



New England Fishery Management Council

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MEETING SUMMARY

Scallop Plan Development Team Meeting

May 21, 2020

Webinar

The Scallop Plan Development Team met by webinar on May 21, 2020 to: 1) develop recommendations on the 2021/2022 Scallop RSA research priorities, and 2) discuss other business.

PDT ATTENDANCE: Jonathon Peros (Plan Coordinator), Sam Asci, Dr. William DuPaul, Dr. Rachel Feeney, Travis Ford, Ben Galuardi, Dr. Dvora Hart, Chris Parkins, Dr. David Rudders, Tim Cardiasmenos.

Vincent Balzano (Scallop Committee Chair) was in attendance along with approximately 12 members of the public listening in.

The meeting began at 10:03 AM. Council staff welcomed the PDT to the call and explained the goal for the meeting: to discuss research priorities for the 2021-2022 Scallop RSA program and make recommendations to the Advisory Panel (AP) and Committee for consideration at their meetings in the following weeks. Council staff provided an overview of recently awarded RSA projects, expected survey coverage for 2020, surveys coverage already awarded for 2021 (see Figure 1 and Figure 2), and background information on areas of interest to be surveyed in 2021-2022. The PDT used the 2020-2021 RSA priority list as a starting point and discussed potential changes to the list to recommend to the AP and Committee for the 2021-2022 RSA cycle. Suggested revisions and discussion points from the PDT are summarized in the attached working document (note that suggested revisions are in tracked changes, discussion points are in comments). The PDT did not reach consensus on all of the suggested revisions to RSA priorities, but did generally agree on prioritizing surveys in areas of interest for the fishery in 2021-2022 and removing or adjusting priorities that have already been addressed or are being addressed through recently awarded projects (e.g., wind energy-related projects, focusing meat quality projects on monitoring/tracking disease, etc.). The PDT recommended adding a new priority “evaluation of rotational management”. This priority could be addressed using existing data sets to better understand how rotational management has performed over time. This priority would also be suitable for evaluating management approaches with regard to intense fishing pressure in high-density areas, such as recent cases in the NLS-West and ET-Flex areas.

The PDT will reconvene again before the June 2020 Council meeting to discuss Amendment 21 analyses and other topics that the AP and Committee will take up in the following weeks. No other business was discussed. The meeting ended at 12:04 PM.

Figure 1 – Awarded survey coverage for 2021 from successful two-year proposals in the 2020/2021 RSA cycle.

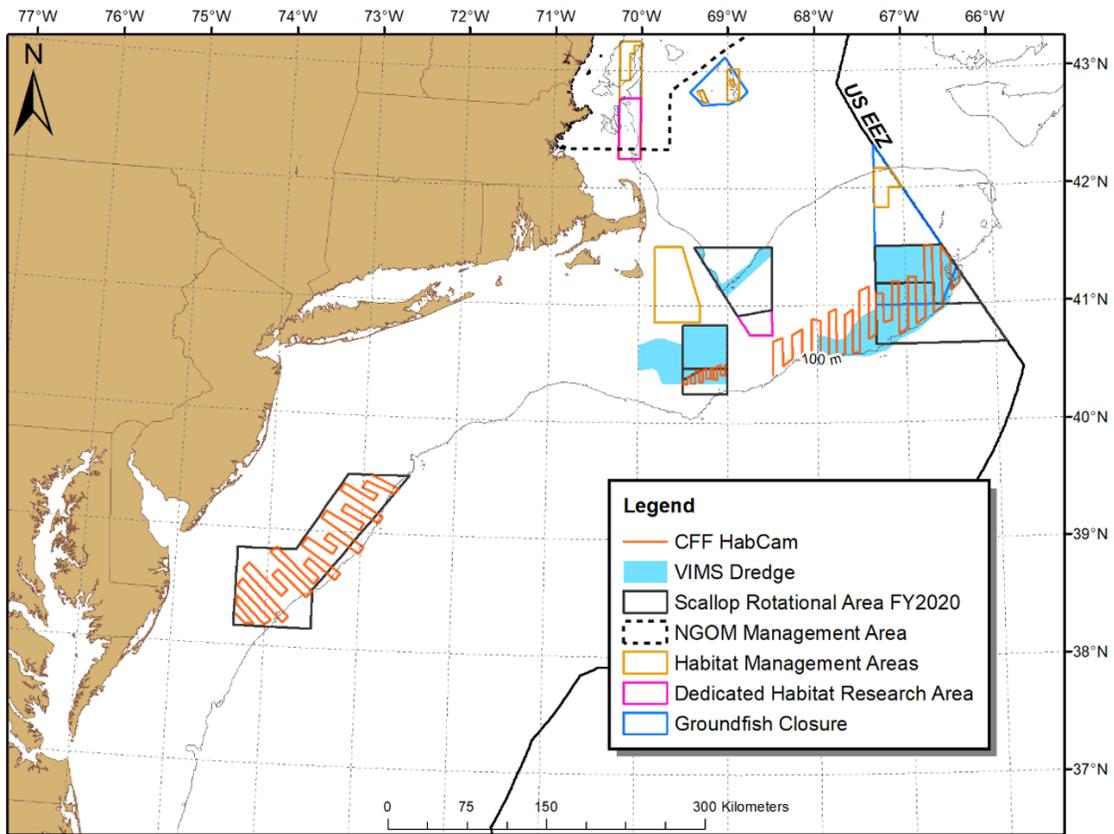


Figure 2 – Awarded survey coverage in the Gulf of Maine for 2021 from (two year award from the 2020/2021 RSA cycle).

