

A21 Alternatives: Decision Points/Feedback Needed

There are several decision points related to alternatives in A21 that the AP/CTE could weigh in on at the March 26-27, 2020 meetings in order to move development of this action forward. These points are highlighted in red text throughout [Doc.2a](#) A21 DRAFT Alternatives and are summarized below for reference. Decision points may be addressed through motions or consensus.

The purpose of addressing the below decision points is to help develop a full range of alternatives for the Council to consider at their April 2020 meeting.

Please e-mail motions you wish to make to jperos@nefmc.org and sasci@nefmc.org.

4.1 Action 1 - NGOM Allocations and Catch Limits

The document has been re-worked so that all options in 4.1 assume that there would be no change to how the NGOM is accounted for in the legal limits (i.e. included in OFL, but not in ABC/ACL).

The AP and Committee can either maintain the current approach to accounting for the NGOM TAC in fishery limits (i.e. included in OFL, but not in ABC/ACL), or include an alternative that incorporates the NGOM into the ABC/ACL. This would be added as a separate alternative.

4.1.2 Alternative 2 - Create NGOM Set-Aside for research, directed fishery, share additional NGOM TAC with LA and LAGC IFQ

Within Alternative 4.1.2 there are two key decision points:

1. At what poundage does should there be access in the NGOM management area for the LA and LAGC IFQ components? Conversely, what amount of NGOM TAC limits access to only the NGOM set-aside? (Determine the NGOM set-aside trigger). The AP and Committee should:
 - a. Review the range of triggers. Additional options can be added to expand the range of set-aside triggers.
 - b. Rationale is needed for the amount of pounds for each NGOM set-aside trigger option. See Sections 4.1.2.1, 4.1.2.2, 4.1.2.3, 4.1.2.4, 4.1.2.5.
2. How should the NGOM TAC be distributed above the trigger?
 - a. The Committee offered two options associated with specific triggers. Review the sub-options for each trigger.

4.1.2.6 Alternative 2 Option 6 – One Tier Sharing Approach (trigger of 70K pounds, 50/50 split over that)

Confirm whether this alternative should be in A21, and that the modifications are consistent with Committee intent. The language of this alternative has been modified so that “LAGC” is now the “NGOM set-aside” and “LA” is now “NGOM APL”. This was done to address the issue of allocating to the LAGC IFQ component, and to make this option consistent with other options that the Committee has proposed.

4.1.3 Create NGOM Set-Aside with pounds over trigger allocated as NGOM APL (to LA and LAGC IFQ)

Confirm that this alternative should be included in A21 and that it would be considered as a sub-option to the range of alternatives in section 4.1.2. This is the original straw person concept that was presented to the AP and Committee in September of 2019. With this option, there would be no incremental increase to the NGOM set-aside. It would only be up to the trigger.

4.2 – Action 2 Monitoring Directed Scallop Fishing in NGOM

4.2.2 Alternative 2 – Monitor directed scallop fishing in NGOM by expanding Scallop IFO program, use portion of NGOM TAC to support monitoring costs

There are at least three decision points that staff suggest the AP and Committee consider:

1. How much of the NGOM TAC should be made available to support monitoring?
 - A 2% monitoring set-aside is proposed in this alternative for discussion purposes. If you would like a larger range of options, the PDT can add sub-options to this section.
2. The Council may wish to identify what the ASM coverage is for and what standard it has to meet.
3. Does the Council want to be prescriptive about setting coverage levels in the NGOM? This could be done in a subsequent action, or in A21. The language in the alternative that NOAA Fisheries will set the coverage levels, which is what is currently done.

4.2.3 Alternative 3 – Monitor NGOM fishery via NEFOP program

- Decide whether this option should be in A21.

4.3 – Action 3 Support Scallop Research Using Scallops from the NGOM

Action 3 considers whether a portion of the NGOM set-aside should be added to the 1.25 million pound Scallop RSA and/or made available for RSA compensation fishing.

4.3.2 Alternative 2 - Allocate portion of the NGOM set-aside as research TAC to support scallop RSA compensation fishing

- Provide feedback on the amount of the NGOM set-aside that could be used for RSA compensation fishing, whether it should be capped, and what the cap might be.
 - Sub-options for consideration: 10% of the NGOM set-aside and a 50,000-pound cap. (are there other options to add?)

4.3.3 Alternative 3 - Allocate portion of NGOM set-aside as research TAC to increase overall Scallop RSA and support RSA compensation fishing

- Provide feedback on the amount of the NGOM set-aside that could be add to the RSA and used for compensation fishing, whether it should be capped, and what the cap might be.

- Sub-options for consideration: 10% of the NGOM set-aside and a 50,000-pound cap. (are there other options to add?)

4.4 Action 4 - NGOM Fishing Season

The AP and Committee may wish to add additional measures to manage the length/timing of NGOM fishery should be added now. The current measures in the document are:

- Alternative 1: No Action
- Alternative 2: Limit the number of landings per week
- Alternative 3: Limit vessels to one sailing per day
- Alternative 4: Establish a seasonal closure of the NGOM management area from September 1 – November 31 annually
- *Any additional measures?*

4.5 Action 5 - NGOM Gear Restricted Area

The AP and Committee may wish to provide rationale for both gear restricted area alternatives:

- Alternative 2 – 10.5’ dredge width maximum for all vessels fishing in the NGOM
- Alternative 3 – 15.5’ dredge width maximum for all vessels fishing in the NGOM.

4.6 – Action 6 – Increase the LAGC IFQ Possession Limit

No action required, please review.

4.7 Action 7 - Increase Amount of Observer Compensation Available for LAGC IFQ Vessels

- Decide whether alternatives that adjust the amount of observer compensation available for LAGC IFQ vessels should be included A21. The PDT recommends adding these to the document.

4.8 Action 8 – One Way Transfer of Quota from LA with IFQ to LAGC IFQ-only

No action required, please review.

4.9 Action 9 – Specification and Framework Adjustment Process

The AP and Committee can add to the list of measures that could be adjusted through a future specifications package or framework adjustment. The list in the current draft version is:

- Partition the NGOM into multiple sub-areas with separate TACs.
- Partition the NGOM TAC is multiple seasons.
- Modify the F rate used to set the NGOM TAC.
- Modify how the NGOM is accounted for in the calculation of OFL, ABC, and ACLs.
- Allow the use of electronic monitoring in place of at-sea observers.