

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Scallops

I. STATUS

Since the October Council meeting the Scallop Committee has met once (November 3), the advisory panel has not met, and the PDT has met once (October 27). The focus of meetings have been to discuss potential response to NMFS turtle biological opinion, develop alternatives for ACLs in Amendment 15, and review range of alternatives currently under consideration in Amendment 15.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

- Discuss and approve a response to the NMFS Biological Opinion for the scallop fishery concerning sea turtle interactions.
- Review list of alternatives under consideration for Amendment 15; at the October Council meeting the Council requested that the Scallop Committee refine the list of alternatives in light on new scallop action timelines. The Council asked the Committee to seriously consider the IFQ alternative and an alternative that would convert open area DAS into a number of “trips” within open areas.
- Under a separate agenda topic (Scallop vessels incidental catch of Yellowtail Flounder) the Council will discuss options to address yellowtail incidental catch by scallop vessels.

III. INFORMATION

1. Working timeline for Amendment 15 and other upcoming scallop actions
2. Amendment 15 alternatives to date
3. Scallop PDT meeting summary (October 27)
4. Scallop Committee meeting summary (November 3) (*to be handed out*)
5. Summary of turtle biological opinion with Committee recommendations and PDT analyses (*to be handed out*)
6. Correspondence
 - Oceana – Re: continued authorization of sea turtle takes in the Atlantic sea scallop fishery
 - Scallop PDT to Scallop Committee – Re: Oceana letter above
 - Fisheries Survival Fund (FSF) – Re: Summary of FSF proactive efforts to minimize harm and interactions with sea turtles
 - Oceana – Re: Development of ACLs and AMs for the Scallop FMP
 - FSF – Re: Recent suggestions regarding sea turtles and interplay between the MSA and ESA

Document #5 is a document that the Council will use for the first agenda item at this Council meeting. The first section of Document #5 summarizes the 2008 NMFS turtle biological opinion for the scallop fishery, but the full opinion is available at:

http://www.nero.noaa.gov/prot_res/section7/NMFS-signedBOs/ScallopBO03142008.pdf

Several hard copies of the full opinion will be available at the Council meeting.