Amendment 21: Northern Gulf of Maine and LAGC IFQ Action

New England Fishery Management Council

Scallop Amendment 21 Public Hearing

Webinar
The New England Fishery Management Council is conducting public hearings to solicit comments on the alternatives under consideration in Amendment 21 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan.

The Council is asking for feedback on which alternatives should be selected and why.
The Council is hosting public hearings for Amendment 21 by webinar.

Issues considered in Amendment 21 have been discussed for several years.

A summary, or public hearing document has been prepared to synthesize all the alternatives and potential impacts.

All related materials can be found on the Council webpage at:

https://www.nefmc.org/library/amendment-21
Fishery by Permit Category

- **Limited Access (Amendment 4 - 1994)**
  - Full time, part time, and occasional permits (347 total)
    - Double dredge, single dredge, trawl
  - General Category was an open access fishery
- **Limited Access General Category (Amendment 11 – 2008)**
  - VISION for GC: “Small vessels with possession limits”
  - Individual Fishing Quota (Category A)
  - Northern Gulf of Maine (Category B)
  - Incidental (Category C)
- There are Limited Access qualifiers (1994) who also hold LAGC permits. (40 total)
Amendment 21

Vision, Goals and Objectives

LAGC Vision: Relatively small vessels, possession limits to maintain the historical character, provide opportunities to various participants including vessels from smaller coastal communities.

Northern Gulf of Maine Management
1. Support a growing directed fishery in federal waters in NGOM.
2. Allow for orderly access to the scallop resource in this area by the LAGC and LA components.
3. Establishing mechanisms to set allowable catches and accurately monitor catch and bycatch from the NGOM.

LAGC IFQ Measures
1. Improve overall economic performance of the LAGC IFQ component.
2. Allow for continued participation in the General Category fishery at varying levels.
Amendment 21

10 Actions to Comment On

1. Catch Accounting
2. Allocations
3. Monitoring
4. Supporting Research
5. Fishing Season
6. Gear
7. IFQ Trip Limits
8. Observer Compensation
9. Transfer of IFQ
10. Future Actions
NGOM Management Area (blue)
### 1. Catch Limits (Sec. 4.1)

- **Alternative 1:** No Action
- **Alternative 2:** NGOM Catch Limits as part of ABC and ACL

### 2. Allocations (Sec. 4.2)

- **Alternative 1:** No Action
- **Alternative 2:** Create a NGOM set-aside, share additional allocation between NGOM set-aside & NGOM APL (LA & IFQ)

**Alt. 2. Options**

- 1,000,000 lbs 95/5 split
- 500,000 lbs 95/5 split
- 600,000 lbs 25/75 to 3mil. then 95/5 split
- 200,000 lbs 25/75 to 3mil. then 95/5 split

### 3. Monitoring (Sec. 4.3)

- **Alternative 1:** No Action
- **Alternative 2:** Monitor NGOM by expanding Scallop Industry Funded Observer Program (IFO)

**Alt. 2. Options**

- 5% of NGOM Allocation
- 10% of NGOM Allocation
- 15% of NGOM Allocation
- 25,000 lbs to increase RSA to 1.275 mil lbs.

### 4. Research (Sec. 4.4)

- **Alternative 1:** No Action
- **Alternative 2:** Allocate a portion NGOM Allocation to increase Scallop RSA

**Alt. 2. Options**

- Monitor the NGOM with NEFOP observers
The NGOM Allocation is calculated by applying a specific fishing mortality rate to exploitable biomass observed in surveys and areas expected to be fished.

NGOM Allocation

Monitoring Support (Section 4.3)
1% of NGOM ABC added to Observer Set-Aside

Research Support (Section 4.4)
25,000 lbs of NGOM Allocation added to Research Set-Aside

NGOM Set-Aside
Includes pounds up to trigger value (600,000 lbs)
+ Sharing Agreement
25%: Pounds > trigger < 3 million
5%: Pounds > 3 million

NGOM APL
Sharing Agreement
75%: Pounds > trigger < 3 million
95%: Pounds > 3 million

LA Vessels
94.5% of Sharing Agreement

LAGC IFQ Vessels
5.5% of Sharing Agreement

What has been analyzed?

NGOM Set-Aside Triggers

Option 1:
1 million pounds

Option 3:
500,000 pounds

NGOM Sharing Agreement

Option 1 Tier Sharing:
All pounds > Trigger
5% NGOM Set-Aside
95% NGOM APL

Option 2: 600,000 pounds

Option 2 Tier Sharing:
Pounds > trigger ≤ 3 million
25% NGOM Set-Aside
75% NGOM APL

Option 4: 200,000 pounds

Option 4 Tier Sharing:
Pounds > 3 million
5% NGOM Set-Aside
95% NGOM APL
Allocation Shares using Council’s Preferred Approach (Action 2) (Option 2 - 600k lbs trigger and two-tier sharing)
5. Seasons (Sec. 4.5)

Alternative 1: No Action (no change)

Alternative 2: Limit number of landings per week

Alternative 3: Limit vessels to one sailing per day

Alternative 4: Establish a seasonal closure from Sept. 1 – Nov. 31 annually

6. Gear (Sec. 4.6)

Alternative 1: No Action (no change)

Alternative 2: Limit combined dredge width to 10.5 ft in NGOM for all scallop vessels

Alternative 3: Limit combined dredge width to 15.5 ft in NGOM for FT LA scallop vessels

NEFMC Preferred Alternatives (June 2020)
Northern Gulf of Maine Actions 1-2

Potential Impacts of Preliminary Preferred Alternatives

Actions 1-2 would establish a new approach to managing NGOM with emphasis on conservation and catch accounting. Impacts will vary with the size of the scallop population in the NGOM.

Catch Accounting: Include in ABC/ACL
Improved understanding of resource status, + impacts on long-term management, especially if the spatial extent of the scallop population shifts due to climate change.

Allocations: 600k trigger, Two-tiers Conservation benefits of set-aside model, + biological impacts. Additional allocations for LA and LAGC IFQ under new system.

Scenario Analyses show tradeoffs associated with each sharing agreement.
- Mid-range trigger, access for LA sooner
- Two-tier system increases NGOM set-aside faster (25%) up to 3 million lbs.
- Vessel level impacts for LAGC NGOM depend on future participation
Northern Gulf of Maine Actions 3-6

Potential Impacts of Preliminary Preferred Alternatives

Monitoring: Expand current observer program for scallops (IFO)
+ impact for scallop resource and non-target stocks species through data collection. Data supports stock assessments. Offsetting costs has + impact.

Research: Add 25k lbs to Scallop RSA
+ biological, social, and economic impacts. Research & surveys have LT benefits for the fishery.

Fishing Season: No Action
Maintains flexibility – considered +
Impacts hinge on future allocations, likely mixed for most VECs.

Gear: No Action
No restrictions on max dredge width.
Flexibility for all fishery components. Impacts vary depending on how LA can access the area (DAS vs. trip limits).
7. LAGC IFQ Possession Limit (Sec. 4.7)

- **Alternative 1:** No Action
- **Alternative 2:** Increase LAGC IFQ possession limit to 800 lbs
  - All Areas
  - Access Areas only
- **Alternative 3:** Increase LAGC IFQ possession limit to 1200 lbs
  - All Areas
  - Access Areas only

Analyzed range of LAGC IFQ possession limits in Amendment 21: 600 lbs – 1,200 lbs

8. Observer Compensation (Sec. 4.8)

- **Alternative 1:** No Action
- **Alternative 2:** Prorate daily compensation in 12-hour increments for LAGC IFQ trips longer than 1 day
- **Alternative 3:** Allow a second day of compensation for LAGC IFQ trips longer than 24-hours

Compensation capped at two days
LAGC IFQ Management Measures (Action 9)

NEFMC Preferred Alternatives (June 2020)

9. One-way transfer of quota from LA with IFQ to LAGC IFQ-only (Sec. 4.9)

- Alternative 1: No Action

- Alternative 2: Allow temporary transfer of IFQ from LA to LACC IFQ
  - No change to quota caps
  - Increase quota caps

- Alternative 3: Allow permanent and temporary transfer of IFQ from LA to LACC IFQ
  - No change to quota caps
  - Increase quota caps
LAGC IFQ Actions 7-9

Potential Impacts of Preliminary Preferred Alternatives

800-pound trip limit in AAs:
Lower trip costs across year for access areas, increased flexibility for trips with greatest steam time, + impact fleet wide.

Increase in lease price possible, mixed economic impact at vessel level depending on amount of quota leased-in. + impact to vessels that lease-in very little, – impact to vessels that lease-in majority of quota

Increase observer compensation at 12-hour increments:
Compliments higher possession limit, offset cost of carrying observer if trips are longer, + economic and social impacts

Temporary one-way transfer of IFQ, no change to quota cap:
Could increase quota availability in IFQ-only fishery, improve flexibility for both LA with IFQ and IFQ-only, + economic impacts expected
Expand List of Frameworkable Measures (Action 10)

**NEFMC Preferred Alternatives (June 2020)**

**10. Specifications and Framework Adjustment Process (Sec. 4.10)**

- **Alternative 1:** No Action
- **Alternative 2:** Expanding the list of measures that can be addressed through a framework or specifications action

- Council did not select a preferred option for Action 10.
- Current list of measures to in Alt. 2 could be completed using broad interpretation of existing regulatory authority.
- Alt. 2 provides a list of measures that could be considered in a future FW. See Example

**Seeking input on whether to include details about what can be done through existing authority**

**Adjustments to the Northern Gulf of Maine scallop fishery measures**

*Current regulatory authority: 648.55(f)(35)*

- Sub-areas with separate allocations
- Multiple Seasons
- Mortality Targets
- How LA and LAGC IFQ fish the area

Example Alt. 2
What’s next?

Council Final Action planned for September Council meeting (Sept. 29 – Oct. 1, 2020)

- Public comment period from July 22, 2020 to September 4, 2020 (45 days)
- Staff then compiles and summarizes all comments
- Scallop AP and Committee meetings to review all comments and make final recommendations (AP webinar on September 23rd, 2020 & Committee webinar on September 25th, 2020)
- Staff updates document, preliminary submission to NMFS (2021)
- Proposed and final rules publish (TBD - 2021)
- Potential implementation (TBD – 2021+)
How to submit a public comment

- In writing:
  - Fax: (978) 465-3116;
  - Email: comments@nefmc.org, “Scallop Amendment 21” in subject line.
  - Mail: Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director
    New England Fishery Management Council
    50 Water Street, Mill #2
    Newburyport, MA 01950

- Please note on your correspondence: “Scallop Amendment 21”
- Closing Date: Friday, September 4, 2020 (11:59pm)
Questions?

Contact Information:

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To comment today:

When providing comments, please first state:

- Your name
- Brief description of your organization/occupation and region you represent
  - Ex. Scallop Captain from New Bedford

To indicate you wish to comment, please use the “Raise Hand” feature and you will be called on by the Committee Chair.

Reminder: you must register for the webinar to provide comments today. Instructions can be found on the meeting notice and on the Council’s website.
Ground Rules

- When commenting, try to focus input on the Council’s proposal.
- Please direct these comments to the Chair rather than individuals.
- We will allow for one round of comments – one per person. If time permits and only after everyone who wants to comment has a chance, the Chair may allow a second round of comments.
- Please be respectful.
- We ask that no New England Council member provide public comments at this time.
- We are not accepting written comments through the chat or question features of this webinar. This is only for anyone having a problem with access to the webinar.
- When we call on you, please be sure to unmute yourself.
What should my comments address?

- Do you support the Council’s preferred alternatives?
  - If not, what do you suggest?

- Northern Gulf of Maine: New system of accounting for and allocating scallops in this area.

- LAGC IFQ Issues: Impacts of trip limit increase and ability additional IFQ transfers by the LA component (vessel level, fleet level, other fisheries).