Scallop AP and Committee Meetings

Jonathon Peros
Council Staff

May 23 & 24, 2018
Providence, RI
Upcoming Meetings (2018)

- May 30 – 4th Scallop SAW workgroup meeting (Conference Call)
- June 13 – Council meeting (Portland, ME)
- June 26 – June 29 – Scallop and Herring SARC 65 (Woods Hole, MA)
- July 25, 2018 – In-person PDT meeting at Mariners House (Boston, MA – Mariners House)
- August 28 & 29, 2018 – In-person PDT meeting (Falmouth, MA - TBD)
- October 10 – SSC Meeting (Location TBD)
Scallop Benchmark – SAW/SARC 65

- SAW Meeting #1 – Feb. 5 – 8, 2018 (Data Meeting)
- SAW Meeting #2 – March 26 – 28, 2018
- SAW Meeting #3 – April 30 – May 4, 2018
- NEW: SAW Meeting #4 – May 30, 2018 (call)
- SARC Meeting (Scallops and Herring) – June 26 – 29

- Present Results to AP and Committee in September
2018 NGOM Fishery

- 135k pound TAC → Landings ±4% of TAC
- Opened April 1 → Closed May 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th># Active Permits</th>
<th># of Trips</th>
<th>Average trips (# trips/# permits)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>534</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>725</td>
<td>Median = 17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- SMAST dropcam survey funded through RSA
  - Option to fish 65k lbs in NGOM
Correspondence

- Letters/input on several topics since last meeting
General Input

- Thoughts on how FY 2018 has progressed?
- Points we should consider during 2019 specs?
  - Catch rates
  - Meat quality
  - Any seed around?
  - Bycatch
- Data products you would like to see?
1. Monitoring and Catch Accounting

Document #3
Monitoring and Catch Accounting

Since the Council voted on this priority in December 2017 several new monitoring and catch accounting issues have emerged.

Another New Bedford Scallop Vessel Busted for Illegal Fishing in Closed Access Area

SEAFOODNEWS.COM By John Sackton - April 9, 2018

Updates

- Council sent two letters to NOAA (April)
- OLE met with Scallop PDT on May 8, 2018
  - See Document #3 and Document #7
  - PDT concluded that the actual number of monitored offloads is **higher** than reported in LAGC IFQ program review.
- Making progress toward addressing this priority
  - Two recommendations from PDT meeting.
## Monitoring and Catch Accounting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROBLEM</th>
<th>GOAL(S)</th>
<th>TACTICS/MEASURES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poor VMS hail compliance</td>
<td>100% Compliance</td>
<td>Letter to NOAA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing without IFQ</td>
<td>100% Compliance; Equity</td>
<td>Letter(s) to NOAA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adherence to trip limits and allocations; Unknown Removals</td>
<td>100% Compliance; Equity; True census of landings</td>
<td>Vessel/Dealer self report overage; Expand pre-land to all LA trips</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Penalty Schedules

- Council sent a letter asking NOAA revisit the current penalty schedule for VMS pre-landing notifications.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VIOLATION</th>
<th>VIOLATION HISTORY – PENALTY AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fail to provide required pre-landing notification</td>
<td>FIRST: $100 per missed notification up to $2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOVA: Notice of Violation and Assessment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Technical Solutions

Real-time IFQ Quota Transfer

- Council sent a letter asking NOAA to complete and implement real-time online quota transfers
- Objective: Help address issue of vessels fishing without quota.
Thank you: Tim Donovan, Don Frei, Shawn Eusebio

I. Re: Joint enforcement agreement (JEA)
   a) Agreements with all coastal states (ME → VA)
   b) JEA participants dedicate 75% of efforts to OLE priorities
   c) Records focus on tracking non-compliance cases
   d) Efforts being made to update OLE databases to allow information sharing between states and NOAA
3. Are regulations enforceable?

   a) Scallop regulations are generally enforceable and easy to understand, especially compared to groundfish and monkfish regulations.

   b) Field officers have noted an increase in compliance over the past several years—qualitative observations, such as industry actively engaging more with OLE and taking steps to ensure they are following the rules.

   c) Informal ‘captains meetings’ in recent years help to clarify the regulations prior to the start of the fishing year; these workshops are usually well attended and helpful to the industry.
4. There have been several reports of scallop violations on Facebook, and in the news. Are the number of violations consistent with past years?

a) OLE Response: The increase in reports of scallop violations and enforcement effort is because of social media, and is not an indicator of compliance.
OLE Input (cont.)

Document #3, Section 1.3, page 6

- Concept to address **Adherence to trip limits and allocations; Unknown Removals**

- **IDEA:** Vessels and Dealers self-report overage and forfeit the catch.

- **Objective:** Account for overages that might otherwise go unreported.

- Could explore further, awaiting AP/CTE input
Existing Monitoring

*Document #3, Section 1.5, page 16*

- Under current requirements there should be general agreement between estimated catches, and dealer reports, such that:
  - On multi-day trips, the SUM of daily catch reports $\approx$ VMS pre-land catch estimate
  - VMS pre-land catch estimate $\approx$ VTR landings estimate
  - VTR landings estimate $\approx$ Dealer report to SAFIS
Existing Monitoring (cont)

Document #3, Section 1.5, page 16

• Under existing reporting requirements, managers should know:
  • When and where the vessel sailed from
  • Planned fishing operations (declaration)
  • Daily catch (general LPUE)
  • Vessel position every 30 minutes (done automatically through on-board VMS unit)
  • Estimated total landings
  • When and where the vessel plans to land and estimate landings
  • Confirmation of landed catch with weights (dealer report)
Outlook

1. Steps taken:
   - Council sent letters to NOAA re: monitoring and catch accounting issues, PDT met with OLE

2. Additional action needed?

3. Report to Council in June
2. Standard Default Measures
(Streamlining Scallop Specifications)

Mr. Sam Asci
3. 2018 Priorities

Review Draft Action Plan; Discuss ways to complete 2018 work items

Anticipated Outcomes. The AP and Committee may wish to recommend that the Council formally begin work on a scallop action at this meeting.
## 2018 Priorities

### Regulatory Requirements & Ongoing work
- Specifications for 2019/2020
- Benchmark (SAW/SARC 65)
- Support Scallop RSA Program
- In-season catch accounting
- Specify Allocation Review Triggers

### Council Ranking
1. Modify Access Areas to be consistent with OHA2
2. Standard default measures
3. Monitoring and catch accounting
4. Consider LAGC IFQ trip limits
5. NGOM Management measures
# 2018 Priorities and Vehicles

Each column represents a way to address the priority

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specs Package</th>
<th>Framework</th>
<th>Amendment</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Specifications</td>
<td>1. Modify/Evaluate Access Areas</td>
<td></td>
<td>Benchmark (SAW/SARC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW: 2. Standard Default Measures</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>RSA Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Monitoring and Catch Accounting Provisions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tracking flatfish catch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. LAGC IFQ Trip Limits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Allocation Review Triggers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gear Modifications – Small scallops</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern GB? HABITAT FW</td>
<td>5. NGOM Management Measures</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Specifications**
- **Framework**
- **Amendment**
- **Other**
Draft Action Plan: 2019 Specs Only

- **GOAL:** New specs in place by April 1, 2019
- Include standard default measures
- Scallop benchmark → New reference points

Current Draft Plan:

- Specifications would be in streamlined action
- Other measures would be addressed in a separate Framework or Amendment
  - Council can work on multiple actions at the same time.
  - FWs and Amendments can be focused and streamlined.
Other Considerations

- **FW29: Complicated Action**
  - 4 Specification scenarios + management measures
  - Access to NLS-West and Closed Area 1
  - Missed April 1, 2018

- Incorporate results of Benchmark Assessment

- **April Committee Tasking: LAGC IFQ Trip Limits**

  The Committee tasks the PDT analyze the impacts of LAGC IFQ trip limit increases from 400 lbs to 1,200 lbs (in 200 lb increments). The analysis should begin with FY 2010 data.

  **Rationale:** The analysis would look at model outputs including the impact of increasing trip limits on revenue and lease prices.

  The motion carried 11/0/0.
## Regulatory Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priorities</th>
<th>Expected progress on priorities relative to upcoming Council meetings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Specifications for 2019/2020</td>
<td>Review survey data, preliminary OFl/ABC projections, Final Action, Submit Specs Package, New specs in place April 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benchmark (SAW/SARC 65)</td>
<td>Review Panel meeting, Final report available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Scallop RSA Program</td>
<td>FFO Published, Proposals Due, Proposals in evaluation, Announce 2019/2020 awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-season catch accounting</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specify Allocation Review Triggers</td>
<td>Executive Committee Discussion</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Council’s Ranked Priorities

1. **Modify Access Areas** to be consistent with OHA2
   - Consider modifying boundaries in specifications action
   - Coordinate with Habitat on EGB (TBD), Consider a review of rotational management

2. **Standard default measures**
   - Draft Alternatives for consideration
   - Review impacts analyses
   - Final Action

3. **Monitoring and Catch accounting**
   - Review letters to NOAA, develop any additional recommendations

4. **Consider LAGC IFQ trip limits**
   - PDT gathering data
   - Present analyses on trip limit increases (Committee tasking)

5. **NGOM Management measures**
   - Coordinate GOM appendix from SAW/SARC 65, fishery data

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Committee Tasking

Scallop Committee Motion
March 22, 2018
Hotel Providence, Providence, Rhode Island

By consensus:
The Committee tasks the PDT with exploring the discrepancy with trips assigned an observer vs. trips that carried an observer.

No objections.
### Limited Access Fleet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Calls*</th>
<th>Observer Assigned*</th>
<th>Assigned Coverage*</th>
<th>VMS Trips</th>
<th>Trips Observed</th>
<th>Achieved Coverage</th>
<th>Target Coverage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Atlantic Access Area</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Area (Mid-Atlantic &amp; Georges Bank)</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nantucket Lightship Access Area</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nantucket Lightship West Access Area***</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nantucket Lightship South Access Area***</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elephant Trunk Flex Access Area</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closed Area I Access Area***</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closed Area II Access Area</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### General Category Fleet*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Calls*</th>
<th>Observer Assigned*</th>
<th>Assigned Coverage*</th>
<th>VMS Trips</th>
<th>Trips Observed</th>
<th>Achieved Coverage</th>
<th>Target Coverage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Atlantic Access Area Dredge</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>76.5%</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Atlantic Access Area Trawl</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>57.1%</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Area Dredge</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>51.4%</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Area Trawl</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nantucket Lightship West Dredge***</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nantucket Lightship South Dredge***</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closed Area I Dredge***</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>48.8%</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following table summarizes IFS observer coverage of the Northeast Sea Scallop fishing fleet for the Sea Scallop fishing year, March 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018.

### Limited Access Fleet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Calls</th>
<th>Observer Assigned</th>
<th>Assigned Coverage</th>
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<th>Trips Observed</th>
<th>Achieved Coverage</th>
<th>Target Coverage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elephant Trunk Flex</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nantucket Lightship</td>
<td>452</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>431</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA II</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA/GB Open Areas</td>
<td>1496</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
<td>1628</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAAA</td>
<td>808</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>701</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### General Category Fleet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Calls</th>
<th>Observer Assigned</th>
<th>Assigned Coverage</th>
<th>VMS Trips</th>
<th>Trips Observed</th>
<th>Achieved Coverage</th>
<th>Target Coverage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elephant Trunk Flex</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>49.6%</td>
<td>675</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nantucket Lightship</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>41.0%</td>
<td>870</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA/GB Open Areas</td>
<td>1616</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
<td>3305</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAAA</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>32.1%</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Scallop RSA
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. Recommend research priorities for 2019/2020
Scallop RSA Process

- Process coordinated by NEFSC and NEFMC
- No federal funds – awards in pounds of scallop – allocated through competitive grants process
- Council (typically) recommends priorities at June meeting for summer announcement
- Management and Technical Reviews
  - 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

- **Two tracks.**

- **Non-survey Proposals:** Each proposal reviewed by three subject matter experts that score technical merits (importance/relevance, technical merit, qualifications, costs, outreach)

- **Survey Proposals:** Separate technical panel convened to review survey proposals
  - Technical experts review all survey proposals (NMFS and non-federal scientists)
  - **No consensus:** Individual comments and scores are submitted by each reviewer
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.
- $10.50 for 2018/2019. Recent auction prices below this value.

Awards in pounds, can be harvested from any area open to fishery unless FMP prohibits it.
Scallop Benchmark and RSA

- SAW/SARC 65 – 2018 Scallop Benchmark Assessment
- Presentations from several cycles of RSA funded work
- Available at: https://www.nefmc.org/calendar/may-8-2018-scallop-plan-development-team-meeting (B1 - B10)
  - Incidental and discard Mortality (expect estimate to decrease)
  - Dredge efficiency in high density areas
  - Scallop growth rates
  - Meat quality – gray meats and nematodes
  - Surveys used in indices of abundance
- CFF, MA DMF, ME DMR, Rutgers, SMAST, U Delaware, U Maine, VIMS
2018/2019 RSA Awards

- Announced on May 16, 2018
- 15 projects recommended for funding, PIs from 4 organizations (Doc. 5a)
  - Surveys (dredge, drop camera, HabCam)
  - 1.25+ mil. lb set-aside expected to generate ~$12 million dollars - ~$3 to fund research, ~$9 in compensation fishing ($10.50)
- 4 projects funded for two years
## 2018/2019 Scallop RSA Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Priority Rank</th>
<th>Projects Funded</th>
<th>Research Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Survey</td>
<td>Highest</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>$1,480,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bycatch</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$717,943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$544,482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turtle</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$190,599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>$2,933,849</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Current Scallop RSA research priorities (2018/2019)

- **Highest** – Surveys: intensive for access areas, intensive for areas of interest, broad resource wide (equal importance), GOM broadscale

- **High** – Meat quality, bycatch (in order of importance)

- **Medium** – turtles, scallop biology projects (in order of importance)

- **Other** – dredge efficiency, habitat characterizations, environmental stressors, LPUE, other surveys, socio-economic impacts of area rotation, incidental and discard mortality (equal importance)
Surveys remain HIGH(est) Priority
  • Support follow-up to OHA2
Council may wish to re-order/re-rank the MEDIUM and OTHER priorities.
  • Ideas from PDT:
    • Two categories: HIGH and OTHER
    • Move dredge efficiency to HIGH, below surveys
    • Move turtle research to OTHER
Research can focus on existing datasets
Other areas to recommend intensive survey coverage?
PDT RSA Recommendations

- **HIGH** – Surveys (Doc.5c, page 2) *Equal Importance*
  - 1a: Focus on CAI, CAII, NLS, ET, HC
  - 1b: Include HAPC in CAII, Southeast parts, DMV, Long Island, and GOM
  - 1c: Broadscale surveys of Mid-Atlantic and Georges Bank

- **MEDIUM** – (Doc.5c, page 2 & 3) *In Order of Importance*
  - 2. Dredge Efficiency – Issue not resolved at benchmark, likely SAW/SARC 65 recommendation
  - 4. Meat quality research
  - 5. Turtle behavior in the Mid-Atlantic & Georges Bank
PDT RSA Recommendations

• **OTHER** – (Doc.5c, page 3) *Equal Importance*
  • 6. Evaluation of current management procedures (MSE)
    • Ties in priorities from last cycle, and concept of an MSE
  • 7. Research on scallop biology
    • Intentionally broad – covers recruitment processes, natural mortality, scallop biology in the Gulf of Maine.

• Emphasis on fewer broader priorities this year. 12 → 7.
AP and Committee Input

- Review RSA Priorities from last year
- Consider status of current research
- Make recommendations
  - Council will consider Committee recommendations during the Scallop Report on June 13, 2018

Looking for input/recommendations as motions or by consensus