

Scallop Amendment 21

Public Scoping Meetings

Staff Presentation

Posted Feb. 22, 2019



New England
Fishery Management Council

Presentation Outline:

Overview of Amendment 21

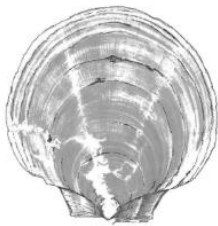
For each issue being addressed in A21:

- Why is the Council taking action?
- Background information
- What action is the Council considering?
- What is the process?
 - Timeline
 - How to comment
- Clarifying questions, then public comment period

Amendment 21:

Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan

SCOPING DOCUMENT
for
Amendment 21



**(Northern Gulf of Maine and Limited
Access General Category Amendment)**

Prepared by the

New England Fishery Management Council

- Develop measures to address:
 1. NGOM Management
 2. LAGC IFQ possession limits
 3. One-way transfer of IFQ from LA to LAGC IFQ
- Seeking input on the range of issues that are considered by the Council in this action.

Fishery by Permit Category

- Limited Access (Amendment 4 - 1994)
 - Full time, part time, and occasional permits (347 total)
 - Double dredge, single dredge, trawl
 - General Category was an open access fishery
- Limited Access General Category (Amendment 11 – 2008)
 - VISION for GC: “Small vessels with possession limits”
 - Individual Fishing Quota
 - Northern Gulf of Maine
 - Incidental
- There are Limited Access qualifiers (1994) who also hold LAGC permits. (40 total)

See Table 1 on page “2” of the
Scoping Document

I. Northern Gulf of Maine

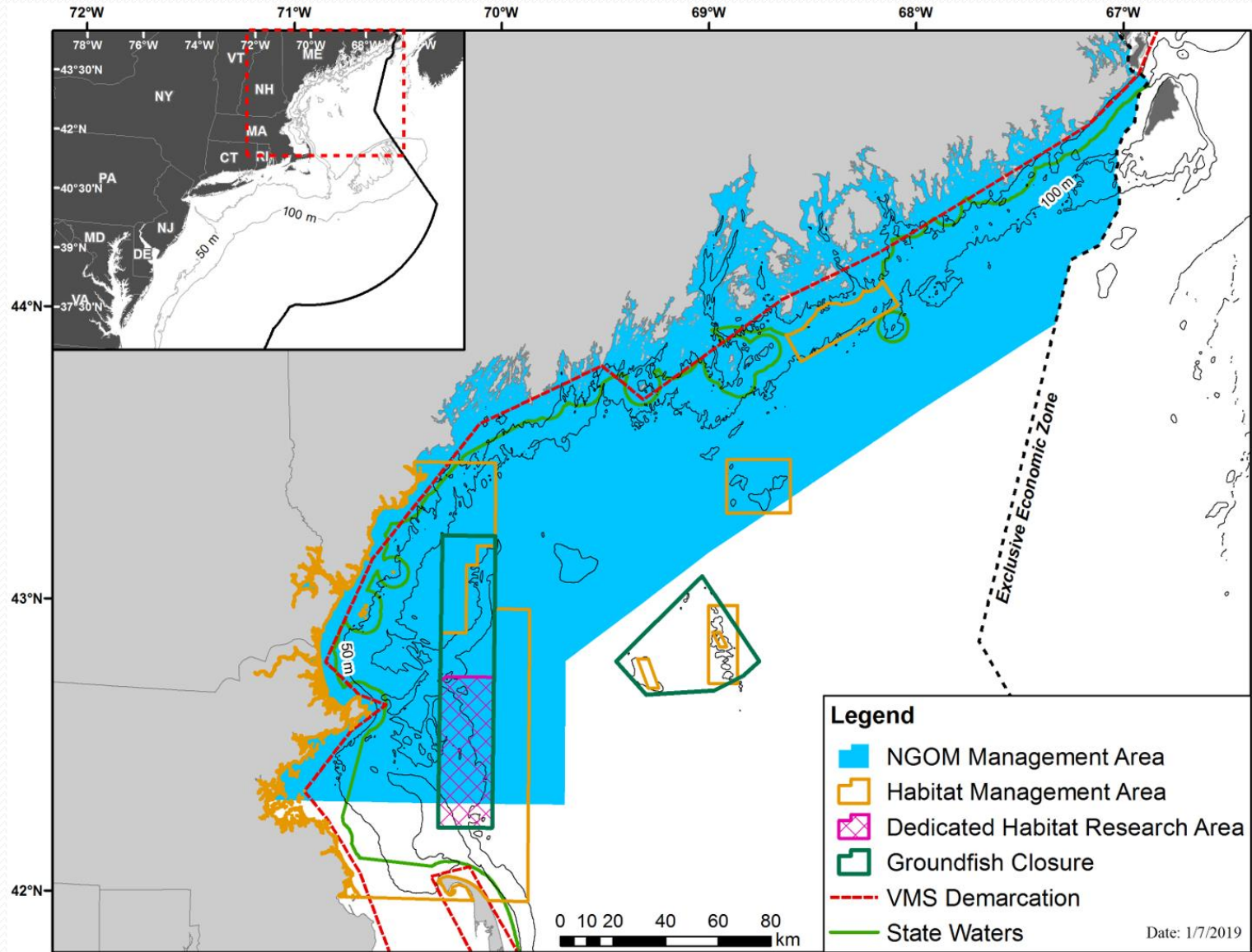
Why is the Council proposing to take Action:

See page number “I” in Scoping Document

- Consider measures that will support a growing directed scallop fishery in federal waters in the NGOM.
 - Prevent unrestrained removals from the NGOM management area
 - Allow for orderly access to the scallop resource in this area by the LAGC and LA components.
 - Establish mechanisms to set allowable catches and accurately monitor catch and bycatch.

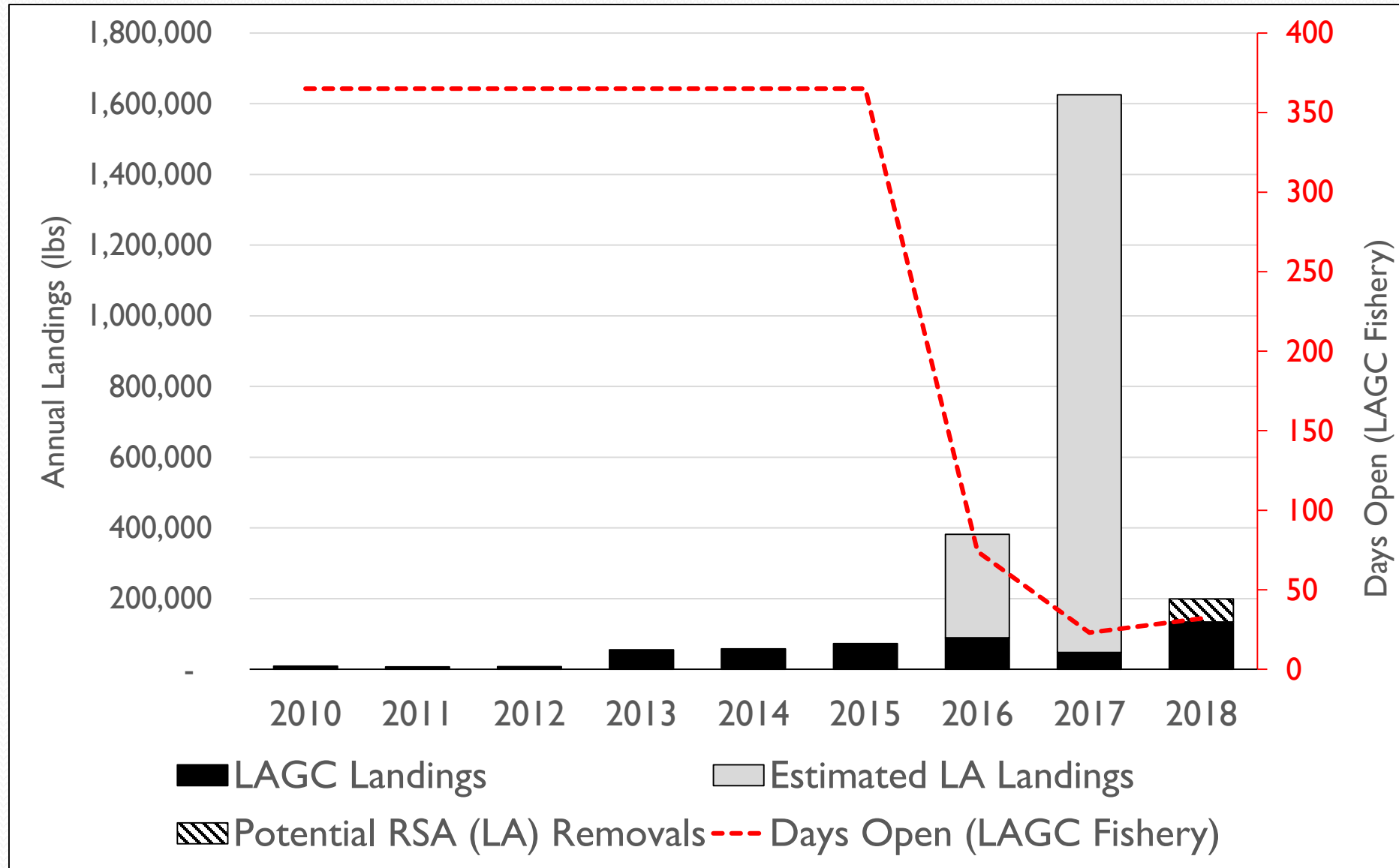
I. Northern Gulf of Maine

Background: NGOM Management Area (blue)



I. Northern Gulf of Maine

Background: Recent Performance (LA and LAGC)



I. Northern Gulf of Maine

Framework 29: Problem Statement & Approach

- “Recent high landings and unknown biomass in the Northern Gulf of Maine Scallop Management Area underscore the critical need to initiate surveys and develop additional tools to better manage the area and fully understand total removals.” – Framework 29
- FW29 Approach: Short term solution to allow controlled fishing in the NGOM management area until a future action can be developed to address NGOM issues more holistically. Not intended to be permanent.

I. Northern Gulf of Maine

Evolution of Management Approaches

Initial Approach (FY 2008 – 2017)	Recent Council Actions (FY 2018 – 2019)
One TAC for LAGC component	Separate TACs for LA and LAGC
TAC based on historic catch, exploitation rates	TAC set using survey data and projection model
LA fish DAS while area is open; LA can fish inside and outside on same trip	LA share used to support RSA in NGOM; RSA trips must declare into NGOM area
200 pound possession limit for LAGC vessels (IFQ and NGOM)	
Area closes when a TAC is reached	

I. Northern Gulf of Maine

What Action is the Council Considering:

See page number “11” for full text in Scoping Document

- Amendment 21 could include alternatives that consider:
 - Developing set-asides to support research and fishery monitoring in the NGOM management area
 - An allocation split between the Limited Access and Limited Access General Category components for the NGOM
 - Effort controls, gear restrictions, or possession limits
 - Modifying the boundary of the NGOM area
 - The development of an at-sea monitoring program that could include human observers and/or using cameras to monitor fishing activity

I. Northern Gulf of Maine

What should my comments address?

See page number “12” for full text in Scoping Document

- Should the Council:
 - Change how the LA and LAGC components operate in the federal scallop fishery in the NGOM management area?
 - Consider different approaches to managing this areas at different levels of scallop biomass?
 - Consider establishing a separate research set-aside from the NGOM TAC to support research and monitoring in the management area?
- What specific issues are most important when evaluating the tradeoffs of developing additional measures in the Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area?

LAGC IFQ issues (2 & 3)

Why is the Council proposing to take Action:

See page number “1” for full text in Scoping Document

- Develop measures that will (2) increase the LAGC IFQ possession limit and (3) allow LA vessels to transfer quota to LAGC IFQ vessels as a way to improve overall economic performance of the LAGC IFQ component.
 - LAGC IFQ component remains profitable.
 - Continued participation in the GC fishery at varying levels.
 - Reduce the impacts of decreases in ex-vessel price and increases to fixed costs and variable costs on vessels and crews.

2. LAGC IFQ Possession Limits

Background

- Initial possession limit was 400 lbs, increased to 600 lbs in A15
 - Increase was not expected to change the nature of “dayboat” fishery; rationale for change was increased operating costs
- LAGC IFQ only: Quota can be permanently or temporarily transferred between permits; accumulation limits in place
- Recent analyses on performance of LAGC IFQ program are summarized on pages 9 & 10 in scoping document

Fishing Year	Active LAGC IFQ only permit	Inactive/CPH IFQ permits	Total LAGC IFQ permits
2017	137	178	315

3. One way quota transfers from LA to LAGC IFQ only: Background

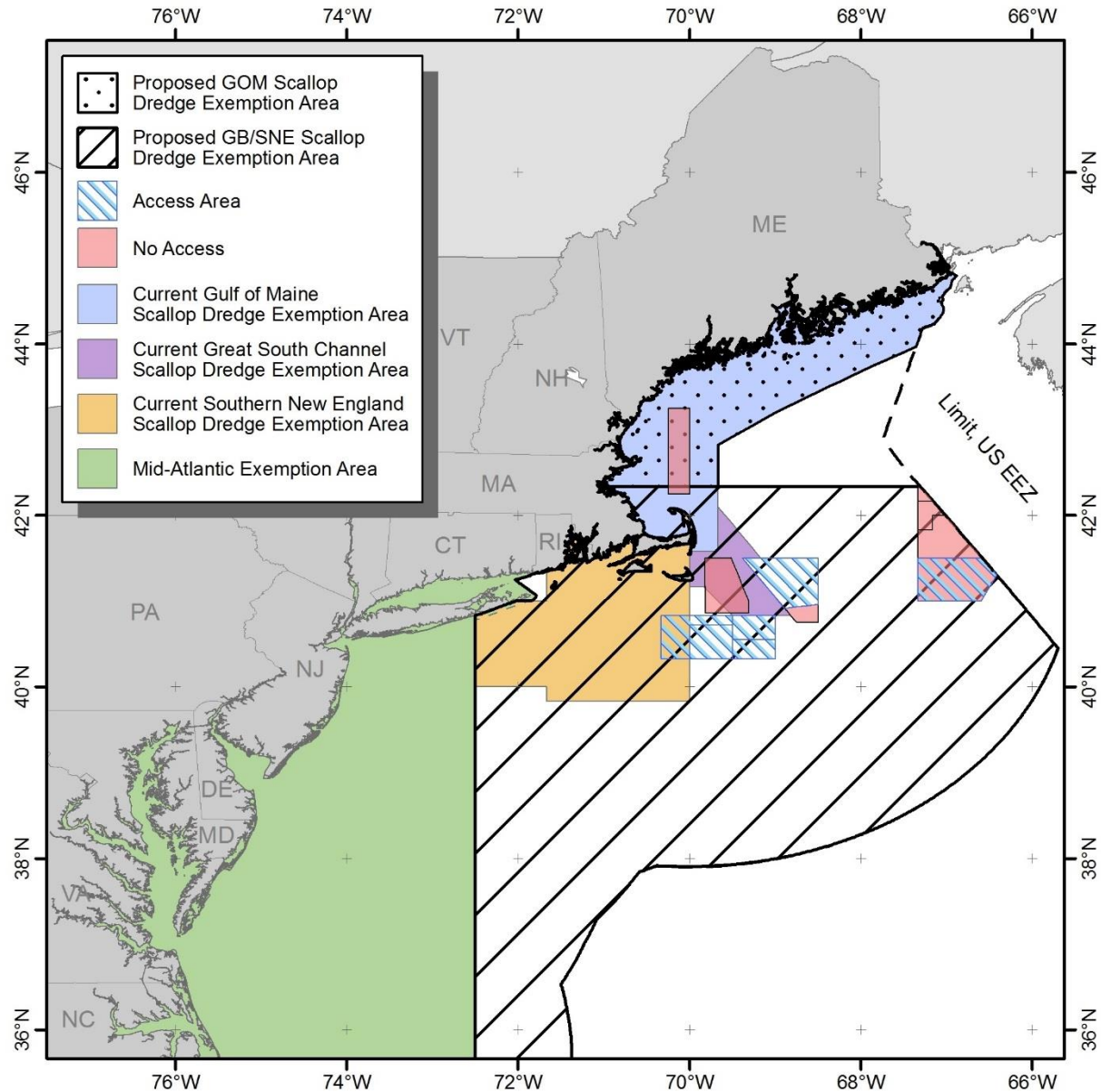
Current Rules/Status:

- LA vessels that qualified for IFQ receive 0.5% of total annual allocation
- 40 LA permits with IFQ
- LA vessels cannot transfer IFQ
- 600 lb trip limit

FY	LA w/ IFQ (lbs)	Total IFQ (lbs)
2013	222,714	2,449,856
2014	220,286	2,423,145
2015	271,168	2,971,828
2016	405,650	4,473,174
2017	227,076	2,489,016
2018	279,987	3,086,468

- A15: Council has considered permanent transfers from LA to LAGC only; No change made due to concerns about changing allocation shares decided in Amendment 11.

Proposed Dredge Exemption Areas



2. LAGC IFQ Possession Limits

3. Transfer of IFQ from LA to LAGC IFQ

What Action is the Council Considering:

See page number “11” for full text in the Scoping Document

- Amendment 21 could include alternatives that consider:
 - Changes to LAGC IFQ possession limits
 - Changes to trip limits in open area and access areas, or aggregate landings limits (e.g. weekly limit)
 - Accompanying measures that aim to achieve its vision for the LAGC component.
 - Allowing one-way transfer of quota from LA vessels with IFQ to LAGC IFQ only vessels. Changes could be permanent or temporary

2. LAGC IFQ Possession Limits

What should my comments address:

See page numbers “12 & 13” for full text in Scoping Document

- If the Council modifies the LAGC IFQ trip limit, **what should it change to?**
 - Should the trip limit be the same for open area and access area trips?
- How might higher lease prices impact the LAGC IFQ fishery?
- Should the Council consider increasing the amount of compensation quota that LAGC IFQ vessels can receive to offset the cost of multi-day trips that carry an observer?
- What specific issues are most important when evaluating the tradeoffs of increasing the LAGC IFQ trip limit from 600 pounds?”

3. Transfer of IFQ from LA to LAGC IFQ

What should my comments address:

See page numbers “13” for full text in Scoping Document

- Should the Council allow Limited Access vessels that qualified for LAGC IFQ to transfer quota to LAGC IFQ only vessels.
- Should the Council consider permanent and temporary transfers?
- How might this change impact the LAGC IFQ fishery?
- What specific issues are most important when evaluating the tradeoffs of allowing LA to transfer IFQ to LAGC IFQ only vessels?

Amendment 21: **Draft** Timeline

2019

- January: *Approve Scoping Document*
- June: Review scoping comments; develop goals/objectives
- Sept or Dec 2019: Approve Range of Alternatives

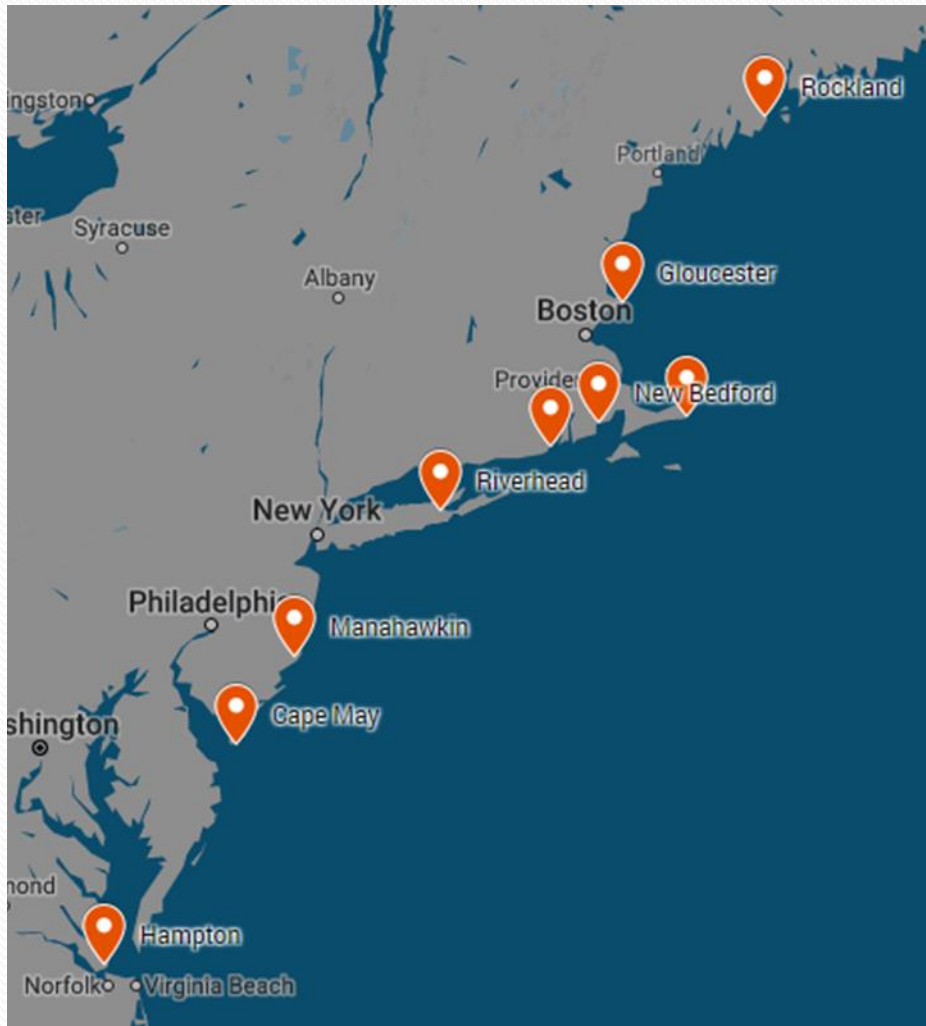
2020

- Early 2020: Writing A21 *and* FW31/specs impacts

Key Issue: Will there be significant effects? (NEPA)

- *EIS process: target implementation no later than April 2021.*

Amendment 21 scoping meetings



- 10 scoping meetings from Virginia to Maine
- Timing: February – April
- Webinar: March 22, 2019
- Staff will present a summary of scoping comments to the Council in June.

How to Comment:

- Oral Comments during public hearing
 - *Name and Affiliation*
 - *Concise Rationale*
- Written Comments due 5:00 PM on April 15, 2019
 - *See scoping document for details*
 - <https://www.nefmc.org/library/amendment-21>
- Questions: Jonathon Peros, Scallop Plan Coordinator
 - jperos@nefmc.org 978-465-0492 ext. 117



Written Comments:

Attn: “Atlantic Sea Scallop Amendment 21 Scoping Comment”

FAX: (978) 465-3116

E-Mail: comments@nefmc.org

Mail: Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water St., Mill #2
Newburyport, MA 01950

Webinar:

You need to register! Use the link below, and you'll receive a confirmation e-mail containing information about joining the webinar. [Link](#)

Public Comment:

1. Clarifying questions
2. Comments – Please state:
 - First and Last name
 - Where you are from
 - Name of vessel, permit type, etc.
 - Who you represent