



New England Fishery Management Council

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John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph. D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

Amendment 21 to the Scallop FMP Public Hearing Summary

Webinar
August 12th, 2020

Hearing Officer: Vincent Balzano, Scallop Committee Chair

Council Staff: Jonathon Peros (Scallop Plan Coordinator), Sam Asci

Attendance: 18 on the webinar

The meeting began at approximately 4:00 pm. Vincent Balzano, Chair of the Scallop Committee, welcomed members of the audience to the public hearing and provided opening comments about Amendment 21 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP). He explained that this was the second of four public hearings being held and is the public's opportunity to provide comments on the preliminary preferred alternatives selected by the Council prior to final action. Jonathon Peros and Sam Asci of Council staff provided an overview Amendment 21 including details on the Council's preferred alternatives. Following an opportunity for questions on the presentation, Mr. Balzano opened the meeting for public comment.

James Fletcher—North Carolina; United National Fishermens Association: I do not think that allowing only one-way transfers of quota from Limited Access vessels with IFQ to LAGC IFQ-only vessels (Action 9) is legal under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The preferred is for a one-way transfer of quota from Limited Access to General Category, but Limited Access with IFQ vessels should be allowed to transfer quota with other Limited Access with IFQ vessels.

Chris Merl—Chatham, MA; LAGC IFQ fisherman: I would support No Action for the LAGC IFQ trip limit alternative. Increasing the LAGC IFQ trip limit is going to have negative effects on the fishery. A higher trip limit will displace stakeholders and I think it will change the vision for the LAGC fishery. I thought the vision of the fishery changed when we went to IFQ in the first place, and I think it changed when the trip limit went from 400 pounds to 600 pounds, and all of those things had negative impacts to the fishery and displaced stakeholders. I would like to see the trip limit stay at 600 pounds. If lease prices go up, people that rely on leased quota will have a harder time obtaining it, and larger vessels and corporations will be more prevalent in the LAGC IFQ fishery. The historic vision for this fishery is one made up of small boats and family run businesses and I think we're already moving away from that as it is. The Council has been working on the LAGC IFQ trip limit for several years, and increasing the trip limit was voted down every time it was discussed at the Advisory Panel. Though the trip limit issue was advanced at the Committee level, every time the topic was raised at the Advisory Panel, there was consensus that the trip limit shouldn't be changed.

The public hearing was closed by the Committee Chair at 4:59 pm.

Scallop Amendment 21

Public Hearing

Webinar

Audience List

Date	August 12, 2020
Start time	4:00 PM
End time	4:59 PM
Number of participants	18

Scallop Committee Chair: Vincent Balzano

Council Staff (5): Jonathon Peros, Sam Asci, Tom Nies, Chris Kellogg, Janice Plante

Participants

	Name		Affiliation (if known)
1	Ronald	Enoksen	Eastern Fisheries, Limited Access vessel owner, Scallop Advisor
	James	Fletcher	United National Fishermen's Association
	Travis	Ford	GARFO
	Matt	Gates	NEFMC
	James	Gutowski	Limited Access and LAGC IFQ vessel owner, Scallop Advisory Panel Chair
	Eric	Hansen	Hanson Scallop Inc., Limited Access vessel owner, Scallop Advisor
	Peter	Hughes	NEFMC
	Shannah	Jaburek	GARFO
	Jim	Kendall	New Bedford Seafood Consulting
10	George	Lapointe	Blue Harvest Fisheries
	Sean	Leach	
	Amber	Lisi	Maine DMR
	Chris	Merl	Scallop fisherman, LAGC IFQ vessel owner, Scallop Advisor
	Drew	Minkiewicz	Fisheries Survival Fund
	Daniel	Salerno	NEFMC
	Stephanie	Sykes	Cape Cod Fishermen's Alliance
	Mary Beth	Tooley	O'Hara Fisheries
	Kelly	Whitmore	MA DMF