

# **RSA Share Day**

## **Scallop Framework 29**

**Jonathon Peros**

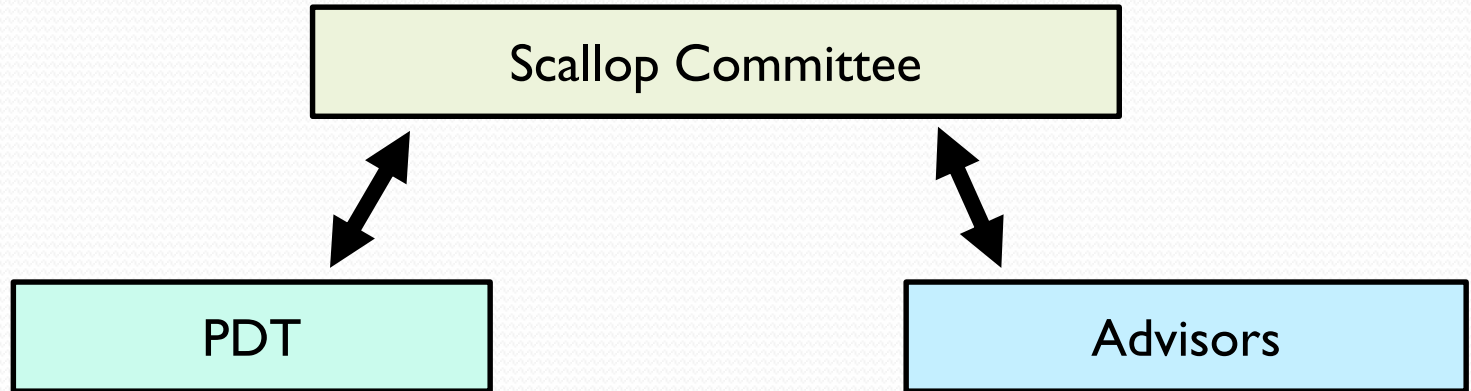
**Scallop Plan Coordinator**

**Joint Scallop PDT and AP Meeting**  
**May 4, 2017**



New England  
Fishery Management Council

# Today's Meeting, FW29, RSA



- No motions or tasking today
- Main focus: update group on Scallop RSA and discuss priorities for 2018/2019
- Opportunity to have discussions on FW issues ahead of meetings later this month (PDT - May 22, AP - May 31, Committee - June 1)

# Framework 29

- FW29 initiated at April Council Meeting
- Likely range of alternatives:
  - Specifications
  - Northern Gulf of Maine TAC, management measures
  - Flatfish Accountability Measures
  - OHA2 – Modify Closed Area I Access Area boundary
- **Simple → Increased likelihood FW in place for April 1.**
- Input in June, range of alternatives developed for Sept.



# Flatfish AMs

- Committee tasking motion:
  - Focus on the gear modifications (5-row apron), can consider seasonal closures
  - Consider options for using multi-year average when determining the triggering of an AM
- Focus on three stocks:
  - Georges Bank yellowtail
  - SNE/MA yellowtail
  - Northern windowpane (regulatory requirement)

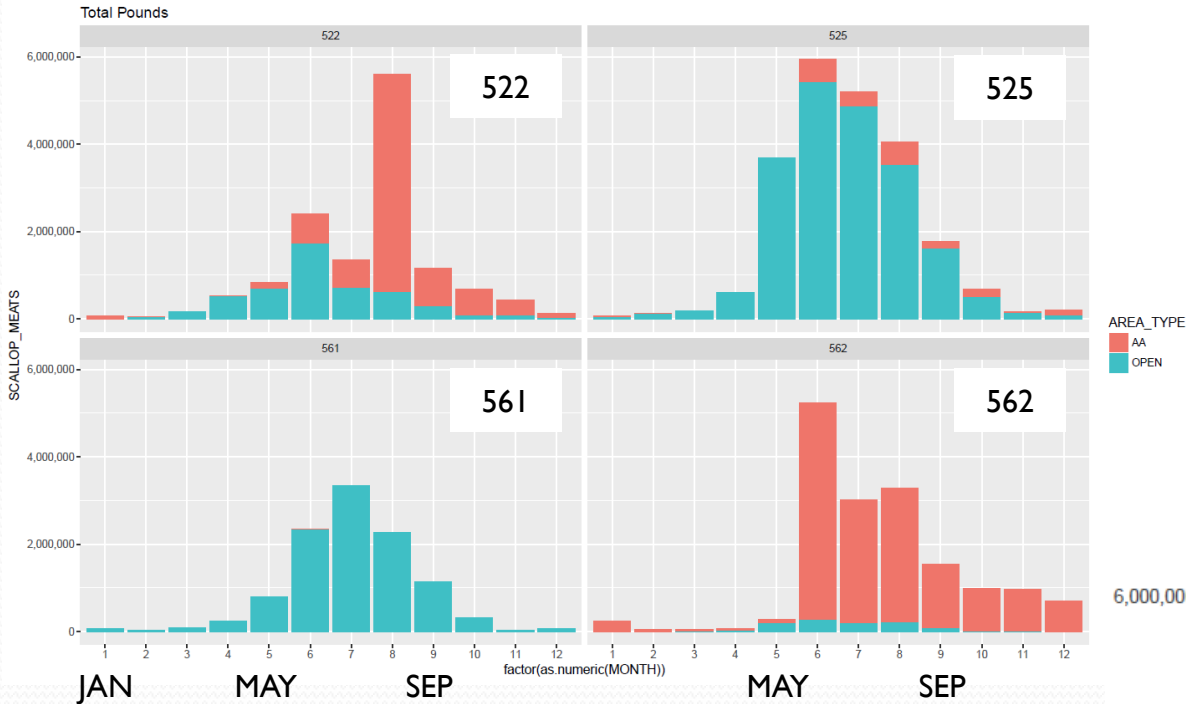


# PDT Approaches

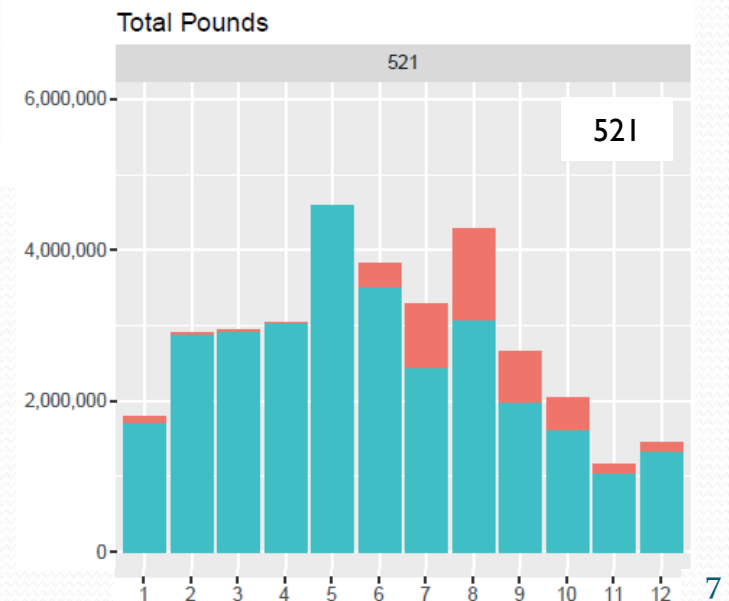
- So far: Focus has been on GB stocks (NWP & YT)
- Reviewed flatfish bycatch data from observer records and CFF's seasonal bycatch survey on GB.
- Reviewed scallop landings from GB and Channel by year and month.
- PDT plans to use observer data to examine the seasonal catch of Northern Windowpane and yellowtail as a function of depth.
- Early in process – any input from group on areas/time for GRA, particularly on GB?

# Monthly Scallop Landings by SRA

- Data: Dealer landings matched with VTR for FY 2008 – FY 2017



- Scallop landings highest on Georges Bank: May – Sept.
- Landings from Channel higher than GB from Oct. – April.



# Northern Gulf of Maine

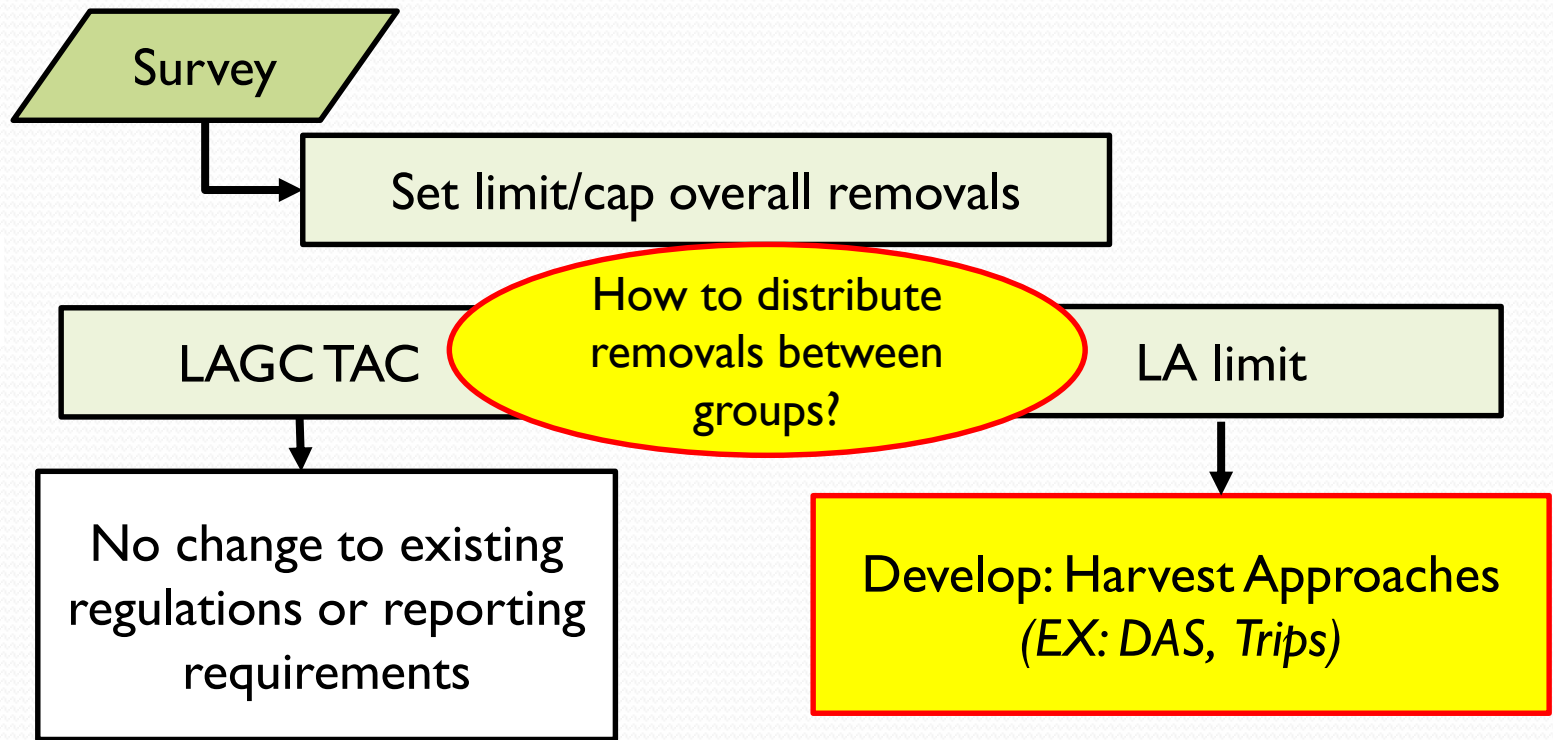
- Following slides are informational only – no final decisions today
- Looking for input for alternative development at upcoming AP and Committee meetings (May 31, June 1)
- Simple → Increased likelihood FW in place for April 1.



# Council's NGOM Problem Statement

Problem: Unknown biomass and recent high landings

Tools  
and  
Process:

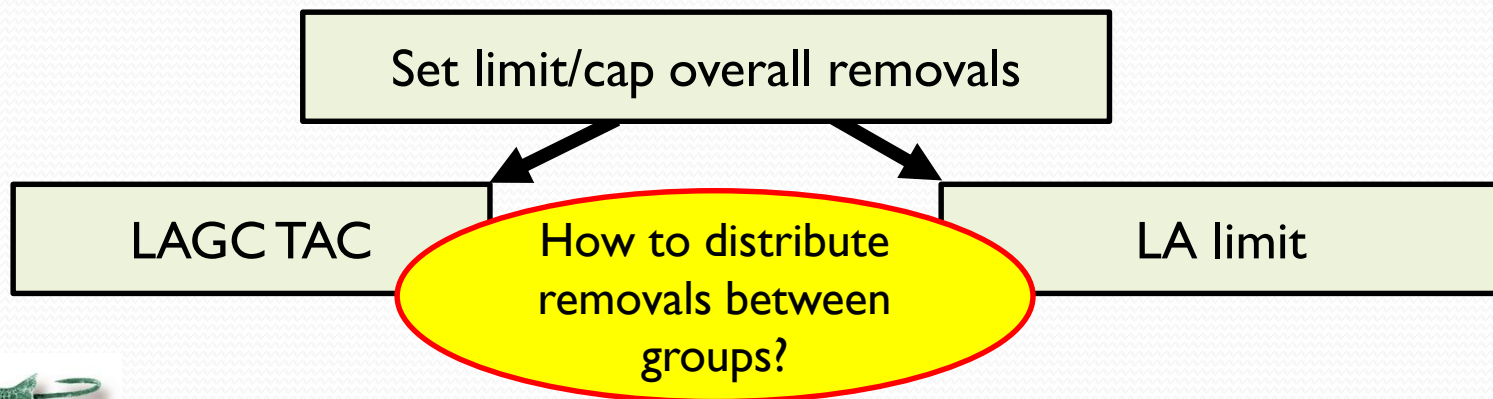


Goal: Understand total removals + improve management



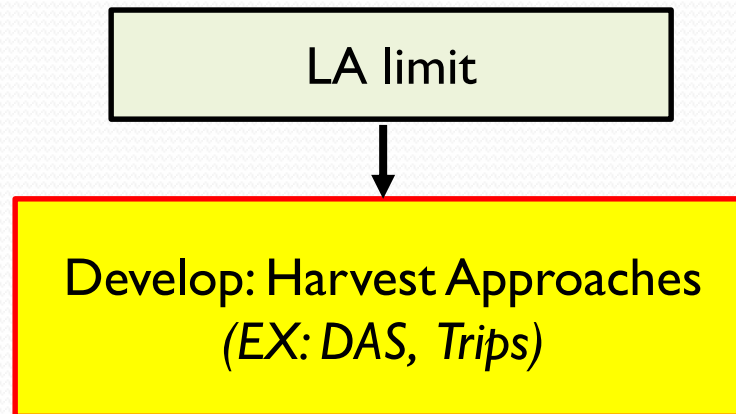
# NGOM TAC Consideration #1:

- I. How to distribute removals between groups?
- Existing approaches used in Scallop FMP:
    - Historic landings (EX: NGOM after program inception)
    - Percentage split between fishery components (EX: All I)



# NGOM TAC Consideration #2:

2. Develop harvest approach for LA component.
  - Council motion calls for status quo regs for LAGC.
  - Overall TAC may inform what approaches are feasible.
- Existing approaches used in Scallop FMP:
  - DAS
  - Trips



# NGOM TAC Timeline

- April – Council letter recommending a survey
- May – Determine if area will be surveyed in 2017
- August – Results of any 2017 survey efforts
- Fall, with Final Action in December: Council develop range of alternatives for:
  1. Overall TAC
  2. Distribution of TAC between fishery components
    1. Input from AP/CTE in May/June to inform range of measures that will be considered in September
  3. LA harvest approaches



# Scallop RSA Program and Recent Priorities

**Jonathon Peros**

**Scallop Plan Coordinator**

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# Background

- Scallop RSA program began in 1999
- Evolved over time but overall 1.25 million pounds set-aside each year to fund research projects (over \$10mil)
- About 10-15 projects are funded annually
- At least biennially the Council recommends the research priorities that are used in the funding announcement
- **Goal of Meeting Today**
  1. Review preliminary results from RSA projects
  2. Discuss future research priority recommendations



# Meeting Materials

- Document #2 – Summary of RSA awards by year  
*(Including subject, Principle Investigator (PI), research organization, funding amount, and whether the Council has used results – includes summary tables and figures at the end)*
- Document #3 – 2017 RSA Announcement
- Document #4 – RSA Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) Announcement from 2017/2018
- Document #5 – 2017/2018 RSA Priorities
- Document #6 – 2017 Sea Scallop Priorities



# Scallop RSA Process – Explained in FFO (#4)

- Process coordinated by NEFSC and NEFMC
- No federal funds – awards in pounds of scallop – allocated through competitive grants process
- Council identifies research priorities every 1-2 years – usually June meeting for summer announcement
- Applications submitted through internet based system
- NMFS convenes a management review panel meeting with Council members and technical experts to discuss relevance of each project. Reviewers submit individual comments; no consensus recommendations are made.



# Scallop RSA - Technical Review Process

- Technical Review Process: each proposal reviewed by three subject matter experts that score technical merits (importance/relevance, technical merit, qualifications, costs, outreach)
- Separate technical panel convened to review survey proposals
  - Technical experts review all survey proposals (NMFS and non-federal scientists)
  - Two meetings: one about process and review of survey methods peer review and a second to discuss each proposal
- No consensus – individual comments are submitted by each reviewer





# Scallop RSA Process (cont.)

- Successful applicants may be asked to refine/modify project to better fit priorities/management needs.
- Priority given to higher technically ranked proposals, although additional factors such as management relevance, project needs, and cost effectiveness may be considered.
- Common scallop price determined by NMFS based on best and most recent data to determine set aside allocation.
  - \$12 for 2017/2018. Recent auction prices below this value.
- Awards in pounds, can be harvested from any area open to fishery unless FMP prohibits it.
  - FW28 limits where RSA lbs can be fished.



# Scallop RSA Process (cont.)

- Recipients required to submit financial reports as well as technical performance or progress reports every six months.
- Final reports due no later than 90 days after award expires, but researchers can apply for extensions for both progress and final reports.
- Data collected under all NOAA grants/cooperative agreements must be made visible, accessible, and independently understandable.



# Awards: 2010 - 2017

- ~\$97 million awarded over 8 year period
  - (Average scallop price) x (set-aside lbs) = Total funding
  - Total funding includes *compensation fishing* and *research*

Priority	Number of Projects		Funding	
Survey	47	(42%)	\$36,584,185	(38%)
Bycatch	28	(25%)	\$29,182,167	(30%)
Turtle	9	(8%)	\$7,226,437	(7%)
Non-harvest mortality	8	(7%)	\$6,643,424	(7%)
Ecosystem/ Habitat	7	(6%)	\$6,412,691	(7%)
Biology	6	(5%)	\$4,974,064	(5%)
Meat Quality	5	(4%)	\$2,965,334	(3%)
LPUE	1	(1%)	\$270,199	(>1%)
Survey/Habitat	1	(1%)	\$2,665,944	(3%)
Grand Total	112		\$96,924,445	

# Recipients: 2010 - 2017

- 12 groups received funding through 112 successful proposals
- Table shows groups that have had at least 3 projects funded
  - Funding includes compensation fishing and research

Group	Projects Funded	Count of Primary Project Category	Funding	
Coonamessett Farm	33	29%	\$33,847,236	(35%)
SMAST	29	26%	\$21,037,762	(22%)
VIMS	26	23%	\$19,527,898	(20%)
Arnie's Fisheries	9	8%	\$8,811,958	(9%)
U of Delaware	3	3%	\$3,883,335	(4%)
Maine DMR	3	3%	\$1,520,173	(2%)
Northeastern University	3	3%	\$2,828,190	3%
Grand Total	112	100.00%	\$96,924,445	100.00%

# Two year projects & allocated lbs

- Several projects funded for 2 years in 2016 and 2017.

Award years	2016 lbs	2017 lbs	2018 lbs	Total lbs
2016/2017	1,250,000	92,118	-	1,342,118
2017/2018	-	1,157,882	118,636	1,276,518

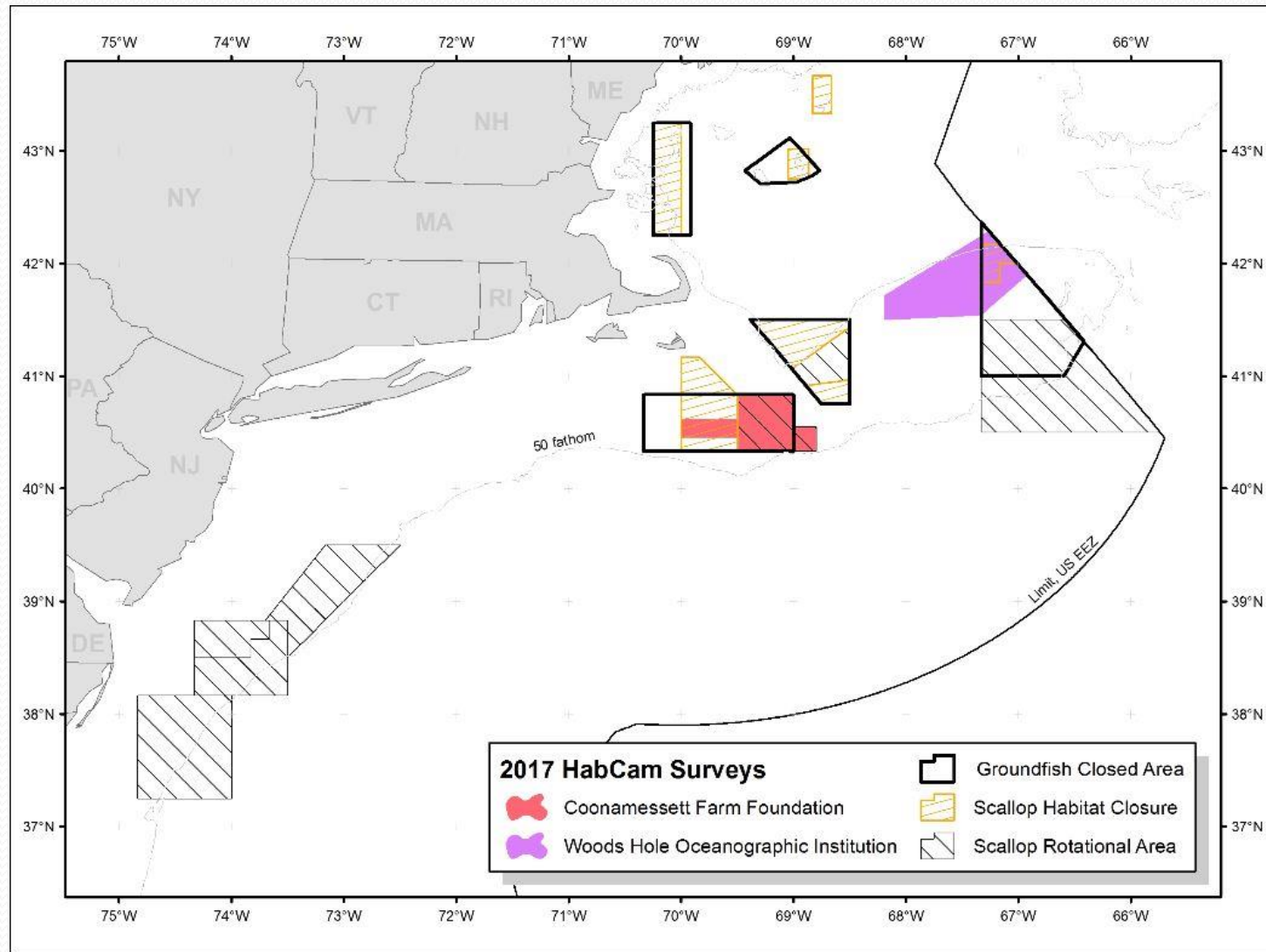
# 2017/2018 RSA Awards

- RSA Awards Announced on March 17, 2017
- 17 projects recommended for funding, over 30 researchers from 15 organizations (Doc. 3)
  - Surveys (dredge, drop camera, HabCam)
- 1.25+ mil. lb set-aside expected to generate more than \$15 million dollars - \$3.8 to fund research, \$11.5 in compensation fishing
- 3 projects funded for 2017/2018, 1 for 2018 only
- Multiple survey projects funded in 2016/2017 that will be on the water this year

# 2017/2018 Awards

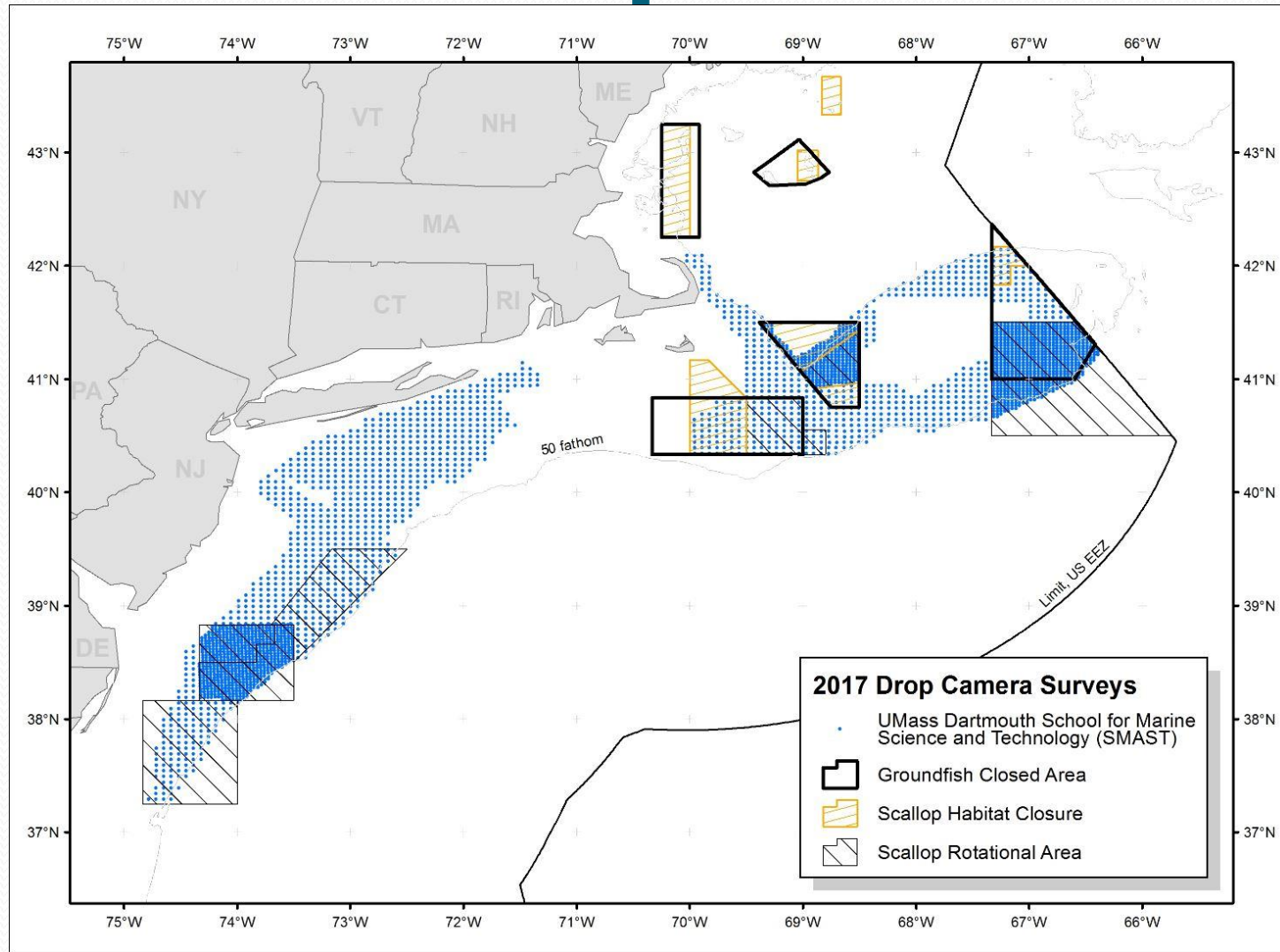
<b>RSA Priority</b>	<b>Priority Rank</b>	<b>Projects Funded</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Survey	Highest	7	\$4,619,425
Bycatch	High	5	\$5,518,181
Non-harvest mortality	Medium	1	\$2,226,996
Environmental	Other	1	\$1,356,260
Turtles	Medium	1	\$899,000
Meat Quality	High	1	\$428,160
LPUE	Other	1	\$270,199

# 2017 RSA HabCam Surveys

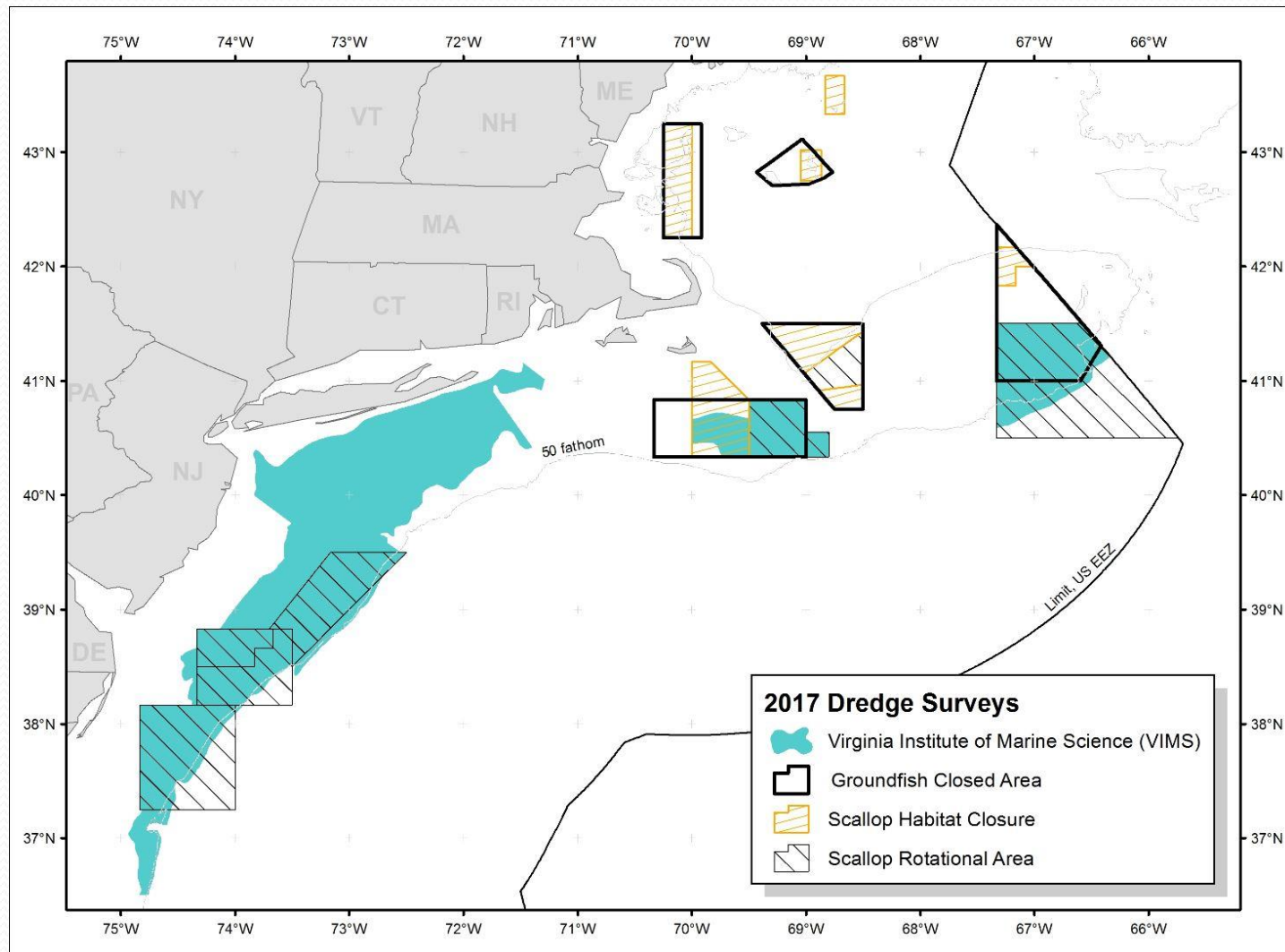




# 2017 RSA Drop Cam Surveys



# 2017 RSA Dredge Surveys



# Current Scallop RSA research priorities (2017/2018)

- **Highest** – Surveys: intensive for access areas, intensive for candidate access areas, broad resource wide (equal importance)
- **High** – Bycatch, scallop meat quality (equal importance)
- **Medium** – non-harvest mortality, turtles, spat and seeding projects (in order of importance)
- **Other** – habitat characterizations, environmental stressors/biology projects, LPUE, other surveys (equal importance)

# PDT/AP Agenda Item

- Review RSA Priorities from last year
- Consider status of current research
- Make recommendations for Scallop Committee to consider on June 1, 2017
  - PDT will meet on May 18<sup>th</sup> (Conference Call)
  - AP will continue today's conversation on May 31<sup>st</sup>
- **Discuss if any priorities should be removed, added, clarified, and/or should the priority order change?**



# RSA Presentations

