



# New England Fishery Management Council

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## Council Seeks Input From Fishermen and Research Partners on RSA Programs; Take the Online Survey!

The New England Fishery Management Council is asking fishermen and their cooperative research partners who participate in the Atlantic Sea Scallop, Atlantic Herring, and/or Monkfish Research Set-Aside (RSA) Programs to take an online survey and provide feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of these programs and pass along any suggestions for improvement. Other stakeholders who have an interest or role in RSA programs also are encouraged to take the survey.

The survey is part of the Council's comprehensive review of RSA programs, which is being conducted by a six-member review panel that includes two representatives each from: the New England Council; the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS, NOAA Fisheries) Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO); and the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC). A representative from the Mid-Atlantic Council staff also sits on the review panel as an observer.

*"The Research Set-Aside Program is a partnership between the fishing industry, the New England Council, and NMFS to use fishing opportunities to pay for valuable research. It is widely viewed as a success.*

*"The Council decided to conduct a review because of the importance and magnitude the program. Our RSA programs for scallops, herring, and monkfish support millions of dollars of research, and the Council wants to make sure these programs are as good as they can be."*

*– Dr. Mike Sissenwine  
Review Panel Chair*

RSA programs use a set-aside of fishery resources, either quota or days-at-sea, to generate revenue that is used to conduct needed research that directly contributes to Council management.

Click [HERE](#)  
To Take  
The  
Online Survey

### Research Set-Aside Program Review Panel Members

- Dr. Mike Sissenwine, Panel Chair – New England Council
- Deirdre Boelke – New England Council staff
- Ryan Silva – NOAA Fisheries, GARFO
- Susan Olsen – NOAA Fisheries, GARFO
- Cheryl Corbett – NOAA Fisheries, NEFSC
- Dr. Dan Hennan – NOAA Fisheries, NEFSC
- Brandon Muffley – Mid-Atlantic Council, staff observer



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The survey, which contains roughly 40 questions, will be available online until mid-September 2018. Some questions are multiple choice, while others request more detailed input from stakeholders. Anyone taking the survey may do so anonymously if preferred, and **survey input will not be attributed to any individual without explicit permission**. Please allow adequate time to complete the survey in a single session.

## Survey Questions – Examples

19. The management review process is adequate to assure that RSA research is useful for fishery management and adequately considers fishing industry interests.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Strongly agree             | <input type="radio"/> Disagree            |
| <input type="radio"/> Agree                      | <input type="radio"/> Strongly disagree   |
| <input type="radio"/> Neither agree nor disagree | <input type="radio"/> Don't know / unsure |

Do you have suggestions to improve the management review process?

24. RSA research results are made available in a timely manner.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Strongly agree             | <input type="radio"/> Disagree            |
| <input type="radio"/> Agree                      | <input type="radio"/> Strongly disagree   |
| <input type="radio"/> Neither agree nor disagree | <input type="radio"/> Don't know / unsure |

27. Do you have ideas to increase the monetized value of RSA quota and days at sea (DAS) so that more research can be supported? Can you identify the primary benefits and costs of these approaches?

29. Would you favor an increase in RSA access even if it means a reduction in non-RSA fishing opportunities?

- Yes  
 No

## What's Next?

The review panel also will be conducting in-depth interviews by phone with many volunteer participants over the next several weeks.

The New England Council will receive a progress report on the review panel's work during its September 24-27, 2018 meeting in Plymouth. The Council is expected to receive the panel's final report in early December.

Among other things, the report will cover:

- The review panel's findings and recommendations;
  - The history and role of RSA programs and the purpose of the review;
  - Details about how priorities are set for each of the scallop, herring, and monkfish programs, the valuing and monetizing of RSA currency, funding vehicles, project selection, and the handling of RSA results; and
  - "Getting the most out of RSA in the future."
- For more information, visit the Council's RSA Review webpage at [Research Set-Aside Program Review](#).

- Take the online survey now at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7J7XJJ5>.
- Recent RSA announcements can be found at [2019-2020 Atlantic Sea Scallop RSA Competition Underway](#); [Atlantic Herring Competition Underway](#); and [2018-2019 Monkfish RSA Awards Announced](#).