



New England Fishery Management Council

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Scallop Research Set-Aside Program Supports 13 Projects for 2021-2022; Focus on Surveys, Bycatch Reduction, Turtles

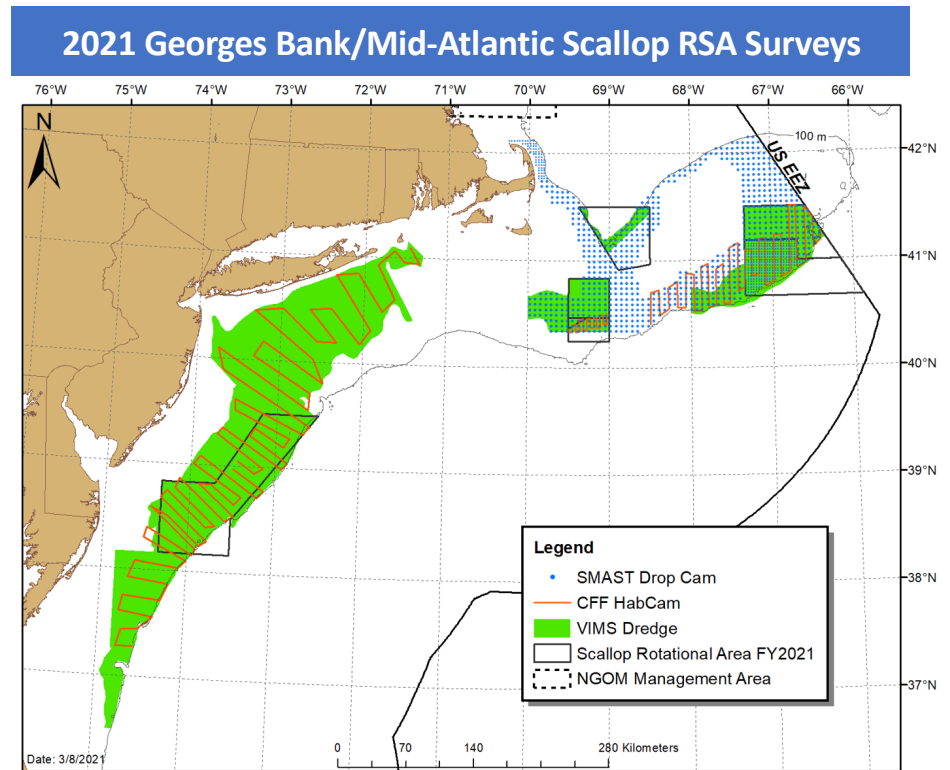
The Atlantic Sea Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program will support 13 new projects under the 2021-2022 award cycle. The awards are expected to generate approximately \$12.5 million, including \$3 million to fund the research and \$9.5 million to compensate industry partners who harvest the set-aside scallops. The selected projects address scallop research priorities identified by the New England Fishery Management Council during its [June 2020 meeting](#). The projects focus on resource surveys, bycatch reduction, seed scallop habitat, loggerhead turtles, and data collection by fishermen.

The awards were announced on [March 15, 2021](#) by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center and the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, which both are part of NOAA Fisheries. The Council and NOAA Fisheries work together to support the research set-aside program. The Council sets priorities, and NOAA Fisheries manages the RSA competition and administers the program.

RSA-funded scallop surveys have become increasingly important in:

- Providing information that directly helps scientists determine the status and distribution of the resource; and
- Guiding the Council in management decision-making.

The 2020 federal scallop survey was canceled due to COVID-19 precautions. However, scientists and fishery managers still were able to receive essential data because [RSA survey partners covered extra ground](#) to complete the season.



*Shown above are the locations and types of RSA-funded scallop surveys that will be conducted in 2021 on Georges Bank and in the Mid-Atlantic by the UMass Dartmouth School for Marine Science and Technology (SMAST), Coonamessett Farm Foundation (CFF), and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). **NOTE:** These surveys are being supported through a combination of 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 RSA awards to all three institutions. – New England Fishery Management Council graphic*



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2021 Gulf of Maine Scallop RSA Surveys

The Gulf of Maine will be surveyed using both dredge and optical methods in 2021. The Maine Department of Marine Resources and University of Maine dredge survey, which was funded during the 2020-2021 RSA award cycle, will focus on Stellwagen Bank and surrounding areas. The SMAST drop camera survey will cover Platts Bank, Ipswich Bay, Jeffreys Ledge, and the Stellwagen Bank area, with overlap between the surveys around Stellwagen Bank. Both efforts will cover bottom inside and outside of the Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area.

2021 NOAA Fisheries Federal Survey

A 2021 federal survey aboard the *R/V Sharp* is planned for June through early July. Mixed dredging and habitat camera (HabCam) operations will cover Nantucket Lightship, the southern flank of Georges Bank, Closed Area I, the Great South Channel, the northern edge of Georges Bank, and northern Closed Area II.



– SMAST photo

RSA RECAP: The Council established the Scallop RSA Program in 1999 through [Framework Adjustment 11](#) to the [scallop management plan](#). No federal money is involved. Instead, each year during the specification-setting process, the Council “sets aside” 1.25 million pounds of scallops to carry out RSA projects. The work is conducted collaboratively between fishermen and researchers. Revenue generated from the sale of landed scallops is used to fund the research and compensate industry partners who harvest the scallops.

2021-2022 Scallop Research Set-Aside Project Selections

Institution (Collaborators)	Project Title	Set-Aside Award Based on \$12.50 Per Pound of Scallop Meats
Virginia Institute of Marine Science – VIMS (Seaford Scallop Co.)	A Cooperative High Precision Dredge Survey to Assess the Mid-Atlantic Sea Scallop Resource Area in 2021 and 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2021 Award: 81,212 pounds• 2021 Value: \$1,015,146• 2022 Award: 79,586 pounds• 2022 Value: \$994,825
UMass School for Marine Science and Technology – SMAST	Video Trawl Survey of Closed Area II	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2021 Award: 98,642 pounds• 2021 Value: \$1,233,019
Coonamessett Farm Foundation – CFF (Viking Village, Roger Williams University)	Understanding the Impacts of the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery on Loggerhead Sea Turtles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2021 Award: 63,913 pounds• 2021 Value: \$798,908
Virginia Institute of Marine Science (F/V Celtic, SafetyNet Technologies, and Nordic Fisheries)	Artificial Light as a Tool to Reduce Bycatch in the Sea Scallop, <i>Placopecten magellanicus</i> , Dredge Fishery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2021 Award: 83,768 pounds• 2021 Value: \$1,047,097• 2022 Award: 26,361• 2022 Value: \$329,514



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2021-2022 Scallop Research Set-Aside Project Selections

Institution (Collaborators)	Project Title	Set-Aside Award Based on \$12.50 Per Pound of Scallop Meats
Coonamessett Farm Foundation (Kitware)	Studying Seed Scallop Habitat Preferences Using Automated Detection Algorithms and Machine Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2021 Award: 29,916 pounds• 2021 Value: \$373,948• 2022 Award: 29,581 pounds• 2022 Value: \$369,764
National Fisheries Institute	Continued Testing Into How Cutting Bar Modifications Can Reduce Bycatch and Increase Catch Efficiency in the Atlantic Sea Scallop Dredge Fishery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2021 Award: 57,587 pounds• 2021 Value: \$719,842
Coonamessett Farm Foundation	Seasonal Survey for the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery on the Eastern Part of Georges Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2021 Award: 76,423 pounds• 2021 Value: \$955,287
Coonamessett Farm Foundation (Mass Division of Marine Fisheries, Reidar's Manufacturing, Dockside Repairs, Eastern Fisheries, Nordic Fisheries, Atlantic Capes Fisheries)	Developing an Effective Foot Sweep to Reduce Flounder Bycatch in Scallop Dredges Using Computational Fluid Dynamics and Field Testing with Paired Dredges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2021 Award: 38,049 pounds• 2021 Value: \$475,616
Coonamessett Farm Foundation (F/V Kathy Marie)	An Optical Survey for Scallop Density, Distribution, and Growth in Open-Bottom SAMS Areas of the Mid-Atlantic including Block Island, Long Island, New York Bight Nearshore, and Delmarva SAMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2021 Award: 30,855 pounds• 2021 Value: \$385,684
Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation	N-Viro Dredge Phase II - Increasing Scallop Catch Efficiency of a Low Bycatch, Low Habitat Impact, and Fuel-Efficient Scallop Dredge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2021 Award: 38,866 pounds• 2021 Value: \$485,830
UMass School for Marine Science and Technology	Broadscale Drop-Camera Survey of the Georges Bank Sea Scallop Resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2021 Award: 86,813 pounds• 2021 Value: \$1,085,164• 2022 Award: 47,907 pounds• 2022 Value: \$598,839
Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation	Empowering Fishermen to Collect Essential data; Piloting the Research Fleet Approach in the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2021 Award: 36,863 pounds• 2021 Value: \$460,788
Coonamessett Farm Foundation	Developing a Tool to Quantify the Impact of the Scallop Fishery on Loggerhead Sea Turtles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2021 Award: 28,314 pounds• 2021 Value: \$353,928• 2022 Award: 8,168 pounds• 2022 Value: \$102,096

Questions about the 2021-2022 RSA awards? Contact [Cheryl Corbett](#), the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's RSA coordinator, at cell number (508) 280-2796 or by email at cheryl.corbett@noaa.gov.