



New England Fishery Management Council

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 23, 2020
TO: Scallop Advisory Panel and Scallop Committee
FROM: Vincent Balzano, Scallop Committee Chair
SUBJECT: **Purpose for Scallop AP and Committee meetings on March 26 & 27, 2020**

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council will be holding Scallop AP and Committee meetings by webinar on March 26 and 27, 2020. Documents for this meeting will be e-mailed to you as they become available, and posted to the Council's website.

Purpose: The main objectives of the Advisory Panel meeting are to:

- 1) Amendment 21: Review goals, objectives, and status of this action. Provide input on the range of alternatives to include in this action, and additional tasking if necessary.
- 2) Discuss the impact the COVID-19 pandemic is having on the scallop fishery.
- 3) Approve the scallop-related 2020-2024 Council research priorities. (*This is not the RSA*)
- 4) Other Business

The full Council is scheduled to meet by webinar on April 14 and April 15, 2020. The scallop report is scheduled for 9:30 am on April 15, 2020.

Webinar: In order to participate in the meeting, you will need to register for the webinar. Please register before the meeting begins. You can use the following links to register.

AP webinar: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1936930875417586187>

Committee webinar: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/777946663695282187>

If you do not register for the meeting you will not be able to participate in the meeting. The Council has developed an instruction guide for GoToWebinar remote participation. It can be found at [this link](#).

1. **Participating in the meeting:** **To participate, you MUST register for the meeting.** If you don't, staff will not be able unmute you.

The public and AP/Committee members will be able to participate in the webinar. Council staff will be working closely with the Chair to accommodate remote participation during the meeting. Staff will review how individuals can participate during the meeting. As with in-person meetings, questions about presentations will be entertained before taking comments. The AP and Committee will have the first opportunity to weigh in, followed by the public. Individuals interested in speaking should raise their hand on the webinar.

2. Motions via Webinar:

- a. **Making Motions:** There are three ways to submit a motion for discussion:
 - i. E-mail the motions to Jonathon Peros (jperos@nefmc.org) and Sam Asci (sasci@nefmc.org) on Council staff, and cc the Committee Chair (*preferred approach*).
 - ii. When called upon by the Chair, make a motion over the webinar (*be prepared to watch staff type*).
- b. **Seconding Motions:** You can raise your hand in the webinar to second the motion. Council staff will confirm this by voice over the webinar so it is clear who the maker and seconder of each motion are.
- c. **Discussion on each Motion:** The AP and Committee will have an opportunity to discuss each motion, followed by an opportunity for the public to comment. Please raise your hand on the webinar if you would like to speak to a motion. The Committee Chair will call on individuals who would like to address the motion. After the AP/Committee have a chance to discuss this motion, the Chair will call on members of the public.
- d. **Voting:** When the Chair is ready to call the vote, Council staff will do a roll call vote. Staff will provide the vote count, which will be confirmed by the Committee chair. At the discretion of the Chair, motions can also be approved by unanimous consent in lieu of a roll call vote.

Meeting Materials: A PDF of each document will be posted to www.nefmc.org. If you have any questions about the documents, please contact Jonathon Peros (jperos@nefmc.org; 978-465-0492 ext. 117).

MEETING MATERIALS – Subject to Change

- Meeting Information
 - a. Meeting Agenda
 - b. Meeting Memo from Committee Chair, Mr. Vincent Balzano
 - c. Staff presentations (*to be provided*)
 - d. Webinar Instructions
- Scallop Amendment 21
 - a. Draft A21 Alternatives (in development)
 - b. Draft A21 Affected Environment (background information)
 - c. SARC 65 Appendix 3 – Gulf of Maine
 - d. A21 Action Plan
 - e. List of decision points for Amendment 21 discussion
- Recent Meeting Summaries:
 - a. February 27, 2020 Scallop Committee Meeting Summary (A21 tasking motions)
 - b. February 26, 2020 Scallop Advisory Panel Meeting Summary
- Memo from Council Staff on 2020 – 2024 Council Research Priorities
- 2020 Scallop RSA Awards
- Correspondence

For more information on Amendment 21, including scoping information and comments, use this link: <https://www.nefmc.org/library/amendment-21>

Amendment 21 to the Scallop FMP

Recent Activity: The Council has prioritized work on Amendment 21 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop FMP as a 2020 priority. Amendment 21 is expected to address three specific issues: 1) measures related to the Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) Management Area, 2) Limited Access General Category (LAGC) individual fishing quota (IFQ) possession limits, and 3) ability of Limited Access vessels with LAGC IFQ to transfer quota to LAGC IFQ-only vessels. The Scallop Plan Development Team discussed tasking during several meetings in 2019, and recently discussed this action during two conference calls (January 24, 2019, February 10, 2019, and March 17, 2020). The Scallop AP and Scallop Committee met on February 26 and February 27, 2020. The Committee added several new alternatives to the action, and tasked the PDT gather additional information.

Next Steps: Council staff will summarize the status of Amendment 21, and present recent progress on this action. The AP and Committee will have the opportunity review the draft alternatives and affected environment. Changes and updates (based on AP and Committee input) will be made between your upcoming meetings and the April Council meeting.

The Council is expected identify a range of alternatives at its April 2020 meeting. This is the final opportunity for the AP and Committee to provide input ahead of the April 2020 Council meeting.

If the Council does not identify the range of alternatives for Amendment 21 at its April 2020 meeting, the timeline presented in the Amendment 21 action plan would likely be extended. If the Council selects a range of alternatives in April, some progress on 2020 work priorities could be expected ahead of the June Council meeting. The Council will be developing specifications for 2021 and 2022 this fall, with a final vote expected at the December 2020 meeting.

Anticipated Outcomes from this Meeting:

Please Review A21 Draft Alternatives and Affected Environment and be ready to address the following issues.

- The AP and Committee should review the goals and objectives that have been identified for this action. These are used to guide the development of alternatives.
- The AP and Committee should continue to provide rationale for each option in the document.
- The AP and Committee should be ready to provide feedback and input on the draft range of alternatives and the affected environment. This may include:
 - a. Tasking motions that seek additional information to support the development of A21.
 - b. Motions that add/modify alternatives. This is the final opportunity for the Committee to make adjustments to the range of alternatives before the April Council meeting. The full Council will have the opportunity to make adjustments at its meeting in April.
- Please note that time between meetings is limited, with approximately one week to make updates to the documents. The Council mailing is on Friday, April 3, 2020.

COVID-19 Impact on Scallop Fishery

Recent Activity: As the number of confirmed cases of has increased in the United State, federal and state governments have taken steps to reduce the transmission of the virus that have had impacts on the commerce, including the scallop fishery. The New England Fishery Management Council's office remains open, though all upcoming meetings have been moved to a webinar format. Most staff are working remotely and can be reach by e-mail or phone.

The Scallop PDT held its March 17, 2020 meeting via webinar. The PDT noted the potential impacts the COVID-19 pandemic may have on the scallop market (ex-vessel price), and ability of vessels to prosecute the fishery in a timely manner.

Next Steps: I have requested updates NOAA Fisheries and the USCG on the impact this COVID-19 pandemic is having on day-to-day operations, including the issuance of documentation needed to comply with federal regulations. The AP and Committee will have an opportunity to discuss the impact and outlook for the fishery, and

Anticipated Outcomes:

- The AP and Committee should be prepared to provide feedback on how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting the scallop fishery.
- The AP and Committee may wish to provide feedback or suggestions to mitigate the impact of this pandemic to the Council though motions or consensus statements.

2020 – 2024 Research Priorities

Recent Activity: Per the Magnuson Stevens Reauthorization Act of 2006, Councils are required to develop five-year research priority plans and submit them to the Secretary of Commerce. The Council had been updating this list once every 5 years. The Council plans to annually update this list, and is in the process of implementing a research priority setting process. The Scallop PDT met on January and February of 2020 to discuss potential ways to update the Council's research priorities for 2020 - 2024, focusing only on scallop related priorities.

Next Steps: Input from this meeting will be considered by the Council's SSC at an upcoming meeting. The Council is expected to update 5-year research priorities at their June 2020 meeting.

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Develop input to the SSC and Council for updating the 5-year research priorities (2020-2024).

Other Business

Anticipated Outcomes: Additional items and issues may be taken up under other business.

Please review all documents before the meeting.

If you have any questions about these enclosures, please contact Jonathon Peros (978-465-0492 ext. 117).