

SSC Review of OFL/ABC for Framework 29

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**SSC Meeting
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New England
Fishery Management Council

Review of Framework 29

Purpose and Need re: Specifications

- The purpose of this action is to prevent overfishing and improve yield-per-recruit from the fishery.
- The need for this action is to set specifications to adjust the day-at-sea (DAS) allocations, general category fishery allocations and area rotation schedule for 2018 and 2019 (default)
- Three additional management measures under consideration:
 - Northern Gulf of Maine management measures
 - Development and modification of flatfish accountability measures
 - Modifying AA boundaries to be consistent with OHA2



Section 4.0 – Management Alternatives

OFL and ABC – PDT will present the same control rules developed in A15 and used for FW21-28, with updated survey and fishery data

- OFL - equivalent to the catch associated with F_{msy} (0.48)
- ABC control rule – catch set at 25% probability of exceeding OFL ($F=0.38$). Risk is evaluated in terms the probability of overfishing compared to the fraction loss of yield.

The fishery has not exceeded ABC/ACL since A15

Stock status: Not overfished and overfishing not occurring

2017 – FW28
13 month
values

OFL = F of 0.48 = 75,485 mt

ABC
(F of 0.38 = 61,741 mt)
(ABC = F with 25% chance of exceeding OFL
including discards)

Estimate of **discards**
(15,004)

ABC after discards removed (ACL)
(46,737 mt)

**LAGC
Incidental**
(23 mt)

ACL after set-asides removed
(45,680 mt)

Set-asides
(1% of ACL for
observer and 567 mt
for research)

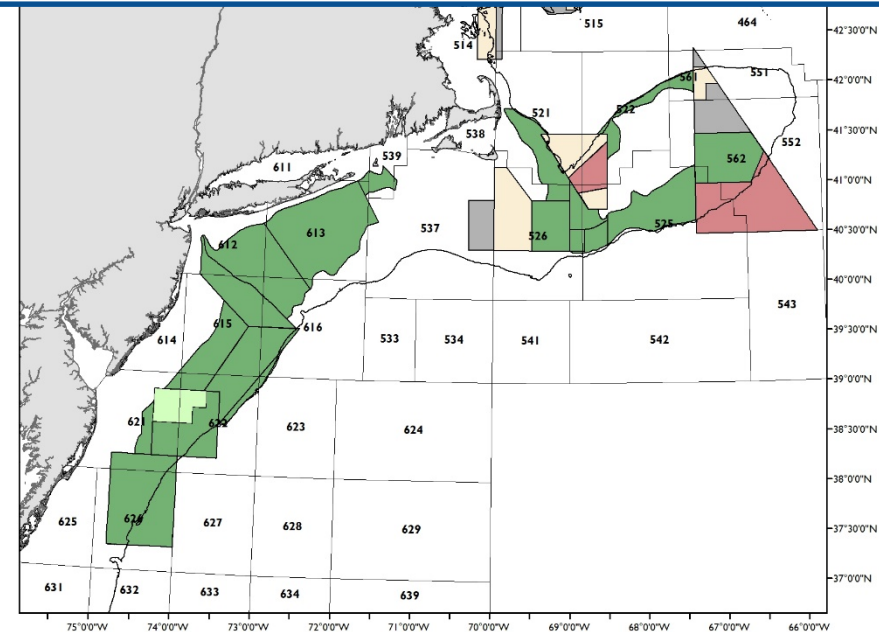
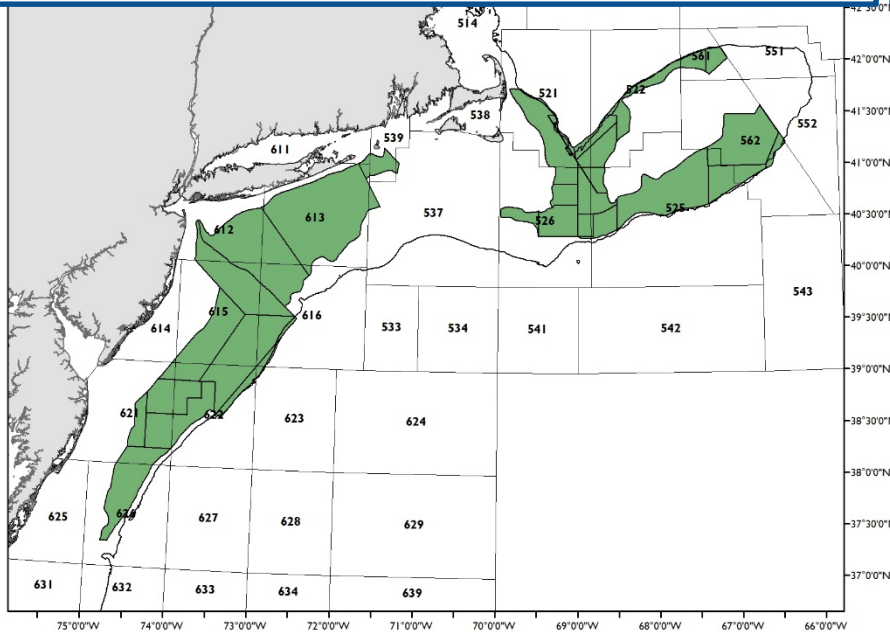
LA sub-ACL (94.5%)
(43,167 mt)

LAGC IFQ sub-ACL (5.5%)
(2,512 mt)

LA sub-ACT – overall limit of F= 0.34
(38,623 mt)

**FY 2017 ACL
(F=0.38)
~100 million lbs**

**“Spatial Management”
FY 2017 Proj. Landings
46.5 - 52 million lbs
(46.5% - 52% of ACL)**



4.2 Fishery Specifications

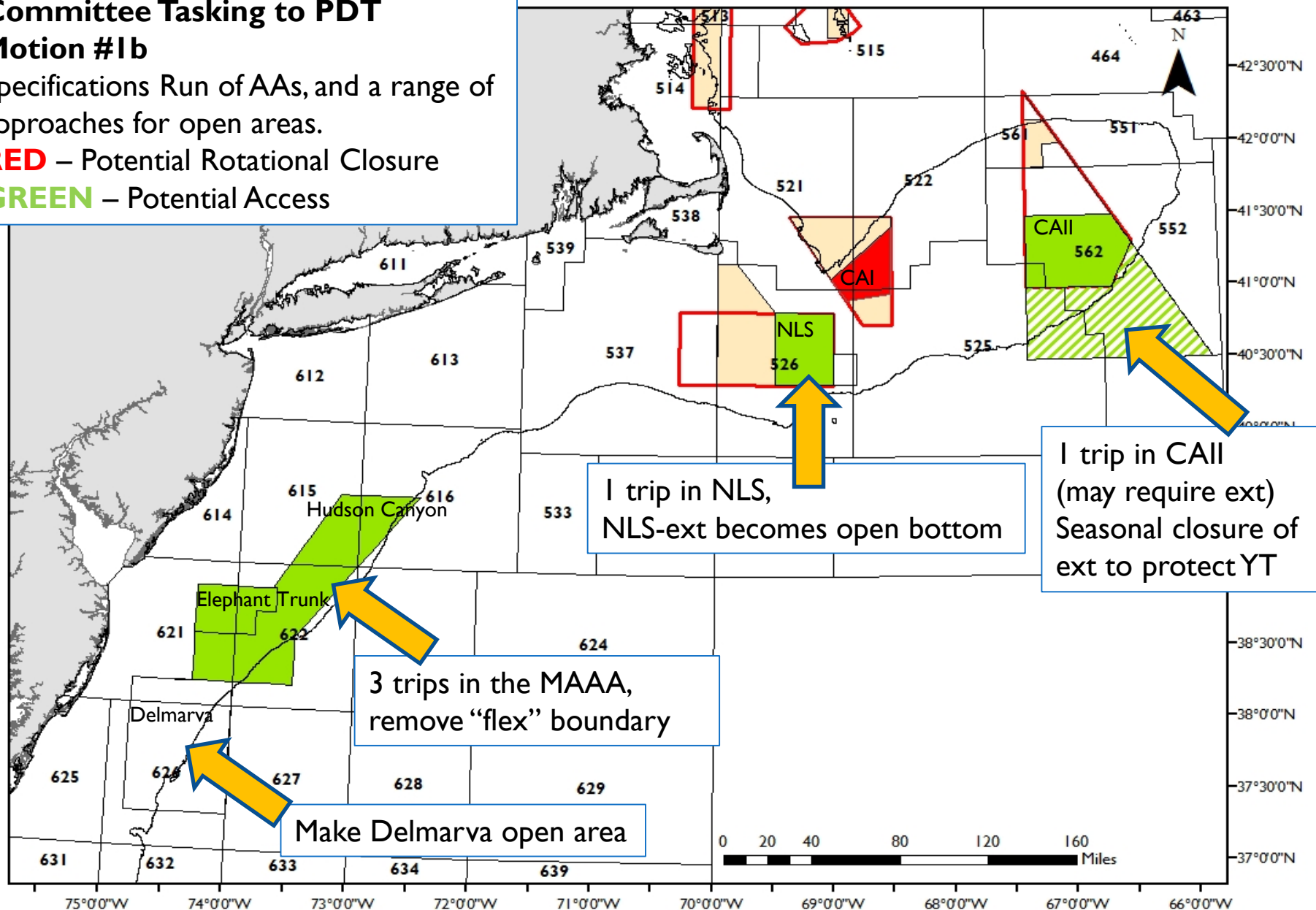
- No Action – 21.75 DAS, 1 access area trip in Mid-Atlantic Access Area, ~1.7 mil lbs for LAGC IFQ.
- Considering access in several rotational areas, including:
 - Closed Area II South, Nantucket Lightship, Mid-Atlantic Access Area
- Additional measures to protect reduce flatfish impacts under consideration:
 - Seasonal closure of Closed Area II Extension

Committee Tasking to PDT Motion #1b

Specifications Run of AAs, and a range of approaches for open areas.

RED – Potential Rotational Closure

GREEN – Potential Access



5 total AA trips, Set DAS using $F=0.48$, $F=0.4$

Other Management Alternatives in FW29

- **Northern Gulf of Maine Management Measures**
 - Developing 2018/2019 TACs based on surveys, and projections
 - Measures to cap overall removals from NGOM, and distribute between LA and LAGC.
 - Modify how LA component operates in this area.
- **Flatfish Accountability Measures**
 - Northern Windowpane (new)
 - Georges Bank and SNE/MA yellowtail flounder (modify)
- **Measures to modify access areas consistent with OHA2**

SSC Action on FW29

- Consider changes to meat weight and growth parameters (TORs 2a, 2b, 3a, and SSC rec. #1 from 2016), other changes in benchmark formulation from SARC 59
- Recommend OFL and ABC for 2017 and 2018 (default) and present SSC report at November 2016 Council meeting



PDT's 2018/2019 OFL and ABC Recommendations

- Surveys have tracked high densities of scallops for several years in Nantucket Lightship and Elephant Trunk.
- The PDT recommendations around growth and meat weight result in more conservative estimates of total and exploitable biomass.
- Biomass estimates increased from 2016 to 2017.
- Short term recommendations. Benchmark scheduled for spring of 2018 – opportunity to address density and growth issues, among other things.