



New England Fishery Management Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 22, 2020

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Council Sets Scallop Amendment 21 Public Hearing Schedule

The New England Fishery Management Council has scheduled four public hearings on Amendment 21 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan. The hearings will be held on August 5, August 12, August 27, and September 2 by webinar.

The Council intends to take final action on this amendment during its [September 29–October 1, 2020](#) meeting. **Now is the time to tell the Council what you think!** Here's what you need to know to participate in the public hearings and submit written comments before the deadline on Friday, September 4, 2020.

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT: Amendment 21 includes measures related to: (1) the Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) Management Area; and (2) the Limited Access General Category (LAGC) Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) component of the fishery.

Public Hearing Details

Public hearings are an easy way for you to let the Council know which alternatives you'd like to see selected in Amendment 21 and to say why you prefer one alternative over another. Join one of these webinar hearings and give us your input.

- **Wednesday, August 5 at 6:00 p.m.**
[Register for this Webinar > HERE](#)
- **Wednesday, August 12 at 4:00 p.m.**
[Register for this Webinar > HERE](#)
- **Thursday, August 27 at 4:00 p.m.**
[Register for this Webinar > HERE](#)
- **Wednesday, September 2 at 6:00 p.m.**
[Register for this Webinar > HERE](#)

DRAFT AMENDMENT 21 TO THE ATLANTIC SEA SCALLOP FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN PUBLIC HEARING DOCUMENT



Prepared by the New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill #2; Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950

Written comments can be submitted via mail, email, or fax:

Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950

Email: comments@nefmc.org

Fax: (978) 465-3116

*Please note on your correspondence
"Atlantic Sea Scallop Amendment 21 Public Hearing
Comment"*

*Written comments must be submitted
By Friday, September 4, 2020.*

[Download a copy of the Public Hearing Document HERE.](#)



New England Fishery Management Council

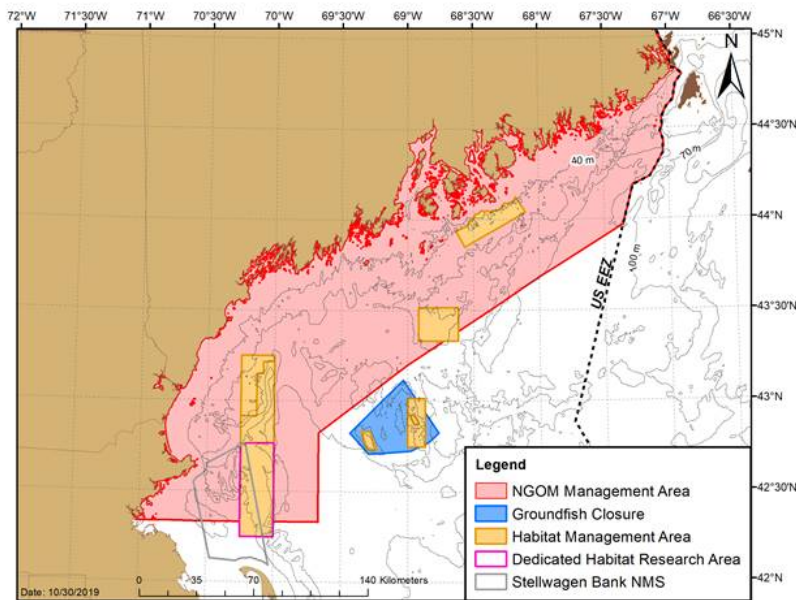
All of the Amendment 21 public hearings will be held by webinar. Take the following steps to participate successfully.

- Register for the webinar and save the email you receive confirming that you're registered.
- Shortly before the webinar is scheduled to begin, open up the email and click on "Join Webinar." By taking both steps – registering for **and** joining the webinar – you'll be able to see the meeting screen. This gives you the opportunity to click on a "raise hand" button to let the webinar organizer know you want to talk.
- People who call in by telephone without joining the webinar will be in listen-only mode.
- Take a look at the Council's ["Remote Participation Guide"](#) for step-by-step instructions.

What are the Alternatives in Amendment 21?

Amendment 21 contains two sets of measures: one for the Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area (see the pink shading in the map below); and another for the LAGC IFQ fishery.

➤ **NGOM MEASURES:** These alternatives are intended to promote conservation of the scallop resource in the area while allowing for more controlled access by all fishery components. This action also includes proposals to increase monitoring and research in the NGOM area.



– New England Fishery Management Council graphic

Get a copy of the Scallop Amendment 21 public hearing notice [HERE](#) for a quick glance at the hearing lineup.

Practice Makes Perfect!

The Council is hosting a training webinar in advance of the public hearings for both Scallop Amendment 21 and Groundfish Amendment 23. Join us on

**Monday, July 27, 2020
at 4:00 p.m.**

Practice how to mute and unmute yourself and get comfortable with being on a webinar. More information is available [HERE](#).

[Register for the Training Webinar > HERE](#)

➤ **LAGC IFQ Fishery:** These alternatives address flexibility in the LAGC IFQ fishery to reduce the impacts of changing prices and operating costs. The proposals consider adjusting the LAGC IFQ trip limit and potentially allowing one-way quota transfers from Limited Access vessels with IFQ to LAGC IFQ-only vessels.

The following page contains a table listing the Council's preferred alternatives for the 10 separate actions that are under consideration in Amendment 21.



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Scallop Amendment 21 Preferred Alternatives

ACTION	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE
<i>NGOM Catch Limits</i> (Section 4.1 of EA)	Account for the scallop biomass in the NGOM as part of the legal limits in the fishery by adding biomass from the area into calculations of the overfishing limit (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC), i.e., included in the “ABC flowchart”
<i>NGOM Allocations</i> (Section 4.2 of EA)	NGOM Set-Aside trigger of 600,000 pounds and establish a tiered sharing approach if the NGOM Allocation is above the trigger value. Tier 1: splits pounds over 600,000 up to 3 million with 25% for the NGOM Set-Aside and 75% for the NGOM APL; Tier 2: splits pounds greater than 3 million with 5% for the NGOM Set-Aside and 95% for the NGOM APL
<i>Monitoring Directed Scallop Fishing in the NGOM</i> (Section 4.3 of EA)	Monitor directed scallop fishing in the NGOM by expanding the Scallop Industry Funded Observer program, use a portion of the NGOM Allocation to off-set monitoring costs
<i>Support Scallop Research Using Scallops from the NGOM</i> (Section 4.4 of EA)	Allocate 25,000 pounds of the NGOM Allocation to increase the overall Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) to 1.275 million pounds and support RSA compensation fishing
<i>NGOM Fishing Season</i> (Section 4.5 of EA)	No Action maintains current measures for the number of landing days and sailings per day vessels are allowed in the NGOM, as well as maintaining a year-round opening of the NGOM management area unless an allocation is reached
<i>Cumulative Maximum Dredge Width Fished in the NGOM</i> (Section 4.6 of EA)	No Action maintains the provisions in the current Gulf of Maine dredge exemption program with no additional restrictions on maximum dredge width
<i>Increase LAGC IFQ Possession Limit</i> (Section 4.7 of EA)	Increase LAGC IFQ possession limits to 800 pounds for access areas and maintain the 600 pound possession limit for open area trips
<i>Increase Observer Compensation for LAGC IFQ Vessels</i> (Section 4.8 of EA)	Allow LAGC IFQ vessels to be eligible for additional compensation when carrying an observer on fishing trips longer than one day; daily compensation rate would be prorated at 12-hour increments for trips exceeding 24 hours up to 48 hours
<i>One-Way Transfer of Quota from LA with IFQ to LAGC IFQ-Only</i> (Section 4.9 of EA)	Allow temporary one-way transfers of quota from LA with IFQ to LAGC IFQ-only with no change to the pool of quota LAGC IFQ accumulation caps apply to (5% of APL)
<i>Specifications and Framework Adjustment Process</i> (Section 4.10 of EA)	The Council did not select a preferred alternative in this section; No Action would maintain the current list of measures that can be addressed through the framework process.

Highlighted in red in the table above are the relevant sections in the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) that describe the alternatives and associated analyses in detail. A copy of the document is available at [Draft Amendment 21 Environmental Assessment](#).

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT THE COUNCIL’S PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES: The Council has identified “preferred alternatives” for most of the measures under consideration. A preferred alternative signals the Council’s favored approach to a particular measure in order to focus public comment. **However, the Council has not made any final decisions on Amendment 21.** The Council will consider all oral comments received during the public hearing webinars and all written comments received prior to the end of the public comment period, which closes on September 4, 2020. After considering all of the comments, the Council will take final on this amendment during its September 29 – October 1, 2020 meeting.



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Scallop Amendment 21 – Get Ready for the Public Hearings

Here's a recap of what you need to know to prepare for and participate in the public hearings for Scallop Amendment 21.

- Join the [public training webinar](#) on July 27 and practice muting and unmuting your microphone.
- Take a look at the [public hearing notice](#).
- Get a copy of the [Public Hearing Document](#).
- Keep tabs on the [Amendment 21 webpage](#). A narrated video of the public hearing presentation will be posted there shortly, along with a downloadable copy of the presentation and appendices.
- Read the [Draft Amendment 21 Environmental Assessment](#).
- Take part in one of the [four public hearing webinars](#) scheduled for August 5, August 12, August 27, and September 2.
- Submit written comments (see page 1 for mail and email addresses).

Goals and Objectives

Amendment 21 would maintain the goals of the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan, but this action includes pertinent new objectives.

For the NGOM area, the objectives are to: (1) support a growing directed scallop fishery in federal waters of the NGOM area; (2) allow for orderly access to the scallop resource in the area by the LAGC and LA components of the fishery; and (3) establish mechanisms to set allowable catches and accurately monitor catch and bycatch from the area.

For the LAGC IFQ portion of the amendment, the objectives are to: (1) improve overall economic performance of the LAGC IFQ component of the fishery; and (2) allow for continued participation in the General Category fishery at varying levels.

At a Glance – the 10 Actions to Comment On

Northern
Gulf of Maine
Management
Area



1. Catch Accounting
2. Allocations
3. Monitoring
4. Supporting Research
5. Fishing Season
6. Gear

LAGC IFQ
Measures



7. IFQ Trip Limits
8. Observer Compensation
9. Transfer of IFQ

General



10. Following Actions

Questions?

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