



## New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116

E.F. "Terry" Stockwell III, *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

## MEETING SUMMARY

### Joint Scallop Plan Development Team and Advisory Panel Meeting

Radisson – Warwick, RI

May 13, 2015

The Scallop PDT and AP met on May 13, 2015 in Warwick, MA, MA to review preliminary results from recent Scallop RSA projects and brainstorm about future research priority recommendations. Included in that discussion was a summary of findings from the Scallop Survey Methods Peer Review hosted by the NEFSC in March 2015.

#### ***MEETING ATTENDANCE:***

**PDT Members** – Deirdre Boelke (Chair), Lt. Josh Boyle, Matthew Camisa, Trisha Cheney, Bill BuPaul, Travis Ford, Emily Gilbert, Ben Galuardi, Demet Haksever, Dvora Hart, and Emily Keiley

**AP Members** - Peter Hughes (Chair); James Gutowski (Vice Chair); Ron Enoksen, Eric Hansen, Michael Marchetti, Robert Maxwell, Charles Quinn, and Edward Welch.

In addition, approximately 25 members of the public attended including RSA presenters including MaryBeth Tooley the Committee Chair.

#### ***KEY OUTCOMES:***

- The PDT and AP provided initial input directly to RSA recipients about future research.
- The PDT and AP reviewed findings from the Sea Scallop Survey Methods Peer Review.
- The PDT and AP brainstormed about future research priorities

#### **AGENDA ITEM #1: OVERVIEW OF RSA PROGRAM AND RECENT AWARDS**

##### ***PRESENTATION: DEIRDRE BOELKE, NEFMC STAFF, SCALLOP PDT CHAIR***

Staff reviewed a table with all Scallop RSA awards between 2010 and 2015. The research topic, research organization, award amount, and whether results have been used in management were included. Summary tables and figures were produced to highlight how RSA awards have been spent to date. Next staff highlighted the priorities that were advertised last year, as well as several details about the RSA process that have come up over the years. All of these are detailed in the Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) announcement.

**AGENDA ITEM #2: REVIEW OF PRELIMINARY RESEARCH RESULTS FROM RSA AWARDS**

Ten individual presentations were given on preliminary Scallop RSA research results. The list below includes the presenter name and title of the RSA award. Two presentations were projects not funded through the RSA program, but were included in this meeting because they are relevant to the RSA program and related research. In general, these presentations helped the PDT and AP identify how to adjust future research priorities based on the status of these projects. All presentations are available on the Council website with these meeting materials.

1. Measuring the performance of the northern US RSA programs – Erin Adams, SMAST
2. Discard mortality of sea scallops following capture and handling in the sea scallop dredge fishery – Ryan Knotek, VIMS
3. Estimating incidental mortality in the sea scallop fishery – Liese Siemann, CFF
4. An integrated assessment model for helping the US sea scallop fishery plan ahead for ocean acidification and warming – Jennie Rheuban, WHOI
5. Preventing bycatch of YT flounder in the scallop fishery – Thomas Grothues, NFI
6. Tracking the occurrence of grey meat in Atlantic Sea Scallop – Susan Inglis, SMAST
7. Seasonal bycatch survey of the GB scallop fishery (focus on lobster and scallop disease data only) – Carl Huntsberger, CFF
8. Understanding impacts of the sea scallop fishery on loggerhead sea turtles – Shea Miller, CFF
9. Real-time electronic bycatch reporting pilot project , what’s next? – Chris Parkins, CFF
10. Scallop bycatch avoidance system (focus on windowpane) – Cate O’Keefe, SMAST

**AGENDA ITEM #3: REVIEW OF FINDINGS FROM SEA SCALLOP SURVEY METHODS PEER REVIEW PRESENTATION: DEIRDRE BOELKE, NEFMC STAFF, SCALLOP PDT CHAIR**

Staff summarized the major findings pulled out of the *Summary Report of the Review of Sea Scallop Survey Methodologies and Their Integrations for Stock Assessment and Fishery Management*. The NEFSC hosted a three day meeting in March 2015 to review sea scallop methods based on eight terms of reference. Lead scientists from each survey group presented information and an independent review panel reviewed the information. J.J. Maguire was the Chair of the independent review panel. The general findings were presented for each term of reference. The summary report and staff presentation on this subject are also available on the Council website with meeting materials for this meeting.

The group discussed that it is not clear how different survey groups are going to address the panel findings. One suggestion was made that a requirement could be added to future RSA grants that before additional funds are awarded, each group should be required to explain how the findings are being addressed. Another speaker noted that there are many findings relative to the federal survey program so those would not be addressed through that process. Staff will try to find out what the intended next steps are for the findings of this report.

**AGENDA ITEM #4: UPDATE ON SCALLOP RSA PROGRAM**

***PRESENTATION: RYAN SILVA, GARFO, COOPERATIVE RESEARCH LIAISON***

Mr. Silva gave an update of the Scallop RSA program and identified a handful of new developments and challenges related to administering the program. He explained that the website has recently been updated with more recent progress and final reports. The program is working on outreach materials that will be added to the website that include summaries of the program, grant process, fishery research permits, etc. He explained that the major challenges facing the program from an administrative perspective are awarding scallop survey projects because a great deal of integrations is needed, the timing of the competition is difficult because there is a relatively long time between when priorities are solicited and final awards are made, and balancing inputs to select final awards. A request was made from the public to add a link to the RSA website from the Council scallop page. An AP member asked if proposals could be made public so that the industry can get a better idea of what each one is trying to do, but the answer is no due to the competitive nature of the grant process.

**AGENDA ITEM #5: INITIAL DISCUSSION OF FUTURE RESEARCH PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS**

The group reviewed the priorities from last year, reviewed the list of research priorities from the last benchmark assessment, as well as the findings from the recent survey methods peer review. The discussion highlighted about a dozen potential modifications for the full AP to consider the following day. An issue came up about what data are required to be made public to the government and what data are not. It seems that there are processes in place already that allow the government to request data, but it may not be clear in what format etc. The requirements are described in Section VIB and VIII in the FFO, but based on the conversation it may be necessary to clarify these requirements so parties involved know what is expected and required.