

# Scallop RSA Priorities

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Scallop PDT Chair**

**Joint Scallop PDT and AP Meeting  
May 13, 2015**



New England  
Fishery Management Council

# 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 and general findings from NEFSC Sea Scallop Survey Methods Peer Review
  2. Discuss future research priority recommendations



# Meeting Materials

- Document #1 – Table with 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 #2 – 2015 RSA Announcement
- Document #3 – RSA Federal Funding Announcement from 2014
- Document #3b – NEFMC Scallop RSA Program Policy
- Document #4 – Research recommendations from SARCS59



# Scallop RSA Process – Explained in FFO and NEFMC SOPPs (#3 and #3b)

- 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
- Current review process: each proposal reviewed by three subject matter experts that score technical merits (importance/relevance, technical merit, qualifications, costs, outreach) (page 15 of FFO).
- 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 (page 16 of FFO).



# 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 (page 7 and 16 of FFO).
- Common scallop price determined by NMFS based on best and most recent data to determine set aside allocation (page 7 of FFO).
- Awards in pounds, can be harvested from any area open to fishery unless FMP prohibits it (page 7 of FFO).



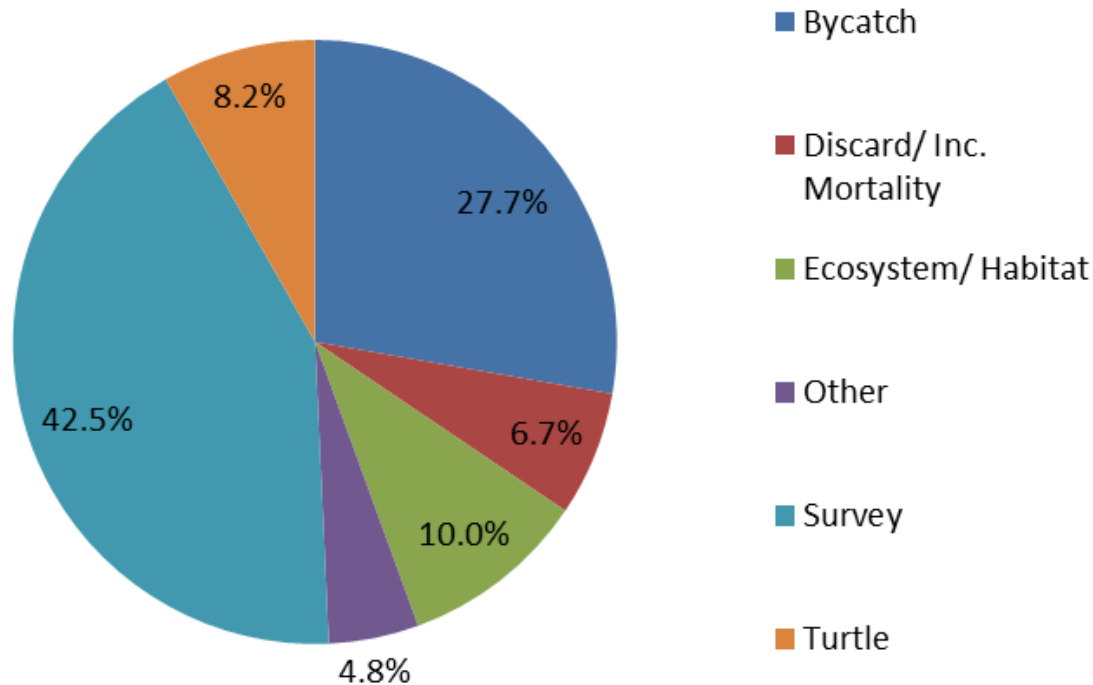
# Scallop RSA Process (cont.)

- Recipients required to submit financial reports as well as technical performance or progress reports every six months (page 19 of FFO).
- Final reports due no later than 90 days after award expires, but researchers can apply for extensions for both progress and final reports (page 19 of FFO).
- Data collected under all NOAA grants/cooperative agreements must be made visible, accessible, and independently understandable (page 21 of FFO).



# Research Topics by Allocated Dollars (2010-2015)

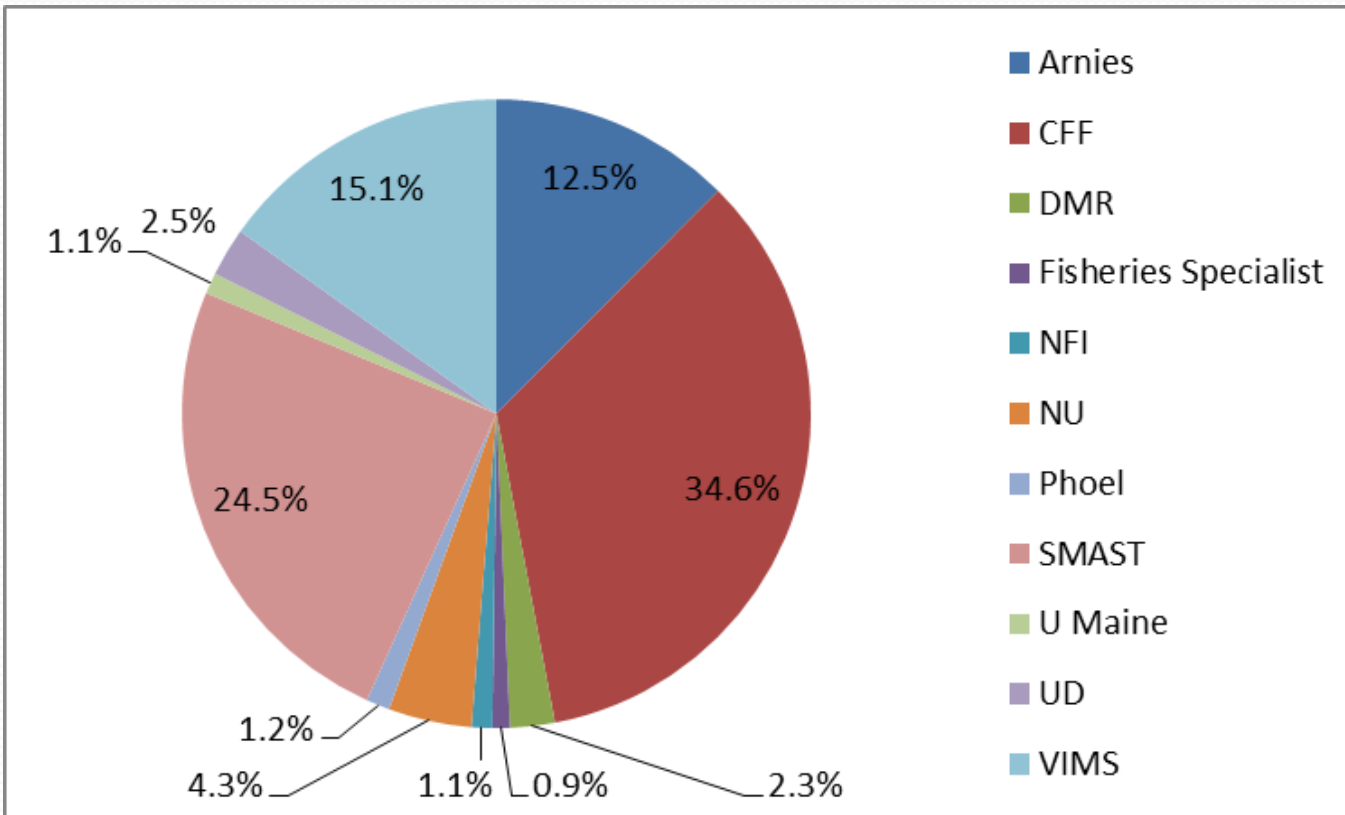
Research Priority	Grand Total
Bycatch	27.7%
Discard/ Inc. Mortality	6.7%
Ecosystem/ Habitat	10.0%
Other	4.8%
Survey	42.5%
Turtle	8.2%
Grand Total	100.0%



Document #1  
Pages 7-9

# Scallop RSA Recipients by Allocated Dollars (2010-2015)

Primary Organization	2010-2015
Arnies	12.5%
CFF	34.6%
DMR	2.3%
Fisheries Specialist	0.9%
NFI	1.1%
NU	4.3%
Phoel	1.2%
SMAST	24.5%
U Maine	1.1%
UD	2.5%
VIMS	15.1%
Grand Total	100.0%



Document #1  
Pages 10-11



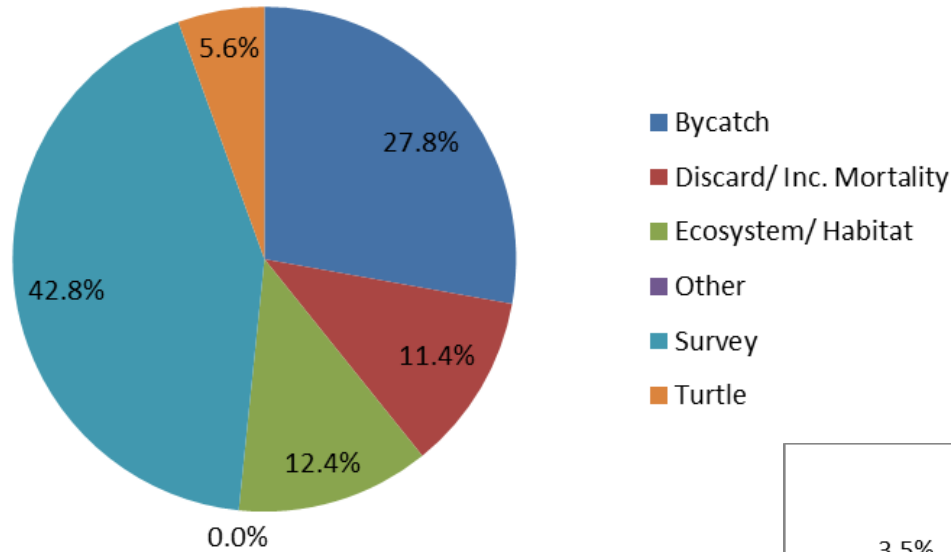
# 2015 Awards

- Page 1 in Document #1 and Document #2
- Six projects received 2 year funding from 2014 awards (2015a) – will continue in 2015
- Ten additional projects awarded with remaining set aside:
  - 4 survey, 4 bycatch, 1 turtle, and 1 ecosystem/habitat
- Several presentations today with preliminary results – most not until 2016
- 10 presentations today – 2 not RSA funded

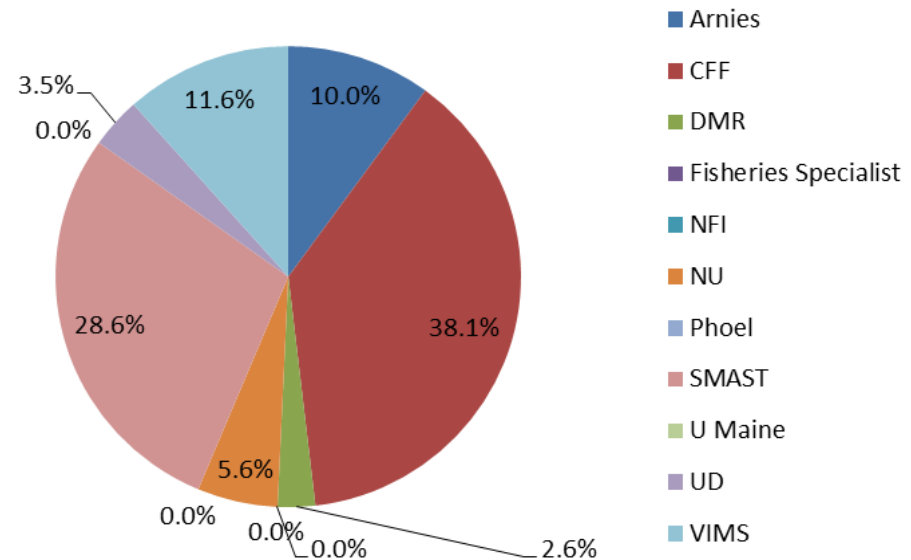


# 2015 Awards – Announced May 4, 2015

## By Research Topic



## By Research Organization



# Where are we with current research priorities?

## Document #3 – RSA FFO from 2014

- **Highest priority**
  - Survey related research - in priority order: intensive for access areas, intensive for candidate access areas, broad resource wide
  - Bycatch
  - Scallop and area management research
- **Medium** – not in priority order (turtle, product quality, habitat, seasonal monitoring of large recruitment events)
- **Other** – not in priority order (environmental stressor affects, SARC priorities, surveys in low sampled areas, real time monitoring)
- One or two year announcement? 1 or 2 years for surveys?

# PDT/AP Agenda Item

- Review RSA Priorities from last year
- Consider status of current research
- Consider recent SARC priorities (Doc #4)
- Consider findings of survey methods review
- Make recommendations for Scallop Cmte to consider on May 28, 2015

