

# Initiate Scallop Framework 23

New England Fishery Management Council  
January 2011

1

## Purpose and Need

1. Consider requirement of turtle excluder dredge
2. Review/revise YT flounder AM approved in Amendment 15
3. Consider modifications to the LAGC NGOM program

2

## Turtle excluder dredge

- Several modifications have been tested over the years to reduce severity and impact of scallop dredge on sea turtles (Figure 1 – page 2)
- PDT will need to compile available data to assess impacts on turtles, scallop resource, bycatch and the fishery
- Need to calibrate new dredge so it can be effectively regulated and enforced

3

## YT flounder AMs

- Proposed AM from A15 - closure of high bycatch rate areas in subsequent year to reduce future YT catches by the same percentage as the overage (Figure 2 p.3)
- Issues – large areas, timing of closures, less effective when CA2 open
- New ideas – more proactive strategies

4

## LAGC NGOM Program

- Under A11 separate LAGC NGOM permit
- No landings criteria, 200 lb. possession limit
- Council added provisions to ensure conservation and enforcement of TAC
  - all catch on NGOM vessels count against federal TAC
  - once federal TAC harvested no scalloping for NGOM vessels even in state waters
  - catch from NGOM area should not count against IFQ
  - all scallop vessels should be restricted to 200 lb. possession limit including LA vessels
- All these issues discussed during A11 but according to some were not adequately addressed

5

## 2011 Timeline

- Jan 2011 – initiate framework
- February through August – develop alternatives and analyses
- September 2011 – final action
- Possible Implementation – March 1, 2012
- Oct/Nov 2011 – initiate Amendment 16 to consider IFQ for the LA fishery
  - Develop process to gauge interest first

6