

October Scallop Meetings

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Boston, MA
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New England
Fishery Management Council



Specification Discussion

3 presentations:

- 2017 Fishery Information
- OHA2, and FW29 specification considerations
- SAMS model runs and outputs – Dr. Dvora Hart

Several anticipated outcomes from this meeting:

- See memo from Committee Chair Vincent Balzano
- Also on first page of Doc.2a
- Focus on available runs first, then OHA2, then other measures

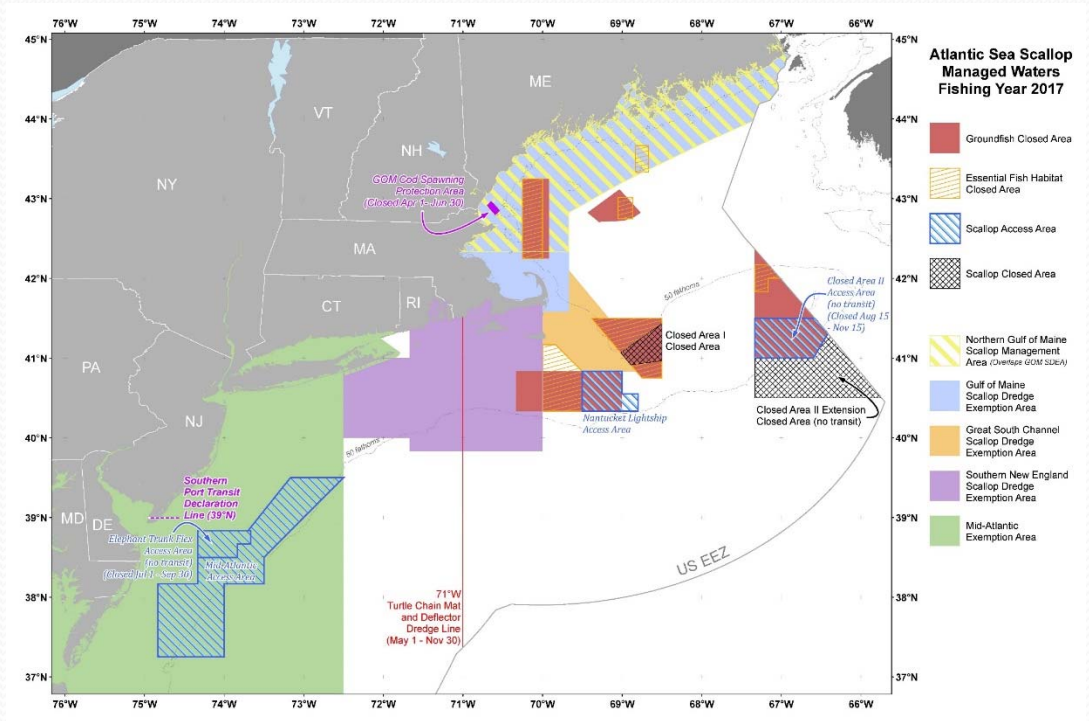
Specification Tasking

- Committee tasking for two spatial management configurations – **Modified to reflect available options**
 - **Summary of Runs in Doc.2a**
- Committee tasking to develop an alternative that would allocate a trip to fish on the slow growing animals in NLS-S.
- Committee tasking to evaluate DAS harvest that would allow for constant open bottom harvest for four years.



Specifications

- FY2018 and Default measures for FY2019
- FY starts on April 1
- ABC/ACLs
- Access area allocations
- General Category IFQ
- LA DAS allocations
- TAC for NGOM
- Set-asides



OHA2 and Scallop Timelines

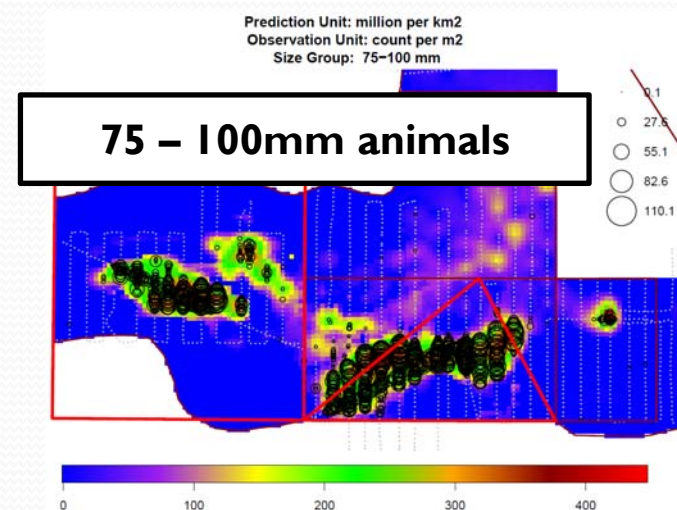
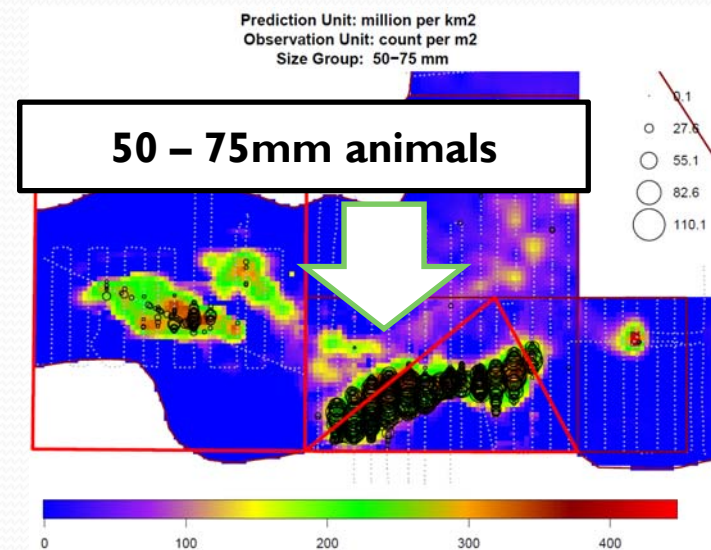
- NOAA decision on OHA2 expected on January 4, 2018
 - **Less certain: final rule and effective date**
- The Council will likely take final action on FW29 before a decision is made on OHA2.
 - Working with NMFS on ways to facilitate access in 2018 FY
 - At most, there could be 4 scenarios:
 - NO OHA2 areas → Specs based on what is currently available
 - NLS-West only → Only the NLS-NA opens
 - CAI only → Only CAI-NA opens
 - Both NLS-West and CAI Open
- Short term: Identify preferred measures and develop options for all 4 scenarios.

RSA Compensation Fishing

- Doc. 2b, Section 4.4, Additional measures to Reduce Fishery Impacts
 - In FW28, the Council recommended restricting RSA compensation fishing in 4 areas:
 - NGOM, CAI (yellowtail), NLS, ET-Flex
 - PDT Input: Same rationale used in FW28 still applies
- Looking for input on how to structure RSA compensation fishing in FW29. Areas to restrict comp fishing in 2018?
 - If CAI or NLS-west opens, should RSA comp fishing be restricted from either of these areas?
 - Would need a motion to develop measures to reduce fishery impacts in FW29.

AA trip to target slow growing scallops

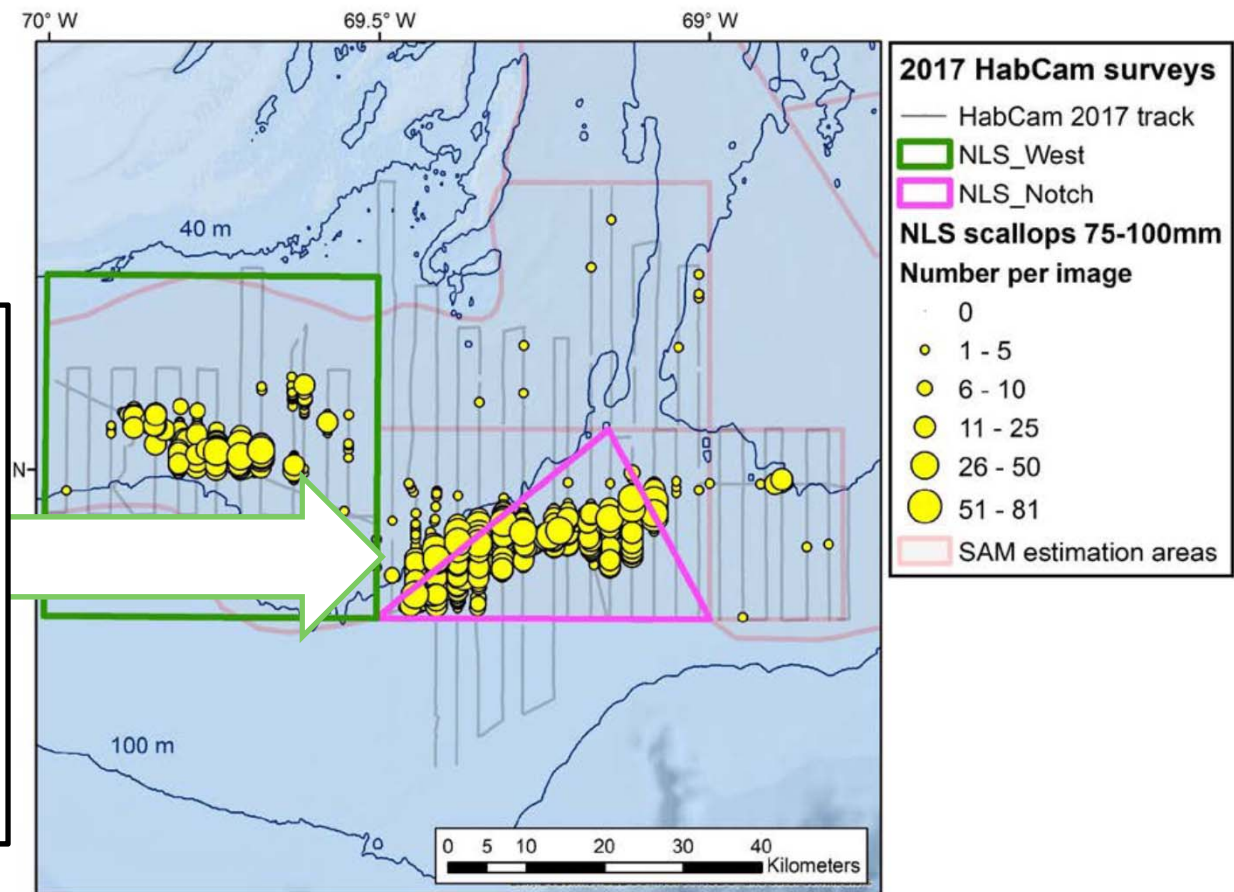
- Committee Motion in Sept.
- Doc. 2b, Section 4.11
- PDT seeking additional clarification on the rationale of this trip.
- Potential Approach:
 - Treat as AA trip, increase projected landings
 - LAGC IFQ receives allocation and trips to the area, but quota can be fished anywhere.



Potential Creation of Nantucket Lightship – ‘Notch’ AA

**Potential
NLS-Notch AA**

**PDT discussed
smaller
footprint**



CAI Carryover Pounds

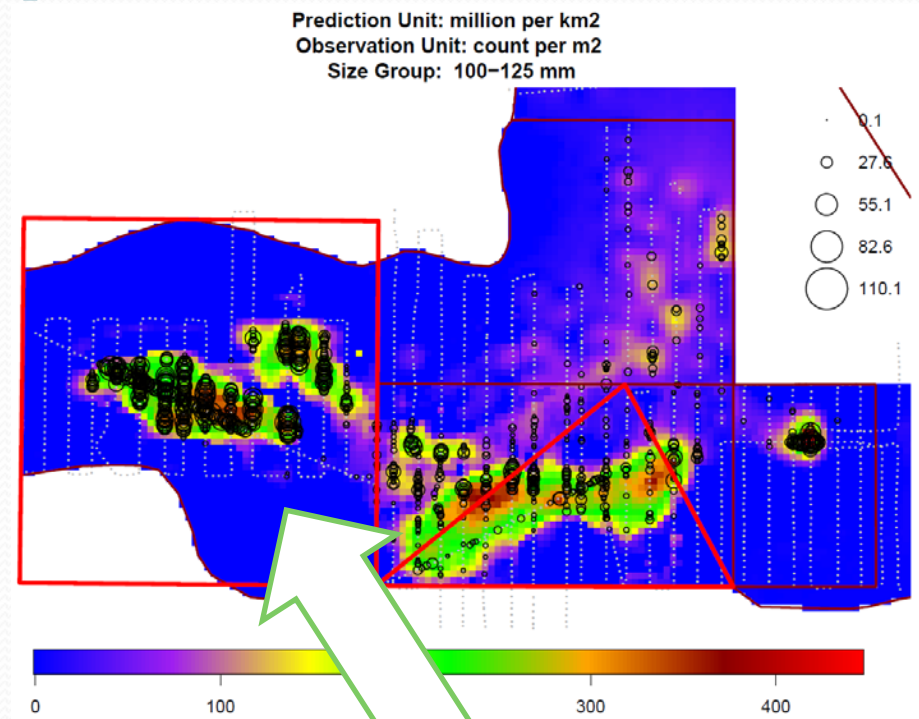
- Roughly 1.6 million lbs.
- Need a measure to allocate lbs. for 2018 FY.
 - Motion to include in FW29.
- If a full trip to CAI is allocated to the fleet, could add existing carryover lbs to the allocation.
 - EX: If you have 1,000 carryover lbs, CAI allocation would be 1,000 lbs plus the lbs associated with the trip.
No change to the trip limit.

FY2012 scallop limited access sub-ACL Closed Area 1:
number of vessels by range of allocated pounds
under-harvested

Number of Vessels	Under-harvested (lb)
129	0-100
22	101-200
11	201-300
9	301-400
9	401-500
7	501-600
5	601-700
7	701-800
4	801-900
7	1000-2000
6	2001-4000
5	4001-6000
4	8000-10000
8	10001-15000
10	16000-19000
5	25000-35000
4	35001-36000

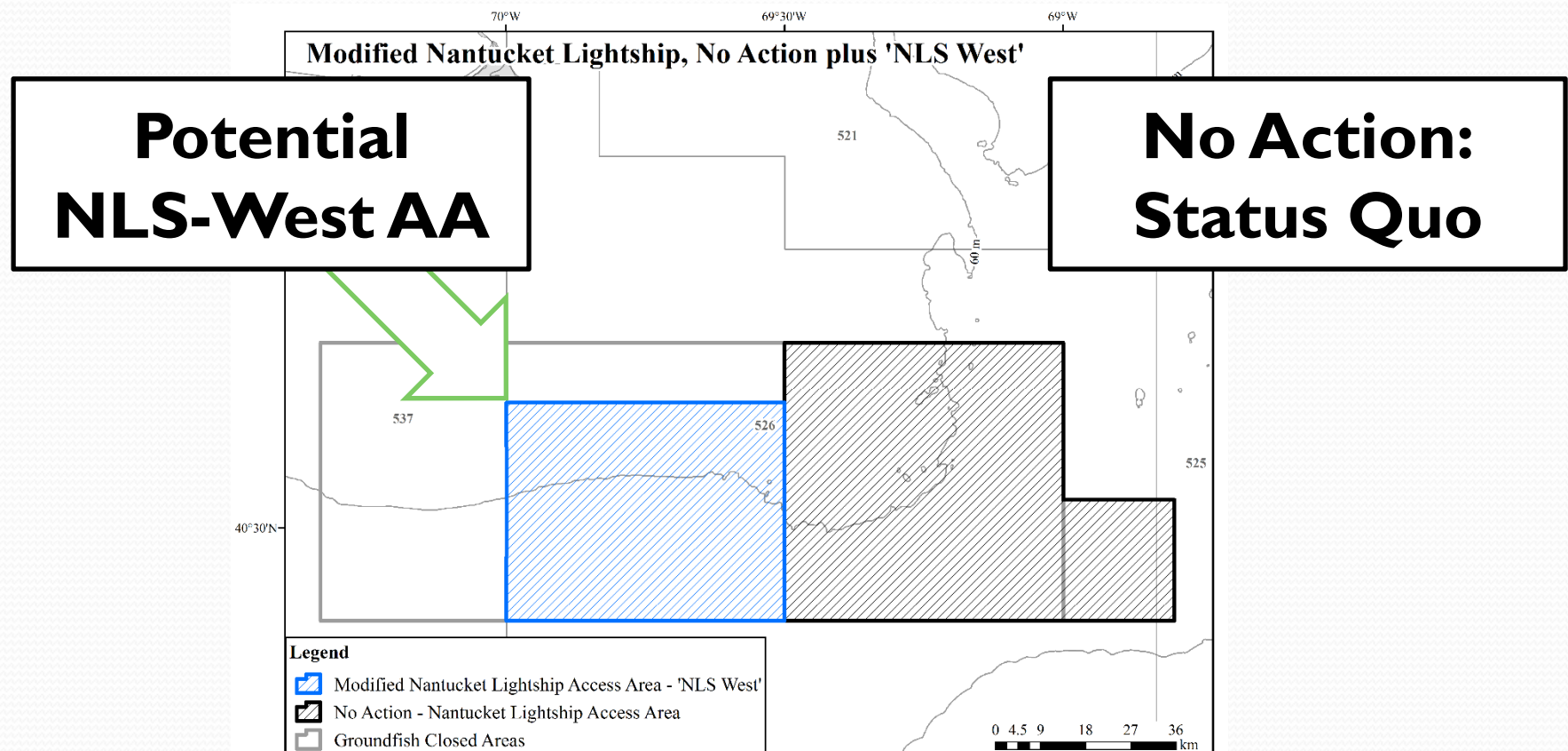
Potential Creation of Nantucket Lightship - West Access Areas

- Committee Motion in Sept.
- Doc. 2b, Section 4.9
- “West” - Focus on area of NLS habitat area where high densities of scallops have been observed.
- Could support multiple trips in 2018 FY
- Awaiting OHA2 Final Rule
- Specifications – NLS-West is **NOT** currently available, but may be with OHA2 rule.



NLS-WEST
Commercial = 104.72 mm
Survey = 102.44 mm
2018 Exploitable at F=0.38:
~18 million lbs (preliminary)

Potential Creation of Nantucket Lightship - West Access Areas



Nantucket Lightship

NLS-No Access

Commercial = 104.72 mm

Survey = 102.44 mm

2018 Exploitable at $F=0.38$:

~18 million lbs (preliminary)

NOT AVAILABLE – Still Closure

NLS-North

Commercial = 126.8 mm

Survey = 110.91 mm

2018 Exploitable at $F=0.38$:

~2.9 million lbs (preliminary)

**Majority of 2017 effort here.
Holds the largest animals.**

NLS-South

Commercial = 85.53 mm

Survey = 77.07 mm

2018 Exploitable at $F=0.38$:

~18.6 million lbs (preliminary)

Faster growth in >70m

NLS-Extension

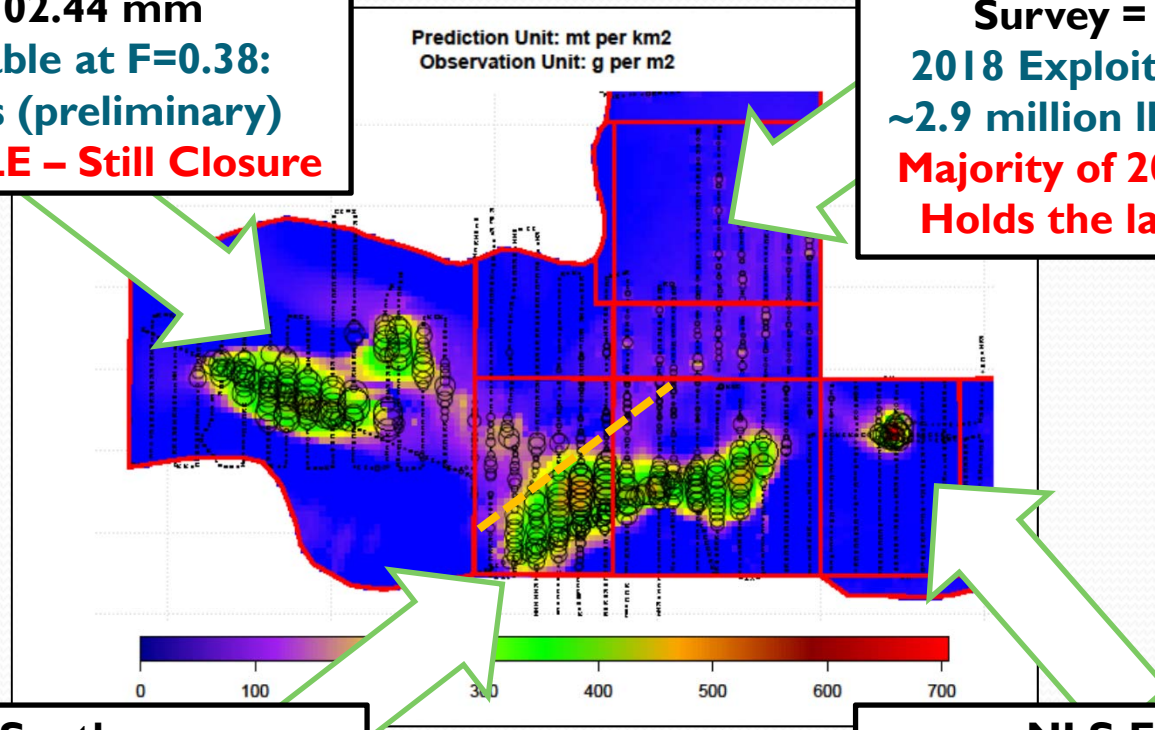
Commercial = 121.88 mm

Survey = 106.72 mm

2018 Exploitable at $F=0.38$:

~4 million lbs (preliminary)

VERY UNCERTAIN, $CV > 1$



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 boundaries to facilitate access
- **Simple → Increased likelihood FW in place for April 1.**



FW29: Northern Gulf of Maine

- Doc. #2b, and PDT meeting materials
- Problem Statement developed at April Council meeting.
- Committee tasking in June and September.
- Results from 2017 survey work, and 2018 projections.
 - Dr. Dvora Hart presentation
- Discussion of Management Measures
 - Council staff presentation
- Simple → Increased likelihood FW in place for April 1.



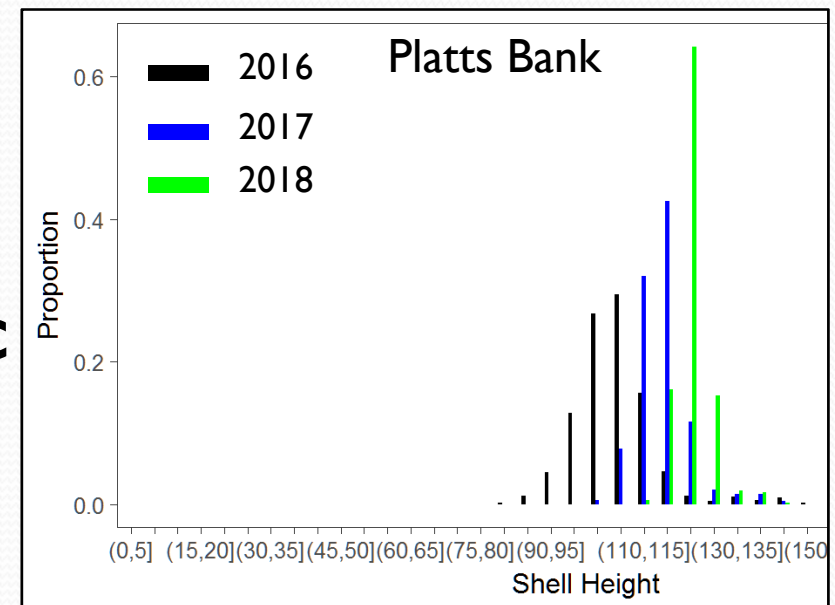
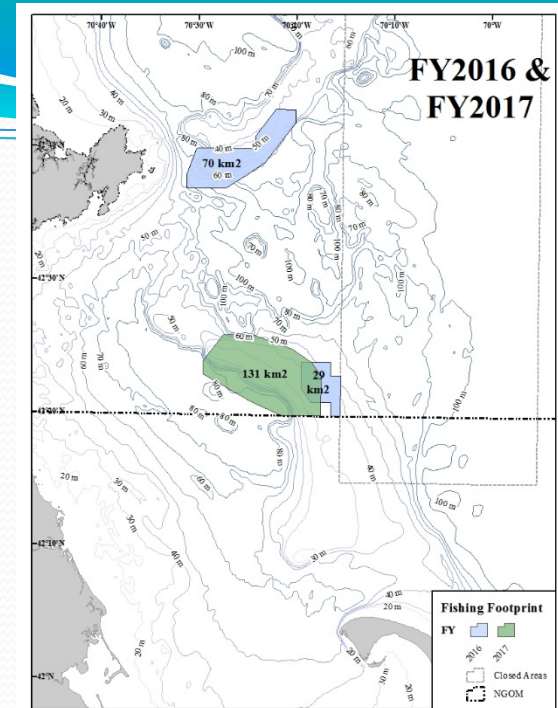
Northern Gulf of Maine Measures

- Document 2b, Section 4.2
- Anticipated Outcomes from this meeting (3):
 1. Provide input to on potential **NGOM** total allowable catch values for FY 2018 and FY 2019 (default) to be included in **FW29** (Section 4.2.1).
 2. Provide input on **LA/GCTAC** split options (Section 4.2.2).
 3. Provide input on potential harvest strategies of **LA** fishing in the **NGOM** (ex: **RSA** compensation fishing, allocated trips to the management area). (4.2.3)
- Simple → Increased likelihood **FW** in place for April 1.



ME DMR/UMaine survey

- Objective: Project growth in areas that were surveyed in 2016, but not fished in 2016 or 2017. EX: Ipswich Bay, Platts Bank
- 2018 outlook: Several hundred thousand lbs in areas that were not fished in 16/17.
- High level of uncertainty around these projections.
- Highest densities remain on Stellwagen Bank, 2018 fishing effort expected to remain in this area.
- **PDT recommends setting 2018 TAC based on exploitable biomass on Stellwagen Bank (i.e. do not include these estimates in TAC setting).**





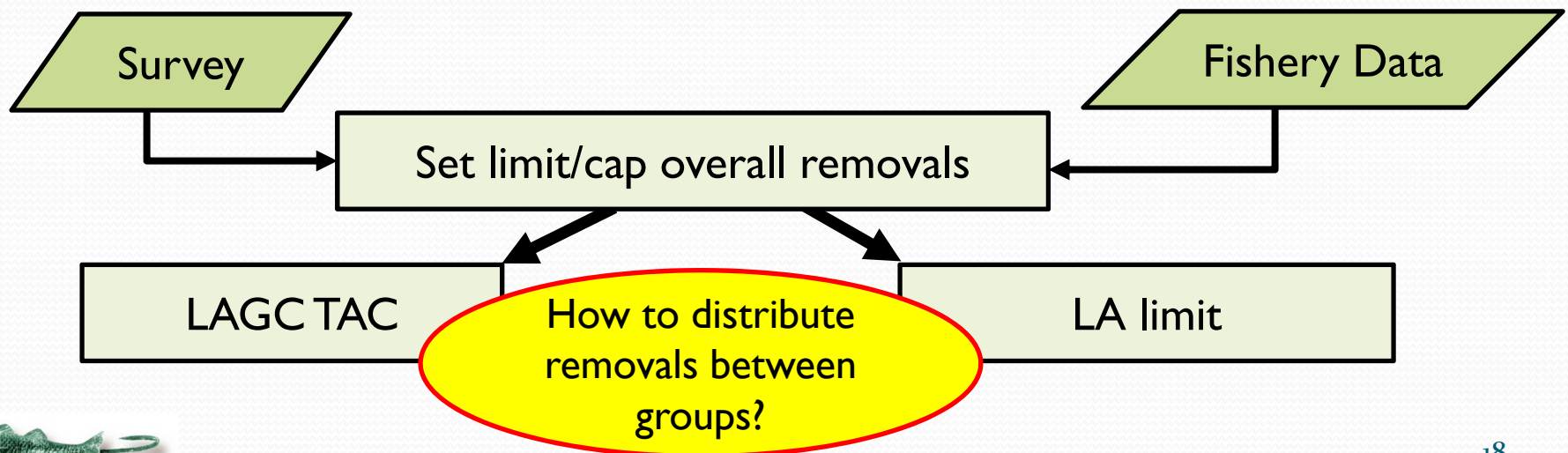
NGOM Biomass Projections:

Dr. Dvora Hart

- Document 2b, Section 4.2
- Anticipated Outcome from this discussion:
 - 1. Provide input to on potential **NGOM** total allowable catch values for **FY 2018** and **FY 2019** (default) to be included in **FW29** (Section 4.2.1).
- **Motion to consider a range of TAC options in FW29.**
- **Simple → Increased likelihood FW in place for April 1.**

NGOM TAC Consideration #1:

- I. How to distribute removals between groups?
 - NGOM TAC is not part of annual projected landings
 - Committee tasking motion for Hybrid approach
 - see Doc.3
 - Rationale: Short term “band-aid”; current LA TAC in area: no limit

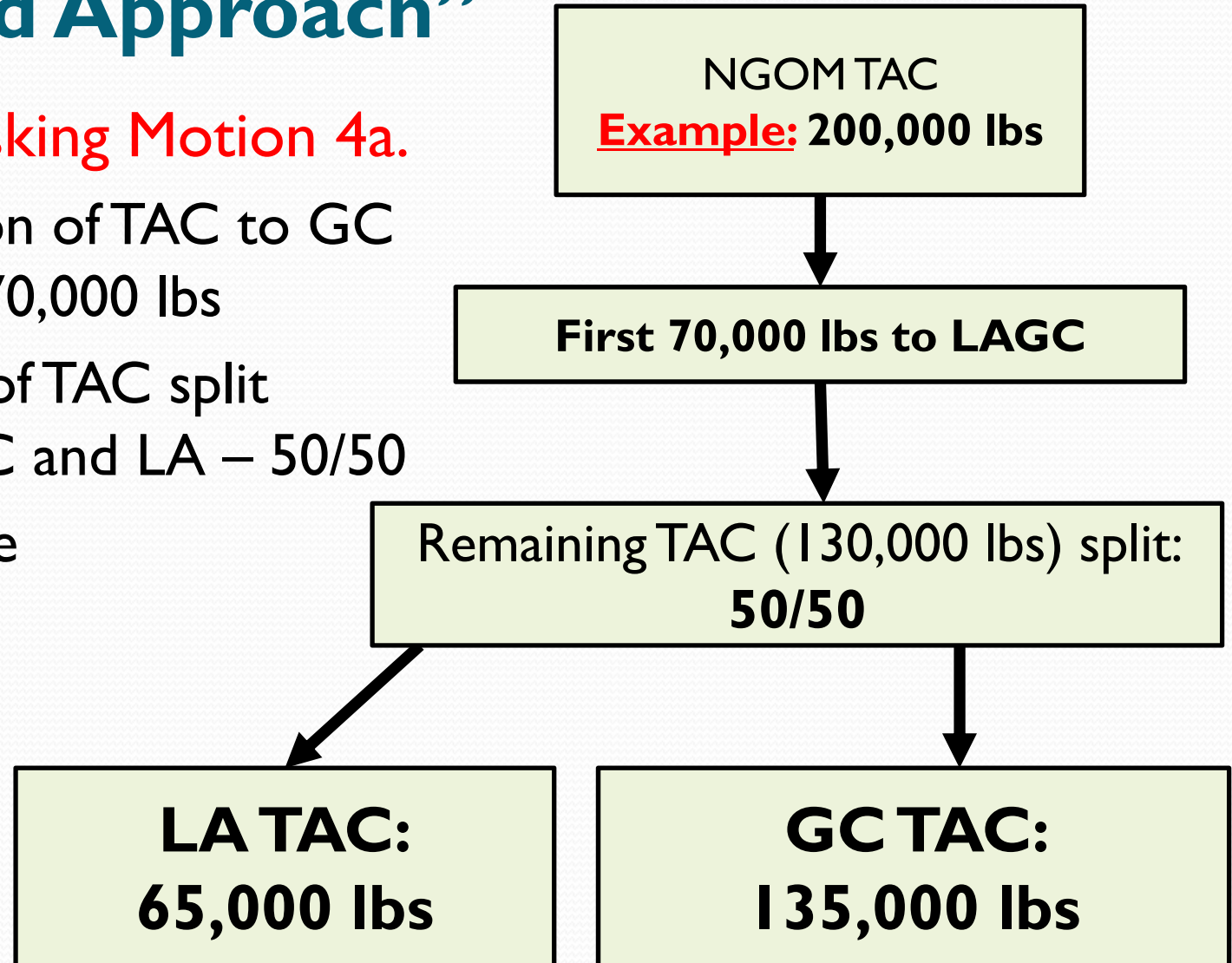


NGOM TAC Consideration #1: “Hybrid Approach”

Committee Tasking Motion 4a.

1. Initial portion of TAC to GC (“floor”) – 70,000 lbs
2. Remainder of TAC split between GC and LA – 50/50
3. See rationale

Example
TAC
split

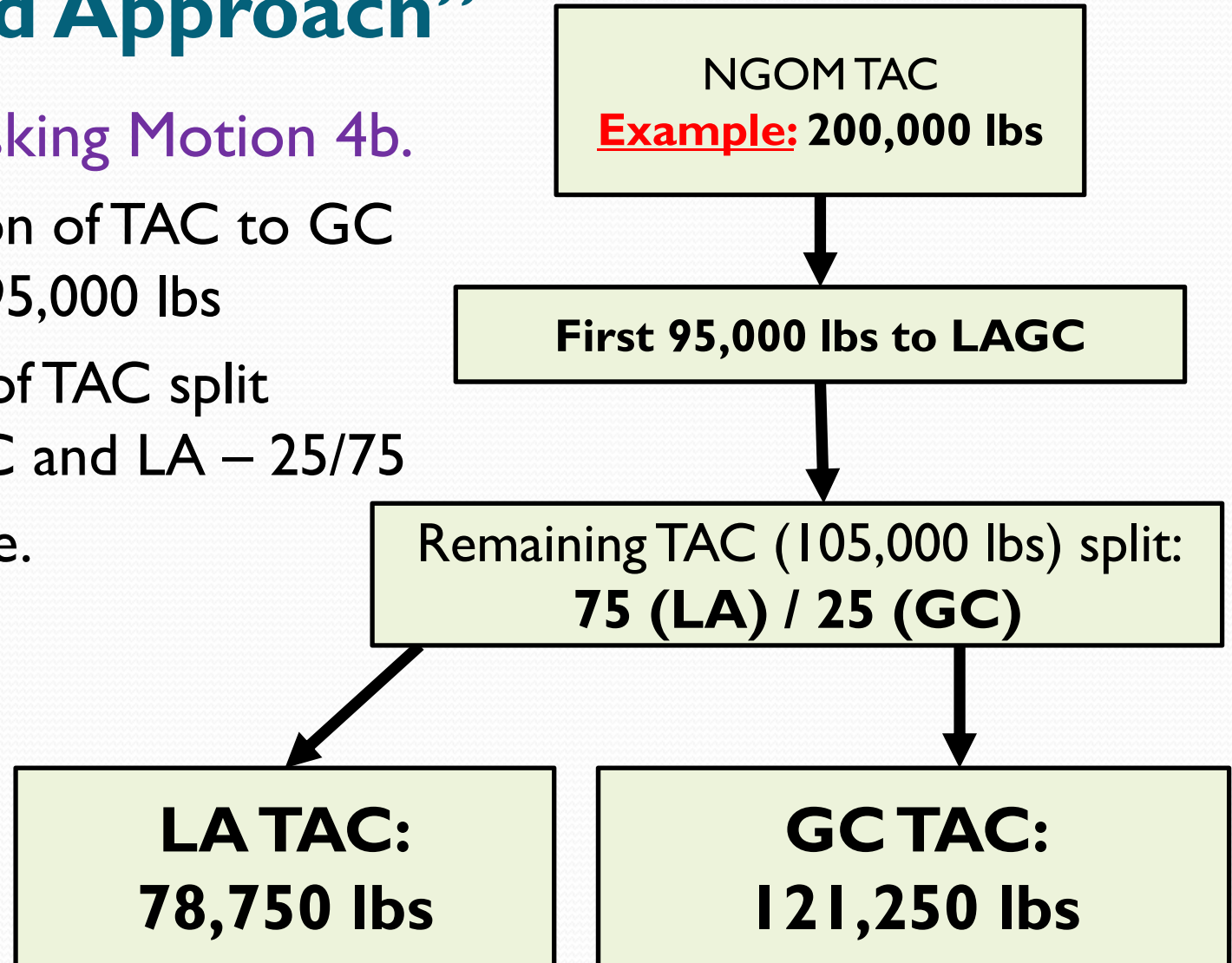


NGOM TAC Consideration #1: “Hybrid Approach”

Committee Tasking Motion 4b.

1. Initial portion of TAC to GC (“floor”) – 95,000 lbs
2. Remainder of TAC split between GC and LA – 25/75
3. See rationale.

Example
TAC
split



NGOM TAC Consideration #2:

2. Develop harvest approach for LA component.

- Council motion calls for status quo regs for LAGC.
- See Doc.2b, Section 4.2.3. **Input needed on this.**

• **PDT discussion: Declared Trips and Trip Limits**

- VMS declaration, trips (included in TAC options)
- Make lbs eligible for RSA compensation fishing
 - This could address equity issue with LAGC IFQ allocations. EX: Adding LA NGOM harvest could require additional allocation to IFQ component to achieve the 94.5%/5.5% split in overall projected landings.
- DAS exchange – trade DAS for trip in the area.



What's next?

- PDT meetings – Review analyses and describe impacts
- AP & CTE meetings – Nov. 25/26 to review analyses and select preferred alternatives
- Final Council Action – December 5-7, 2017
- **FW29 implementation: April 1, 2017**



2018 Priorities Discussion

2017 Scallop Priorities

Not in priority order

1. **Specifications (regulatory requirement)**
 2. Modify flatfish accountability measures
 1. **Northern windowpane AM is a regulatory requirement**
 3. Complete 5-year LAGC IFQ review (final report to Council in June)
 4. Modify access areas to be consistent with OHA2
 5. NGOM management measure changes
 6. Integrate findings from Sea Scallop Survey Methods Peer Review
 7. Gear modifications to protect small scallops
-
8. STAFF: Support annual scallop RSA process
 9. STAFF: Annual responsibilities related to estimating scallop and flatfish catch during the year.
 10. OTHER: Programmatic RSA review (Scallops, Herring, Monkfish)
 11. OTHER: 2017 groundfish assessment updates. Updating sub-ACLs for four allocated stocks. This requires scallop PDT time to develop catch projections.

Potential 2018 Priorities:

- See Doc.7 and Correspondence
- Motion at Sept.AP meeting re: harvest association proposal.
- Council added Increase to LAGC IFQ trip limits to list
- Today: Final Recs to Council
- Council takes final action on 2018 priorities in December (likely Thursday of meeting)

DRAFT List of Potential Priorities for 2018

Specifications

Amendment - NGOM management

Amendment to create harvester associations

Gear modifications to protect small scallops

OHA2 follow-up: modify access areas

Measures to address DAS and IFQ carryover

Specify allocation review triggers (NMFS allocation review policy)

Adjustments to scallop IFM observer program

RSA program review and modifications

Monitoring and catch accounting provisions

ONGOING: Scallop RSA program support, in-season bycatch tracking

Scallop benchmark assessment in 2018

NEW: Increase LAGC IFQ trip limits

PDT Input:

- Top Priority: Work on modifying access areas after OHA2 is final.
 - Animals in CAI 'sliver' will be 8yo, scallops in NLS-NA ready to be fished. Increased mortality of scallops in CAI-N.
- *From LAGC IFQ Program Review:* Investigate monitoring and catch accounting measures, gather data on LA component
- Investigate how product/market quality issues could be addressed in management given 2017 fishery data.
 - Little effort in ET/ET-Flex outside of northeast portion
 - Virtually no effort in DMV



Questions?