredge gear.
- Continue to research the extent to which sea turtle interactions with scallop dredge gear occur on the bottom versus within the water column including documenting foraging behaviors.

4. Surveys and Data Collection

- Intensive area surveys
- Electronic fishery dependent data collection
- Crew Training
- Seasonal shifts on scallop grounds
- Bycatch mitigation
- Habitat impact documentation