



New England Fishery Management Council

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Council Seeks Candidates for Scallop Survey Working Group

The New England Fishery Management Council is looking for qualified candidates to serve on its new Scallop Survey Working Group (SSWG). The application deadline is Monday, February 22, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

The Council manages the Atlantic sea scallop fishery. It relies on scallop surveys to detect and monitor recruitment events and track resource trends to support its rotational area management program.

Previous stock assessments and survey reviews identified issues that could help improve both the federal scallop survey and surveys supported through the Atlantic Sea Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program. As part of its [2021 scallop priorities](#), the Council agreed to establish a working group to develop recommendations to address these issues. The Scallop Survey Working Group will first provide input on clear terms of reference (TORs) before the TORs are approved by the Council's executive director in consultation with the director of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (Science Center).

The SSWG will report directly to the Council, and the Council will share the group's recommendations with the Science Center. The working group will be comprised of both government and non-government experts with experience in Atlantic sea scallop surveys and related fields. Key areas of expertise include:

- Invertebrate survey design;
- Optical survey methods;
- Dredge survey methods;
- Offshore wind as it relates to survey design and implementation;
- Survey statistics and stock assessments with emphasis on geostatistics;
- Scallop biology;
- The Scallop Research Set-Aside Program; and
- Scallop management and NOAA grant procedures.

The working group will be led by two co-chairs. One will be appointed by the Council and the other by the Science Center. The SSWG likely will meet four-to-six times over a 12-to-15-month period.



Above, scallops harvested during a past RSA trip. Surveys consistently rank as the Council's highest Scallop RSA Program priority. Multiple institutions receive RSA awards each year to conduct scallop surveys.

— Virginia Institute of Marine Science photo



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Working group members will be selected by the Council's executive director, who will consult with the Northeast Fisheries Science Center on final appointments. Once the working group completes its initial charge and submits its recommendations, the Council's executive director and the Science Center's director will evaluate the need for the working group's continued operation.

More specifically, the Scallop Survey Working group will discuss topics such as:

- Optimal and integrated survey designs that address spatial coverage, sampling design, and sampling frequency and intensity;
- Impacts of offshore wind development on scallop survey and monitoring operations;
- Data needs to support the rotational management program; and improving scallop survey strata;
- Potential opportunities for issuing multi-year Scallop RSA Program awards with interannual flexibility to ensure adequate survey coverage; and
- Improving coordination between various survey programs.

Interested in Applying?

Don't forget the **February 22, 2021 application deadline**, and here's what else you need to know.

- A copy of the Scallop Survey Working Group's Statement of Organization, Practices, and Procedures (SOPP) is available [HERE](#).
- The notice soliciting working group members is available [HERE](#) and on the working group's [webpage](#).

Applications and related materials may be submitted by email to Joan O'Leary at joleary@nefmc.org or mailed to:

Executive Director Tom Nies
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950

Questions should be directed to:

- Executive Director Tom Nies at (978) 465-0492 ext. 113, tnies@nefmc.org; or
- Scallop Plan Coordinator Jonathon Peros at (978) 465-0492 ext. 117, jperos@nefmc.org.



— Coonamessett Farm Foundation photo