

RSA Program Review Update
NEFMC Meeting
Newport
December 4-6, 2018



New England
Fishery Management Council

RSA Review Panel

Review Panel:

Dr. Michael Sissenwine, Chair (NEFMC)

Ms. Deirdre Boelke (NEFMC)

Mr. Ryan Silva (GARFO)

Ms. Susan Olsen (GARFO)

Ms. Cheryl Corbett (NEFSC)

Dr. Dan Hennan (NEFSC)

Dr. Brandon Muffley

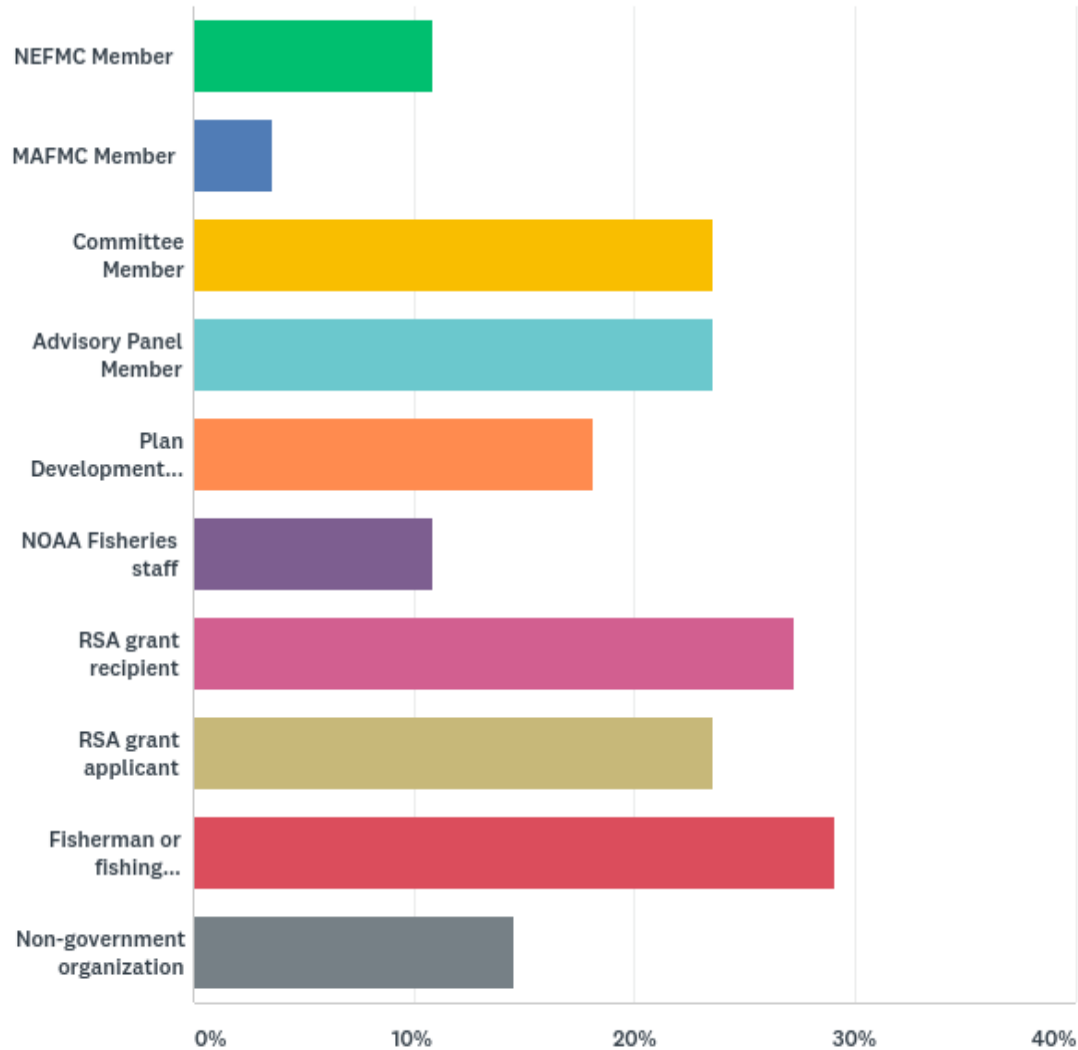
(MAFMC, Representative/Observer)

RSA Program Review Timeline

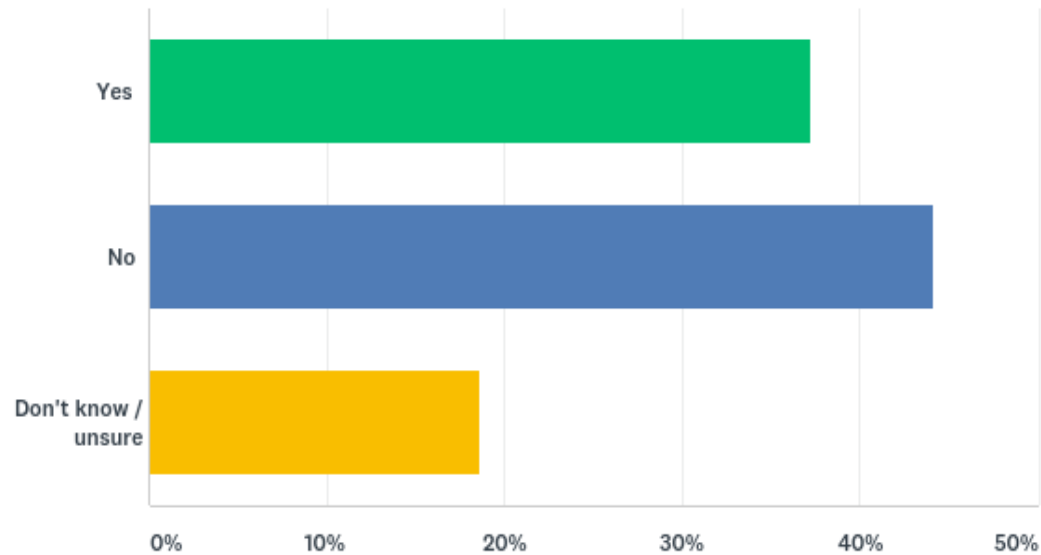
Milestones	Target Dates
NEFMC adopts review priority	September 2017
ExComm issues Guidance	February 2018
Develop work plan and outline	March-April
Input from Committees	May-June
Report Drafting (except recommendations)	June-December
On Line Survey	August-September
Interviews	October-November
Drafting of findings and recommendations	November 28-29
Report drafting, consultations (e.g., legal)	December-January
Final report	Jan 2019

55 Responses to On Line Survey

Q1 What is your association with NEFMC and/or the RSA programs? Check all that apply



Q20 Do you have any concerns related to conflicts of interest in technical reviews or management reviews?



Interviews: 17 RSA Participants and Stakeholders

Trigger Questions for Interviews

- **Role of RSA**
- **RSA Priorities**
- **Solicitation of Proposals**
- **Proposal Review Process**
- **Implications of projects being funded with “fish”**
- **Project oversight**
- **Permitting including Exempted Fishing Permits**
- **Outcomes or Application of RSA results**
- **Size of RSA programs**
- **Overall performance**

Preliminary Findings:

Hot off the Press- November 28-29 Workshop

- *F1. RSA highly successful, especially the Scallops.*
- *F2. However, there are concerns about some aspects of the Programs.*
- *F3. The role of RSA is unspecified: what is, or is not, appropriate for support by RSA?*
- *F4. Sea scallop surveys lack an overall design- they are very useful, but we can do better.*
- *F5. There is substantial administrative workload.*
- *F6. RSA may no longer be viable for some species, but may be viable for other species in the future.*

Preliminary Recommendations (i.e., Suggestions): Hot off the Press

- *R1. Several ideas for improving RSA, but be careful not to “screw up a good thing”*
- *R2. Clarify the Role of RSA: Adopt a Mission Statement for RSA.*
- *R3. Consider a series of options for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of scallop surveys.*
- *R4. Consider creating an Omnibus FMP for RSA that would be available for all fisheries.*

R3. Options for Improving Scallop Surveys

- 1. Improvements without substantially modifying the current approach.*
- 2. Scallop Survey Advisory Panel to design sea survey approach.*
- 3. Using a cooperative agreement to prepare a statistically rigorous (i.e., model based) design.*
- 4. Use a relatively long term cooperative agreement to design and implement Sea Scallop Surveys.*
- 5. Number 4 for all RSA.*

There is no consensus on which of 1-5 is preferred.

Next steps

- **Review Panel Webex(s) to review progress**
- **Seek legal advice if appropriate.**
- **Complete report.**
- **Report to the January 2019 Council Meeting**
- **Council review of report and decision if and how to change RSA**