

Scallop AP
Meeting motions
1/17/2019
Boston, MA

Framework 30 follow-up, 2019 government shutdown:

1. By Consensus:

The AP is concerned about the impact of the federal government shutdown on the scallop fishery. There could be delays in processing:

- Vessel documentation from USCG
- Vessel Permits from GARFO
- Exempted Fishing Permits and Letters of authorization from GARFO
- LAGC IFQ quota transfers from GARFO
- 2020/2021 RSA awards from NEFSC

The AP recommends that the Committee ask the Council to send a letter to NOAA fisheries requesting that the agency expedite the approval process for scallop permits and find ways to allow vessels to keep fishing.

Rationale: Without vessel documentation from the USCG, vessels cannot fish and cannot apply for a permit. Scallop permits expire on March 31, 2019. The process for renewing permit applications begins in late January. If vessels do not have valid permits, they cannot land or possess scallops, and would not be able to fish FW 29 default measures or FW 30 allocations, whichever are in place first. The RSA program supports several surveys, and a delay in making awards could impact 2019 surveys that support 2020/2021 specifications.

2. By Consensus:

The AP acknowledges that science supports three access area trips in the NLS-W. However, the AP is concerned about lower catch rates and the ability of the NLS-W to support allocations for FY 2019. The AP recommends that the Committee and Council track the performance of this area closely.

Amendment 21:

3. By Consensus:

The AP recommends that the A21 scoping document highlight for NGOM issues:

1. The current approach to managing the NGOM is working at the current level of biomass in the management area (measures developed in FW29, FW30).
2. Recommend that the ability to move between the LAGC permit categories is addressed in this action.

3. Whether or not IFQ should not count as against individual quota and NGOM TAC.
4. Alternatives for managing the NGOM at different levels of exploitable biomass.
5. Consider changing the southern boundary of the management area north (EX: 43 degrees north)

Motion 4: Larson/Lybarger

The AP recommends that Amendment 21 consider allowing LA vessels with IFQ to sell or lease their IFQ to only LAGC IFQ (not other LA vessels).

Rationale: These vessels have 0.5% of the quota. This would allow the transfer of quota to smaller vessels, and enable additional access to quota for LAGC IFQ vessels.

The motion carried on a show of hands – 10/0/1.

Action to Mitigate Impacts on Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder:

5. By Consensus:

The AP recommends that the Committee recommend that the Council consider additional data sources as part of the yellowtail flounder assessment (TRAC process).

Rationale: The Bigelow did not catch many yellowtail in 2018. There are several data sources that could support the TRAC assessment of yellowtail such as the SMAST video trawl survey, the CFF seasonal bycatch survey, and others.

2019-2023 NEFMC Research Priorities:

6. By consensus

The AP supports the PDT's recommended changes to the Council's 5-year priority list in Doc.5, pages 1 and 2.

7. By Consensus

The AP recommends that the following items be added to the 5 year priority list.

1. Research and development of fishery dependent data collection systems that support scallop management.
2. Impact of offshore wind development on scallop production. This could include but is not limited to: impacts on larval settlement, scallop growth and reproduction, fishing opportunities, etc.

2019 Work Items:

8. By Consensus:

The AP recommends that the Committee recommend that the Council consider initiating an action to provide access to the Northern Edge of Georges Bank.

9. By Consensus:

Recommend that the Committee recommend that the Council include the harvest of small scallops in the NLS-South deep in 2020/2021 specifications. Recommend that the Committee task the PDT with reporting back in June on the potential to harvest scallops in the NLS-S deep. Present recent RSA research in this area by VIMS, and potential ways to facilitate harvest.

Rationale: It is time to try to do something with this part of the resource.

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 pm.