

INITIATE SCALLOP FRAMEWORK 25

**New England Fishery Management Council
April 2013**

PURPOSE AND NEED

- Set specifications for 2014 and default measures for 2015
- AMs for SNE/MA windowpane flounder

Committee recommends one additional item for consideration:

- Consider options in FW25 that would develop alternatives to address trips allocated in Closed Area I in FY2013 under FW24

FISHERY SPECIFICATIONS AND AMS FOR SNE/MA WP FLOUNDER

- Overall ABC (SSC must approve) and ACLs
- DAS and access area allocations
- IFQ, Incidental Target-TAC, NGOM Hard-TAC
- Set-asides for observer and RSA program
- Updated YT and WP catch projections
 - FW48 proposes to set GB YT sub-ACL at 16%, and SNE/MA windowpane at 35%, but SNE/MA YT still based on projection of catch
- AMs for SNE/MA WP flounder

POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL ISSUE TO CONSIDER IN FW25

- **Committee Motion 1: Dempsey/Robins**
Request the PDT include options in FW25 that would develop alternatives to address trips allocated in CA1 in FY2013 under FW24. Vote: 8:0:1, carries
- **Catch rates in CA1 have fallen under 1,000 lb/day**
- **Not all FY2013 trips taken and about 1.5 mil lbs. allocated for FY2014**
- **Possible negative environmental impacts and disproportional economic impacts (118 trips only)**
- **Initial input – limit access to CA1 to prevent impacts of shifting effort to other areas – concerns about adding risk to system**

OTHER ISSUES DISCUSSED

NO ACTION TAKEN

- **Potential issue of non-payment of observers**

With expansion of industry funded observer program for LAGC open area trips this could come up again.

PDT, AP and Cmte do NOT think this should be considered in FW25. However, By consensus the Cmte supports that NMFS make administrative changes to improve and clarify regs.
- **Revisit the 60-day broken trip provision**

Unclear if current restriction is impacting behavior at all. Some vessels get stuck if unable to physically break trip. Concerns about flexibility and risk.

FW25 TIMELINE

COUNCIL MILESTONES

- April 2013 – Initiate Framework 25
- June and/or Sept 2013 – update on FW25
- November 2012 – final action
- Possible Implementation – May 2013
 - Default for 2014 – LA vessels - DAS only
 - LAGC IFQ slightly higher in 2014 than in 2013
- Other
 - LAGC IFQ Performance Report – June 2013
 - Input on EFH Omnibus Amendment - ongoing

COUNCIL ACTION ON FW24

- **Initiate FW24**
- **Decide whether to include additional recommendation from Committee or not (Motion #1)**
- **No need to take action on Motions #2, #3**

APPROVE 2013 SCALLOP RESEARCH PRIORITIES

RESEARCH PRIORITIES – DOCUMENT #5

- PDT reviewed 2012 priorities and made two clarification recommendations and added one new priority (scallop quality and marketability)
- AP agreed with PDT suggestions and added two additional priorities (broad survey and environmental impacts on scallop s)
- Cmte Motion #4: Dempsey/Preble
Recommend the Council approve the FY2013 RSA priorities with the changes recommended by the PDT and in Motions 5, 6, and 7 from Scallop AP meeting on March 26, 2013.
Vote: 8:0:1, carries.

2013 AND 2014 PRIORITIES

■ HIGH – 4 priorities, MEDIUM – 5 priorities, OTHER – 5 priorities

■ **New recommendations from PDT:**

1. Clarify that some access areas have a higher priority than others based on schedule for opening;
2. Add mortality from predation as a MEDIUM priority; and
3. Add a new priority about scallop product quality and marketability.

■ **New Recommendations from AP and Committee:**

1. Add a new bullet under HIGH that would include a broad, resource wide survey of the entire scallop resource.
2. Approve all PDT recommendations (1-3 above in RED) and include specific examples of predation (starfish and dogfish) in the research bullet related to mortality from predation.
3. Add a new bullet under MEDIUM that would identify and evaluate the potential impacts of environmental stressors on scallops (*By consensus the Committee added more examples to the motion approved by the AP on this subject*).

COUNCIL ACTION ON SCALLOP RESEARCH PRIORITIES

- Decide whether to include additional recommendation from Committee or not (Motion #4)