



New England Fishery Management Council

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

MEETING SUMMARY

Scallop Committee Meeting

December 10, 2020

Webinar Meeting

The Scallop Committee met via webinar on December 10, 2020 to: 1) review analyses and recommend specification alternatives to be considered for inclusion in Framework 33, 2) review Gulf of Maine survey results and consider closure configurations in the Gulf of Maine to protect small scallops, and 3) discuss other business.

MEETING ATTENDANCE:

Vincent Balzano (Scallop Committee Chair), Jonathon Peros (Plan Coordinator), Sam Asci (Council staff), Eric Reid, Matt Gates, Emily Gilbert, Mark Godfroy, Melanie Griffin, Peter Hughes, John Pappalardo, Alan Tracy, John Quinn, Mike Sissenwine, Melissa Smith, and Peter deFur.

James Gutowski (AP Chair) was in attendance on the webinar along with approximately 31 members of the public.

The meeting began at 9:05 AM. Scallop Committee Chair Vincent Balzano welcomed the Committee and members of the audience to the webinar. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all Council related meetings have been transitioned to webinars including the Scallop Committee and Council meetings. Staff reviewed instructions for participating in the webinar and gave an overview of the goals and objectives for the day's meeting. Mr. James Gutowski (AP Chair) provided a brief overview of the December 8, 2020 Advisory Panel meeting including discussion and motions recommending the range of alternatives to be considered in FW33.

Key Outcomes:

- The Committee made recommendations on the range of specifications alternatives and measures to be included in FW33.
- The Committee recommended the continued closure of the NGOM portion of Stellwagen Bank in FY2021 and identified areas that are likely to be fished in 2021.

Framework 33

Following a presentation on FW33 analyses tasked by the Committee and PDT input on FY2021, the Committee moved forward a series of motions recommending the range of alternatives to be considered in FW33. Motions and related discussion are described in the sections below.

FY2021 Specifications Alternatives

Motion 1: Griffin/Hughes

Move that the Committee task the PDT to develop alternatives in FW33 that would allocate the following Access Area trips and Full Time Limited Access DAS:

	Option 1 (3.5 trips)	Option 2 (4 trips)	Option 3 (4 trips) (AP3 modified)	Option 4 (4 trips) (AP5 modified)
FT LA trip limit	18000-lbs.	18000-lbs.	18000-lbs.	18000-lbs.
MAAA	1 trip	1.5 trips	1.5 trips	1 trip
NLS-S	1.5 trips	1.5 trips	1 trip	1.5 trips
CAII-SW	1 trip	1 trip	1.5 trips	1.5 trips
CAII-Ext				
FT LA DAS	24 & 26	24 & 26	24 & 26	24 & 26

- CAI would remain an AA eligible for LAGC-IFQ AA trips and LA RSA compensation fishing only.

Rationale: This gives a range of allocation, that given declining biomass, generally balances access for 2021 and 2022. Specifically, 1-1.5 trips in MAAA should provide for a trip in 2022. NLS-S-deep, while sub-optimal operationally is commanding prices that make trips profitable, is the 2nd largest exploitable biomass aggregation and the scallops need to be harvested given age or risk foregoing exploitable biomass. Combining CAII-SW with CAII-Ext allows for some additional spatial flexibility given the dense aggregation of exploitable biomass that straddles that boundary. DAS options, like AA options, attempt to balance providing for meaningful open bottom fishing in 2021 and 2022, while recognizing that realized F is often higher than what is projected.

The motion carried on a roll call vote 11-0-0.

Motion 1	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse
Scallop Committee				
Vincent Balzano, CT (Chair)				
Melanie Griffin, MA (VC)	Yes			
Peter deFur, MAFMC	Yes			
Cheri Patterson, NH				
Mark Godfroy, NH	Yes			
Melissa Smith, ME	Yes			
John Pappalardo, MA	Yes			
Emily Gilbert, GARFO	Yes			
Dr. Michael Sissenwine, MA	Yes			
Dr. John Quinn, MA				
Eric Reid, RI	Yes			
Alan Tracy, ME	Yes			
Peter Hughes, MAFMC	Yes			
Matt Gates, CT	Yes			
TOTAL VOTE	11	0	0	0

Discussion on Motion 1: Several Committee members and members of the public commented in support of Motion 1. There was support for combining Closed Area II Southwest and Extension due to the spatial distribution of scallops there. One Committee member expressed interest in analyzing an option for less than 24 DAS in the interest of being conservative; however, after some discussion, there was recognition that the 24 and 26 DAS options are conservative relative to the scallop fishery legal limits and the Committee felt that two DAS options would be informative without overloading the PDT's workload. An AP member commented in favor of the motion, specifically because it does not include any options for flex allocation – they felt that flex allocations in the past have increased uncertainty around where fishing will occur, such as the additional pressure flexed into the MAAA recently.

Motion 2: Hughes/

Move that the Committee tasks the PDT to develop an alternative in FW33 that would:

- Set FT LA possession limit at 18,000 pounds in all access areas.
- 4 Total FT LA AA trips:
 - 1.5 in MAAA
 - 1.5 in CAII (SW and EXT as one area)
 - .5 in NLS-South
 - .5 CAI-FLEX to NLS-South
- Trip exchanges in 9,000 pound increments.
- FT LA DAS: 24

The motion failed for lack of a second.

There was no discussion on Motion 2.

FY2022 Default Measures

Motion 3: Hughes/Reid

Move that the Committee task the PDT to include default measures for FY 2022 in FW33 that would allocate 1 access area trip (18,000 pounds for FT LA) in the MAAA and 1 access area trip (18,000 pounds for FT LA) in the NLS-South at the trip limit specified for 2021 FY.

- The NLS-South trip would not be available until April 1, 2022.
- The MAAA trip would be available on May 1, 2022.

Rationale: The default measures are needed to address the uncertainty associated with COVID-19, and the impacts this can have on the fishery and implementing specifications.

The motion carried on a roll call vote 11-0-0.

	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse
Scallop Committee				
Vincent Balzano, CT (Chair)				
Emily Gilbert, GARFO	Yes			
John Pappalardo, MA	Yes			
Melissa Smith, ME	Yes			
Mark Godfroy, NH	Yes			
Cheri Patterson, NH				
Matt Gates, CT	Yes			
Melanie Griffin, MA (VC)	Yes			
Peter deFur, MAFMC	Yes			
Peter Hughes, MAFMC	Yes			
Alan Tracy, ME	Yes			
Eric Reid, RI	Yes			
Dr. John Quinn, MA				
Dr. Michael Sissenwine, MA	Yes			
TOTAL VOTE	11	0	0	0

Discussion on Motion 3: The Committee discussed the AP's recommendation for FY2022 default specifications as it related to the delayed implementation of the NLS-South trip. AP Chair Jim Gutowski explained that this recommendation takes into consideration the seasonal variation in meat yield and noted that the AP felt delaying the NLS-South default trip until May 1st would align fishing with the time of year that has higher meat yield. The Committee noted that this seasonality exists in the MAAA as well, and felt that a delayed implementation of FY2022 default specifications for this area would be appropriate. A member of the public

commented in favor of delaying implementation for both the NLS-South and MAAA default trips. A Committee member suggested that the PDT could perform bootstrapping analyses to investigate how allocating default specifications to the NLS-South and MAAA in FY2022 might impact fishing in these areas in FY2023 and beyond.

Part-Time Limited Access Allocations

Motion 4: Hughes/Reid

Recommend that the Committee task the PDT to develop measures in FW33 that would allocate Limited Access Part Time vessels two access area trips:

- 1 trip to MAAA at either 14,400 lbs or 12,600 lbs depending on the number of FT LA trips are allocated.
- 1 trip in CAII (combined SW and the EXT) or the NLS-S at 14,400 lbs or 12,600 lbs depending on the number of FT LA trips are allocated.

Rationale: The PT vessels are smaller, have fewer crew. The MAAA and CAII have highest level of exploitable biomass of access areas. There are default trips on the books on April 1, 2020, and boats are likely to fish that before the FW33 specs go into place later in the summer. This gives vessels a chance to fish in the MAAA, and the option to fish inshore or offshore on Georges Bank (NLS or CAII). The 14,400 pound trip limit would be if four access area trips are allocated. The 12,600 lbs trip limit would be if 3.5 FT LA AA trips are allocated.

The motion carried on a roll call vote 11-0-0.

	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse
Scallop Committee				
Vincent Balzano, CT (Chair)				
Melanie Griffin, MA (VC)	Yes			
Matt Gates, CT	Yes			
Cheri Patterson, NH				
Mark Godfroy, NH	Yes			
Melissa Smith, ME	Yes			
John Pappalardo, MA	Yes			
Emily Gilbert, GARFO	Yes			
Dr. Michael Sissenwine, MA	Yes			
Dr. John Quinn, MA				
Eric Reid, RI	Yes			
Alan Tracy, ME	Yes			
Peter Hughes, MAFMC	Yes			
Peter deFur, MAFMC	Yes			
TOTAL VOTE	11	0	0	0

Discussion on Motion 4 was brief – the Committee clarified the part time LA possession limit based on the various full time LA allocations described in Motion 1.

LAGC IFQ Access Area Trips

Motion 5: Griffin/Hughes

Move that the Committee task the PDT to include alternatives in FW33 that would distribute the LAGC IFQ access area allocation from Closed Area II to other access areas (example of 856 trips):

- Option 1: Evenly across all open access areas.
 - MAAA (285 trips)
 - NLS-S (285 trips)
 - CA-I (285 trips)
- Option 2: All in Closed Area I (856 trips)

Rationale: This formula would be for LAGC allocations to CAII – the numbers specified in the motion may change in FW33 if fewer trips are allocated to CAI. These options reflect how the Council has redistributed LAGC IFQ CAII allocations in the past. This creates two options for consideration in FW33.

The motion carries by unanimous consent.

Discussion on Motion 5: It was clarified that the increase to the LAGC IFQ access area trip limit through Amendment 21 will most likely not be implemented until FY2022, and does not need to be accounted for in FW33. Another Committee member voiced gratitude for Council staff and the Advisory Panel for their work in developing FW33.

Measures to Reduce Fishery Impacts

Council staff presented analyses around bycatch trends in Closed Area II access area and extension based on observer data. The analyses supported development of measures in FW32 (i.e., extending the CAII AA seasonal closure) to reduce impacts to both Georges Bank yellowtail and northern windowpane in FY2020. Considering the likelihood for access to CAII in FY2021, the Committee recommended developing similar measures that would extend the CAII seasonal closure in FY2021 and include the CAII-Ext (see Motion 7). A member of the public briefly commented on bycatch projections estimated by the PDT, and felt that that are often overestimated compared to realized bycatch. The Committee also supported the AP recommendation for where RSA compensation fishing can occur in FY2021, and added Closed Area I to the list of areas where compensation fishing can occur to be consistent with the spatial management alternatives described in Motion 1.

Motion 6: Hughes/Griffin

Recommend that the Committee include an alternative in FW33 that would allow RSA compensation fishing in the following areas:

- Open Bottom
- MAAA
- Closed Area II (SW and EXT) with seasonal restrictions
- Closed Area I
- NLS-South
- NGOM management area (up to the LA TAC in this area)

Rationale: This would allow vessels to spread out, and some research is done on compensation fishing. The RSA is important and should be supported with good options for catching the compensation pounds. The RSA has had issues in the past when fishery has not been able to operate in areas where it can catch scallops that receive a price to adequately support research.

The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Motion 7: Griffin/Pappalardo

Move that the Committee task the PDT to develop measures in FW33 to mitigate impacts on flatfish based on estimated bycatch of GB Yellowtail in FY2021. The PDT should focus on using seasonal closures, and the benefits of a seasonal closure from Aug. 15 – Nov. 30.

Rationale: The sub-ACL for GB yellowtail will be ~12 mt for FY2021. There are options for 1.5 trips to CAII (SW and EXT) and RSA compensation fishing. This would include examining the benefits of continuing the two-week closure at the end of November (Nov. 16 – Nov. 30). The delayed opening to June 1 is likely to mitigate impacts on flatfish on its own. The closure would apply to the CAII SW and EXT.

The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Gulf of Maine Survey Results and NGOM Measures

The Committee reviewed findings from the 2020 drop camera survey of the Gulf of Maine and moved forward a recommendation to continue the closure of the portion of Stellwagen Bank in the NGOM through FY2021 (see Motion 8, below). The Committee also recommended developing a range of NGOM TACs based on the assumption that fishing will occur in all areas that were surveyed in 2020, plus Machias Seal Island.

Motion 8: Smith/Hughes

1. The Committee recommends that Stellwagen Bank in the NGOM remain closed for FY 2021.
2. Move that the Committee task the PDT to develop NGOM TAC options using F rates of F=0.18, F=0.2, F=0.25 in the following that areas:
 - Ipswich Bay
 - Jeffreys Ledge
 - Platts Bank
 - Machias Seal Island

Rationale: The fishery is likely to spread out in 2021. Some vessels are likely to fish in the Machias Seal Island area, along with the other areas that were fished in FY 2020.

The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Other Business

1. Correspondence from the Scallopers Campaign: Mr. Jeff Pike referenced the letter sent from the Scallopers Campaign asking for the Council reconsider the list of 2021 priorities and recommending that listening sessions for leasing in the limited access fishery be added as a 2021 priority. Committee Chair Balzano noted that this topic could be added to the January Committee meeting agenda so that the public will have notice the discussion will be taking place. A member of the Committee commented that if the discussion around leasing is going to be revisited, there should be substantive reasoning as to why leasing should be added to the list of 2021 priorities instead of just resubmitting the Committee recommendation on priorities from earlier in the fall.
2. David Borden of the Atlantic Offshore Lobstermen's Association raised the topic of gear conflict issues between fixed gear and scallop fishing in Closed Area I. Mr. Borden offered ways that these gear conflicts might be minimized, such as a seasonal closure to scallop fishing in Closed Area I, though it was acknowledged that the limited outlook for CAI in FY2021 may reduce gear conflict issues. Staff will follow up with Mr. Borden to overlay the proposed seasonal closure area with scallop management boundaries.
3. AP Membership: It was noted that two Scallop Advisors had stepped down from the AP and the AP had expressed interest in filling those seats with similar representatives of the fishery. The Committee discussed the idea of soliciting applications for the two empty seats and supported raising this topic for further discussion at the Executive Committee.

The meeting ended at 1:39pm.



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MEETING SUMMARY

Scallop Advisory Panel Meeting

December 8, 2020

Webinar Meeting

The Scallop Advisory Panel met via webinar on December 8, 2020 to: 1) review analyses and recommend specification alternatives to be considered by the Committee for inclusion in Framework 33, 2) review Gulf of Maine survey results and consider closure configurations in the Gulf of Maine to protect small scallops, and 3) discuss other business.

MEETING ATTENDANCE:

James Gutowski (AP Chair), Jonathon Peros (Plan Coordinator), Sam Asci (Council staff), Kirk Larson, Ron Enoksen, Bob Maxwell, Ed Mullis, Brent Fulcher, Kristan Porter, Ben Martens, Cassie Canastra, Chris Merl, Charlie Quinn, Paul Vafides, Tom Coley, Mike Marchetti, Brady Lybarger, and Eric Hansen.

Vincent Balzano (Scallop Committee Chair) was in attendance on the webinar along with approximately 35 members of the public.

The meeting began at 9:04 AM. Advisory Panel Chair Jim Gutowski welcomed the AP and members of the audience to the webinar. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all Council related meetings have been transitioned to webinars including the Scallop AP and Committee meetings. Staff reviewed instructions for participating in the webinar and gave an overview of the goals and objectives for the day's meeting.

Key Outcomes:

- The AP made recommendations to the Committee on the range of specifications alternatives and measures to be included in FW33.
- The AP recommended the continued closure of the NGOM portion of Stellwagen Bank in FY2021 and identified areas that are likely to be fished in 2021.

Framework 33

Overview of motions and general discussion related to FY2021 specification alternative

recommendations to the Committee: The AP made a series of motions recommending a range of specifications alternatives to be considered in Framework 33 (see Motion 1 – Motion 6 below). All recommendations set the full-time access area possession limit at 18,000 pounds and would allow access area allocations to be traded in 9,000-pound increments. The recommendations all allocate access at varying levels to Closed Area II (both CAII-Southwest and CAII-Extension), the MAAA, and the Nantucket Lightship South. The spatial management configuration for these areas were the same for all

options except for Motion 2, which would allocate access to CAII-SW and CAII-Ext as two separate areas – in all other options, CAII-SW and CAII-Ext are considered one continuous area. The AP recognized that the bulk of biomass in these two areas lies on their shared boundary and felt that fishing them separately will create an unsafe situation where vessels are fishing in close proximity on either side of the border.

The only other difference in spatial management configuration is also in Motion 2, which makes Closed Area I part of the open area. The AP had a fair bit of discussion around CAI in general. Some felt that there may be more biomass in CAI than what is projected for 2021, but there was agreement that this area could not support either a full trip or half trip for FT LA vessels in FY2021. Some felt that making CAI part of the open area is an equitable approach for the whole fishery in that both LA and LAGC vessels will have access to it when fishing open trips, and LAGC vessels won't be constrained by a set number of access area trips. Others supported the idea of allowing pounds from other areas to be flexed to CAI because it would give flexibility to LA vessels if they want to fish there, but does not force any vessel to fish there. The "flex" concept was first used in FW29 and allows fishermen to pick which access area they want to fish in. Another part of the discussion was focused on the importance of having areas on Georges Bank where LAGC vessels can fish. The AP felt that having access areas open on Georges Bank and in the Mid-Atlantic gives LAGC fishermen a chance to fish in access areas closer to home, preserves the geographic distribution of that component of the fishery, and does not create a situation where access area trips that would have been allocated to Closed Area II are instead redistributed to the Mid-Atlantic Access Area.

Related to the Mid-Atlantic Access Area, there was agreement that this area should be fished in a way that access is supported for both 2021 and 2022. The AP felt that this can be accomplished through the 1.5 and 1 trip options.

For open area days-at-sea options, there was agreement that the range of 24 to 28 DAS should be included in FW33 and that this range is consistent with the approach used by the Council for several years in managing the open area conservatively.

Motion 1: Lybarger/Fulcher

Recommend that the Committee tasks the PDT to develop an alternative in FW33 that would:

- Set FT LA possession limit at 18,000 pounds in all access areas.
- 4 Total FT LA AA trips:
 - 1.5 in MAAA
 - 1.5 in CAII (SW and EXT as one area)
 - .5 in NLS-South
 - .5 CAI-FLEX to NLS-South
- Trip exchanges in 9,000 pound increments.

Rationale: This allows no more than 27k (1.5 trips) in 2021 in MAAA. Opening the smaller box of CA2 SW and EXT spreads the boats out and flexibility with safety in mind. Opening CA1 for 9k gives incentive to fish those scallop pounds remaining in the area and gives the Gen Cat fleet an area to fish close to home in New England. And FLEXing into the NLS wouldn't put any more burden on that area, we could rely on a full trip in 2022. This motion would allocate 4 FT LA AA trips in 2021 while trying to preserve some access for 2022.

Motion 1	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse
Scallop AP				
James Gutowski (Chair)				
Ben Martens	Yes			
Bob Maxwell	Yes			
Brady Lybarger	Yes			
Brent Fulcher	Yes			
Cassie Canastra	Yes			
Charlie Quinn	Yes			
Chris Merl	Yes			
Ed Mullis	Yes			
Eric Hansen (VC)	Yes			
Kirk Larson	Yes			
Kristen Porter				
Michael Marchetti	Yes			
Paul Vafides	Yes			
Ronnie Enoksen	Yes			
Tom Coley	Yes			
TOTAL VOTE	14	0	0	0

Discussion on Motion 1: Several AP members voiced support for Motion 1, specifically because it combines Closed Area II Southwest and Closed Area II Extension as one continuous area, it allows the LA fleet a chance to fish in CAI while also giving the LAGC component access to that area, and keeps effort in the MAAA at a level where fishing can be supported in both FY2021 and FY2022.

Motion 2: Hansen/Mullis

Recommend that the Committee task the PDT to develop an alternative in FW33 that would:

- Set FT LA Access Area possession limits at 18,000 pounds.
- Four access area trips:
 - MAAA 1.5
 - CL2-SW 1
 - NLS-S 1
 - CL2ext .5
- Allow FT LA exchanges in 9,000 pound increments.
- CA1 open bottom

Rationale: Closed Area I would be open bottom because it now qualifies as open bottom rather than staying closed as an access area. This motion tries to preserve some allocation/fishing opportunities in the MAAA for 2022.

Motion 2	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse
Scallop AP				
Tom Coley	Yes			
Ronnie Enoksen	Yes			
Paul Vafides	Yes			
Michael Marchetti		No		
Kristen Porter				
Kirk Larson		No		
James Gutowski (Chair)				
Eric Hansen (VC)	Yes			
Ed Mullis	Yes			
Chris Merl		No		
Charlie Quinn	Yes			
Cassie Canastra	Yes			
Brent Fulcher		No		
Brady Lybarger		No		
Bob Maxwell		No		
Ben Martens – did not vote				
TOTAL VOTE	7	6	0	0

Discussion on Motion 2: Those opposed to Motion 2 did not support the idea of making CAI part of the open area. Several Advisors felt that it is important to preserve LAGC access in CAI in FY2021 and noted that opening it would limit available access areas for this component of the fishery. Others did not necessarily disagree with opening CAI, but did not support the motion because they felt this recommendation would not get tractions at the Committee. Those in support of the motion felt that making CAI open bottom would allow for equitable access to the scallops there by both the LA and LAGC components.

Motion 3: Larson/Fulcher:

Recommend that the Committee task the PDT to develop an alternative in FW33 that would:

- Set FT LA Access Area possession limits at 18,000 pounds
- 4 FT LA trips
 - 1.5 MAAA (.5 could be FLEXed to CAI)
 - 1.5 CAII-SW CAII-EXT (.5 Could be FLEXed to CAI)
 - 1 NLS-South
- Allow FT LA exchanges in 9,000 pound increments.

Rationale: Scallops in the NLS are older and should be available for harvest. This option provides flexibility for the LA fleet to fish across four different access areas in 2020, and make business decisions. This keeps CAI available for LAGC fishing, while allowing LA to fish in

other areas with little fishing pressure in CAI. It also allows the fishing in CAI if the other areas don't pan out.

Motion 3	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse
Scallop AP				
James Gutowski (Chair)				
Kirk Larson	YES			
Kristen Porter				
Michael Marchetti	YES			
Paul Vafides	YES			
Ronnie Enoksen	YES			
Tom Coley	YES			
Ben Martens	YES			
Bob Maxwell	YES			
Brady Lybarger	YES			
Brent Fulcher	YES			
Cassie Canastra	YES			
Charlie Quinn	YES			
Chris Merl	YES			
Ed Mullis	YES			
Eric Hansen (VC)	YES			
TOTAL VOTE	14	0	0	0

Motion 4: Larson/Fulcher:

Recommend that the Committee moves to task the PDT to develop an alternative in FW33 that would:

- Set FT LA Access Area possession limits at 18,000 pounds
- 4 FT LA trips
 - 1.5 MAAA (.5 could be FLEXed to CAI)
 - 1.5 CAII (CAII-SW CAII-EXT as one area)
 - 1 NLS-South
- Allow FT LA exchanges in 9,000 pound increments.

Rationale: Same motion as #3, but with only FLEX from one area (MAAA). 12-13 bushels to the bag in the MAAA right now, could use an option to FLEX to CAI.

Motion 4	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse
Scallop AP				
James Gutowski (Chair)				
Eric Hansen (VC)	Yes			
Cassie Canastra	Yes			
Tom Coley	Yes			
Ronnie Enoksen	Yes			

Brent Fulcher	Yes			
Kirk Larson	Yes			
Brady Lybarger	Yes			
Michael Marchetti	Yes			
Ben Martens	Yes			
Bob Maxwell	Yes			
Chris Merl	Yes			
Ed Mullis	Yes			
Kristen Porter				
Charlie Quinn	Yes			
Paul Vafides	Yes			
TOTAL VOTE	14	0	0	0

Motion 5: Hansen/Mullis:

Recommend that the Committee moves to task the PDT to develop an alternative in FW33 that would:

- Set FT LA Access Area possession limits at 18,000 pounds
- 4 FT LA trips
 - 1 MAAA
 - 1.5 CAII (CAII-SW CAII-EXT as one area)
 - 1.5 NLS-South (.5 could be FLEXed to CAI).
- Allow FT LA exchanges in 9,000 pound increments.

Rationale: This goes with 1 trip to the MAAA, and increasing landing from NLS-South. The scallops in the NLS-S may die of old age if we don't harvest them, and that is a waste of the resource. 12-13 bushels to the bag in the MAAA right now, could use an option to FLEX to CAI.

Motion 5	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse
Scallop AP				
James Gutowski (Chair)				
Eric Hansen (VC)	Yes			
Cassie Canastra	Yes			
Tom Coley	Yes			
Ronnie Enoksen	Yes			
Brent Fulcher	Yes			
Kirk Larson	Yes			
Brady Lybarger	Yes			
Michael Marchetti	Yes			
Ben Martens	Yes			
Bob Maxwell	Yes			
Chris Merl	Yes			
Ed Mullis	Yes			
Kristen Porter				
Charlie Quinn	Yes			
Paul Vafides	Yes			

TOTAL VOTE	14	0	0	0
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Discussion on Motion 3, Motion 4, and Motion 5: The AP was supportive of Motion 3 because it follows a similar spatial management configuration as other options, but also utilizes half trip flex allocations that could be fished in Closed Area I. Following the vote on Motion 3, there was some discussion around how administering half trip flex allocations from two different areas could be challenging – in light of this discussion, the AP moved forward Motion 4 and Motion 5, which are the same as Motion 3 but allows pounds from only one area (i.e., the MAAA in Motion 4, CAII in Motion 5) to be flexed to CAI. Those in favor of Motion 5 also voiced support for including an option in FW33 that reduces effort in the MAAA to 1 trip.

Motion 6: Hansen/Fulcher

Recommend that the Committee task the PDT to develop specification alternatives in FW33 that set FT LA DAS at:

- o 24 DAS (F=0.3)
- o 26 DAS (F=0.33)
- o 28 DAS (F=0.36)

Rationale: These DAS options are well below the allowed F to set DAS at (F=0.61). These runs have been completed and provide a range for analysis.

Motion 6	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse
Scallop AP				
James Gutowski (Chair)				
Eric Hansen (VC)	Yes			
Cassie Canastra	Yes			
Tom Coley	Yes			
Ronnie Enoksen	Yes			
Brent Fulcher	Yes			
Kirk Larson	Yes			
Brady Lybarger	Yes			
Michael Marchetti	Yes			
Ben Martens	Yes			
Bob Maxwell	Yes			
Chris Merl	Yes			
Ed Mullis	Yes			
Kristen Porter				
Charlie Quinn	Yes			
Paul Vafides	Yes			
TOTAL VOTE	14	0	0	0

2022 Default Measures

Motion 7: Fulcher/Larson

Recommend that the Committee task the PDT to include default measures for FY 2022 in FW33 that would allocate 1 access area trip (18,000 pounds for FT LA) in the MAAA and 1 access area trip (18,000 pounds for FT LA) in the NLS-South at the trip limit specified for 2021 FY.

- The NLS-South trip would not be available until May 1, 2022.
- The MAAA trip would be available on April 1, 2022.

Rationale: The default measures are needed to address the uncertainty associated with COVID-19, and the impacts this can have on the fishery and implementing specifications.

Motion 7	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse
Scallop AP				
James Gutowski (Chair)				
Eric Hansen (VC)	Yes			
Cassie Canastra	Yes			
Tom Coley	Yes			
Ronnie Enoksen	Yes			
Brent Fulcher	Yes			
Kirk Larson	Yes			
Brady Lybarger	Yes			
Michael Marchetti	Yes			
Ben Martens	Yes			
Bob Maxwell	Yes			
Chris Merl	Yes			
Ed Mullis	Yes			
Kristen Porter			Abstain	
Charlie Quinn	Yes			
Paul Vafides	Yes			
TOTAL VOTE	14	0	1	0

Discussion on Motion 7 was brief – in addition to the standard default measures for open area DAS, the AP recommended including a trip to the MAAA and a trip to the NLS-South as default specifications for 2022. The rationale for allocating two trips for 2022 is the delays in the Framework process experienced this year and the uncertainty around how the pandemic might affect next year’s process. The AP discussed the timing of fishing under default specifications relative to meat yield, and included a recommendation for the NLS-South default trip going into place in May is to ensure that effort aligns with the time of year when yields are higher.

Part Time Limited Access Allocations

Motion 8: Fulcher/Mullis

Recommend that the Committee task the PDT to develop measures in FW33 that would allocate Limited Access Part Time vessels two access area trips:

- 1 trip to MAAA at 14,400 lbs
- 1 trip in CAII (whichever configuration in selected) or the NLS-S at 14,400 lbs

Rationale: The PT vessels are smaller, have fewer crew. The MAAA and CAII have highest level of exploitable biomass of access areas. There are default trips on the books on April 1, 2020, and boats are likely to fish that before the FW33 specs go into place later in the summer. This gives vessels a chance to fish in the MAAA, and the option to fish inshore or offshore on Georges Bank (NLS or CAII).

Motion 8	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse
Scallop AP				
James Gutowski (Chair)				
Kirk Larson		No		
Kristen Porter	Yes			
Michael Marchetti	Yes			
Paul Vafides	Yes			
Ronnie Enoksen			Abstain	
Tom Coley	Yes			
Ben Martens			Abstain	
Bob Maxwell	Yes			
Brady Lybarger	Yes			
Brent Fulcher	Yes			
Cassie Canastra	Yes			
Charlie Quinn	Yes			
Chris Merl			Abstain	
Ed Mullis	Yes			
Eric Hansen (VC)			Abstain	
TOTAL VOTE	10	1	4	0

Discussion on Motion 8 was limited – the AP was supportive of recommending two 14,400-pound trips for part time limited access vessels in FY2021, corresponding with 40% of the full time limited access allocation to access areas. One member of the AP did not support the motion because they felt that PT allocations should be consistent with FT allocations; for example, FT allocations do not allow for an NLS-S trip to be fished in CAII, whereas the recommendation in Motion 8 would allow this flexibility to PT vessels.

LAGC IFQ Access Area Trips

Motion 9: Enoksen/Fulcher

Recommend that the Committee task the PDT to include alternatives in FW33 that would distribute the LAGC IFQ access area allocation from Closed Area II to other access areas (example of 856 trips):

- Evenly across all open access areas.
 - MAAA (285 trips)
 - NLS-S (285 trips)
 - CA-I (285 trips)
- All in Closed Area I (856 trips)

Rationale: This formula would be for allocations to CAII – the numbers specified in the motion may change if fewer trips are allocated to CAI. These options reflect how the Council has redistributed LAGC IFQ CAII allocations in the past. This creates two options.

Motion 9	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse
Scallop AP				
James Gutowski (Chair)				
Ben Martens	YES			
Bob Maxwell		No		
Brady Lybarger	Yes			
Brent Fulcher	Yes			
Cassie Canastra	Yes			
Charlie Quinn	Yes			
Chris Merl	Yes			
Ed Mullis	Yes			
Eric Hansen (VC)	Yes			
Kirk Larson		No		
Kristen Porter	Yes			
Michael Marchetti	Yes			
Paul Vafides	Yes			
Ronnie Enoksen	Yes			
Tom Coley	Yes			
TOTAL VOTE	13	2	0	0

Discussion on Motion 9: The AP recommended two options for how to redistribute LAGC trips that are allocated to Closed Area II. The first option distributes the trips evenly between all other access areas, and the second option moves all CAII trips into CAI. One Advisor did not support the idea of redistributing all CAII trips to CAI, though all other AP members that spoke to Motion 9 were in support of the two options recommended.

Reduce Fishery Impacts

Motion 10: Larson/Mullis

Recommend that the Committee include an alternative in FW33 that would allow RSA compensation fishing in the following areas:

- Open Bottom
- MAAA
- Closed Area II with seasonal restrictions
- NLS-S
- NGOM management area (up to the LA TAC in this area)

Rationale: This would allow vessels to spread out, and some research is done on compensation fishing. The RSA is important and should be supported with good options for catching the compensation pounds. The RSA has had issues in the past when fishery has not been able to operate in areas where it can catch scallops that receive a price to adequately support research.

Motion 10	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse
Scallop AP				
James Gutowski (Chair)				
Kirk Larson	Yes			
Kristen Porter	Yes			
Michael Marchetti	Yes			
Paul Vafides	Yes			
Ronnie Enoksen	Yes			
Tom Coley	Yes			
Ben Martens	Yes			
Bob Maxwell	Yes			
Brady Lybarger	Yes			
Brent Fulcher	Yes			
Cassie Canastra	Yes			
Charlie Quinn	Yes			
Chris Merl	Yes			
Ed Mullis	Yes			
Eric Hansen (VC)	Yes			
TOTAL VOTE	15	0	0	0

Discussion on Motion 10: The AP recommended allowing RSA compensation fishing in the open area, as well as all rotational areas that will be accessible to the fishery in 2021. As stated in the rationale for Motion 10, the AP highlighted the importance of the RSA program to the fishery and felt that the compensation fishing that supports this program should be allowed in areas that fetch an adequate price.

Motion 11: Fulcher/Hansen

The AP recommends that the Committee task the PDT to develop measures in FW33 to mitigate impacts on flatfish based on estimated bycatch of GB Yellowtail in FY2021. The PDT should focus on using seasonal closures, and the benefits of a seasonal closure from Aug. 15 – Nov. 30.

Rationale: The sub-ACL for GB yellowtail will be ~12 mt for FY2021. There are options for 1.5 trips to CAII. This would include examining the benefits of continuing the two-week closure at the end of November (Nov. 16 – Nov. 30). The delayed opening to June 1 is likely to mitigate impacts on flatfish on its own.

The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Discussion on Motion 11: Also related to reducing fishery impacts, the AP discussed ways to help mitigate impacts to Georges Bank yellowtail and northern windowpane, considering the likelihood that the fishery will be in eastern Georges Bank for the next several years. The group agreed that the delayed start to 2021 will benefit these two flatfish stocks because bycatch rates tend to be the highest across the entire year during the month of April in Closed Area II. The AP also recommended developing measures in FW33 to mitigate impacts on Georges Bank yellowtail flounder, such as extending the Closed Area II seasonal closure by two weeks (i.e., Aug. 15th to Nov. 30th, the same timing as the closure in FY2020). One AP member suggested that the start of the seasonal closure be shifted to September 1st; however, several others on the AP noted that August is typically when yellowtail catch swings up in Closed Area II and suggested the start of the closure not be modified.

2020 Survey of the Gulf of Maine, NGOM Specifications

The AP reviewed findings from the 2020 drop camera survey of the Gulf of Maine and moved forward a recommendation to continue the closure of the portion of Stellwagen Bank in the NGOM through FY2021 (see Motion 12, below). The group also recommended developing a range of NGOM TACs based on the assumption that fishing will occur in all areas that were surveyed in 2020, plus Machias Seal Island. An AP member noted that four boats did fish around Machias Seal Island in the 2020 NGOM season and suggested that effort is likely to continue there in 2021.

Motion 12: Porter/Martens

The AP recommends that Stellwagen Bank remain closed for FY 2021.

The AP recommends that the Committee task the PDT to develop NGOM TAC options using F rates of F=0.18, F=0.2, F=0.25 in the following that areas:

- Ipswich Bay
- Jeffreys Ledge
- Platts Bank
- Machias Seal Island

Rationale: The fishery is likely to spread out in 2021. Some vessels are likely to fish in the Machias Seal Island area, along with the other areas that were fished in FY 2020.

The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Other Business

Under other business, the AP noted vacancies on the panel, and asked if the Council had plans to fill those seats. Staff explained the process and suggested that the Committee may wish to weigh in on this. There was also some very brief discussion around developing safeguards in the allocation process that would make uncaught access area allocations available to vessels if an area is unable to support the level of fishing allocated to it.

No other business was discussed. The meeting adjourned at 3:58 PM.