



# Scallop Framework 21

## Review and approve final action

---

November 2009 Council Meeting  
Newport, RI

# Documents

---

FW21 measures – Document #1

FW21 Analyses –

- Doc. #1 - Scallop and EFH

- Doc #1A - Economic

- Doc #6 – PR, non-target, Social

- Doc #10 – Additional RPM info

Decision Documents – 7A and 7B

YT sub-component - #8 and #12



# Primary management issues for FW21

---

1. Fishery specifications for FY2010 including setting of ABC and compliance with the first RPM and T/C required in the recent biological opinion for sea turtles
2. Area rotation adjustments (if necessary) including consideration of a new scallop access area on Georges Bank (in GSC)
3. Other measures including minor adjustments to the observer set-aside program

# FW21 Management Scenarios

---

- **ABC = 29,578 mt (65.2 million lbs.)**  
*(includes landings plus discard and incidental mortality) (SSC recommendation)*
- **No Action**
  - if LAGC IFQ delayed (LA DAS adjusted)
  - if FW21 delayed beyond March 1
- **4 different scenarios considered**
  - *2 without new closure:*  
(NCLF=20 and NCLF=24)
  - *2 with new closure*  
(CLF=20 and CLF=18)

# Limited Access measures – p25

---

- **4 different scenarios**

	Projected Landings (mill lbs.)	FT DAS
NCLF=20	41.5	29
NCLF=24	47.3	38
CLF=18	49.1	42
CLF=20	53.5	51

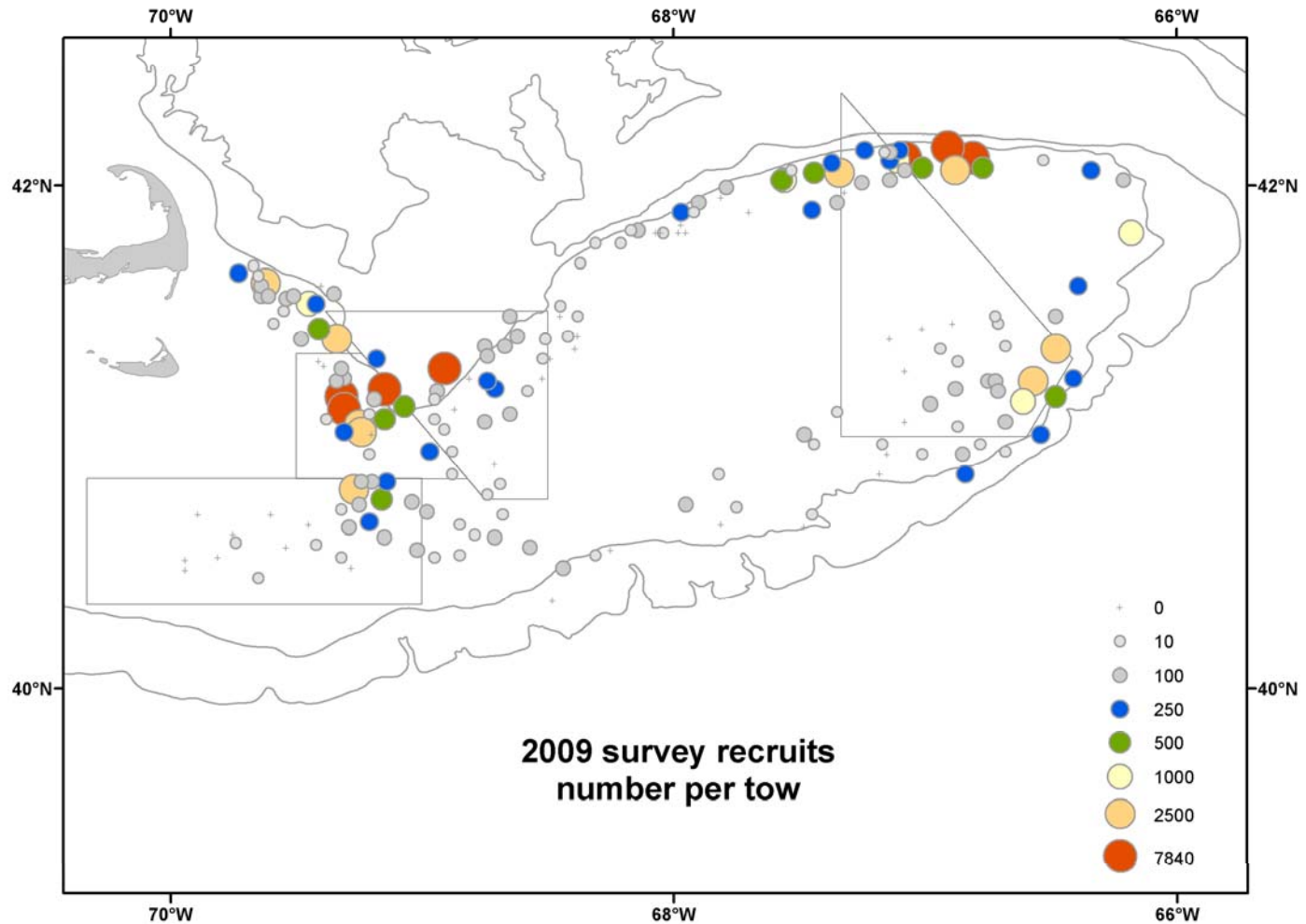
- DAS compensation if YT bycatch TAC reached in NL
- DAS adjustments if LAGC IFQ program delayed ~4 DAS

## General category measures-p28

---

- If IFQ program delayed – 10% allocation and quarterly hard-TAC
- Fleetwide # of trips in ETA, Delmarva and NL equal to 5% of projected catch
- NGOM hard TAC = 70,000 lbs.
- Incidental target TAC = 50,000 lbs.
- *Allow partial leasing of IFQ ?*  
*See Cmte motion #5 and Doc #9*

# New GSC closure under consideration



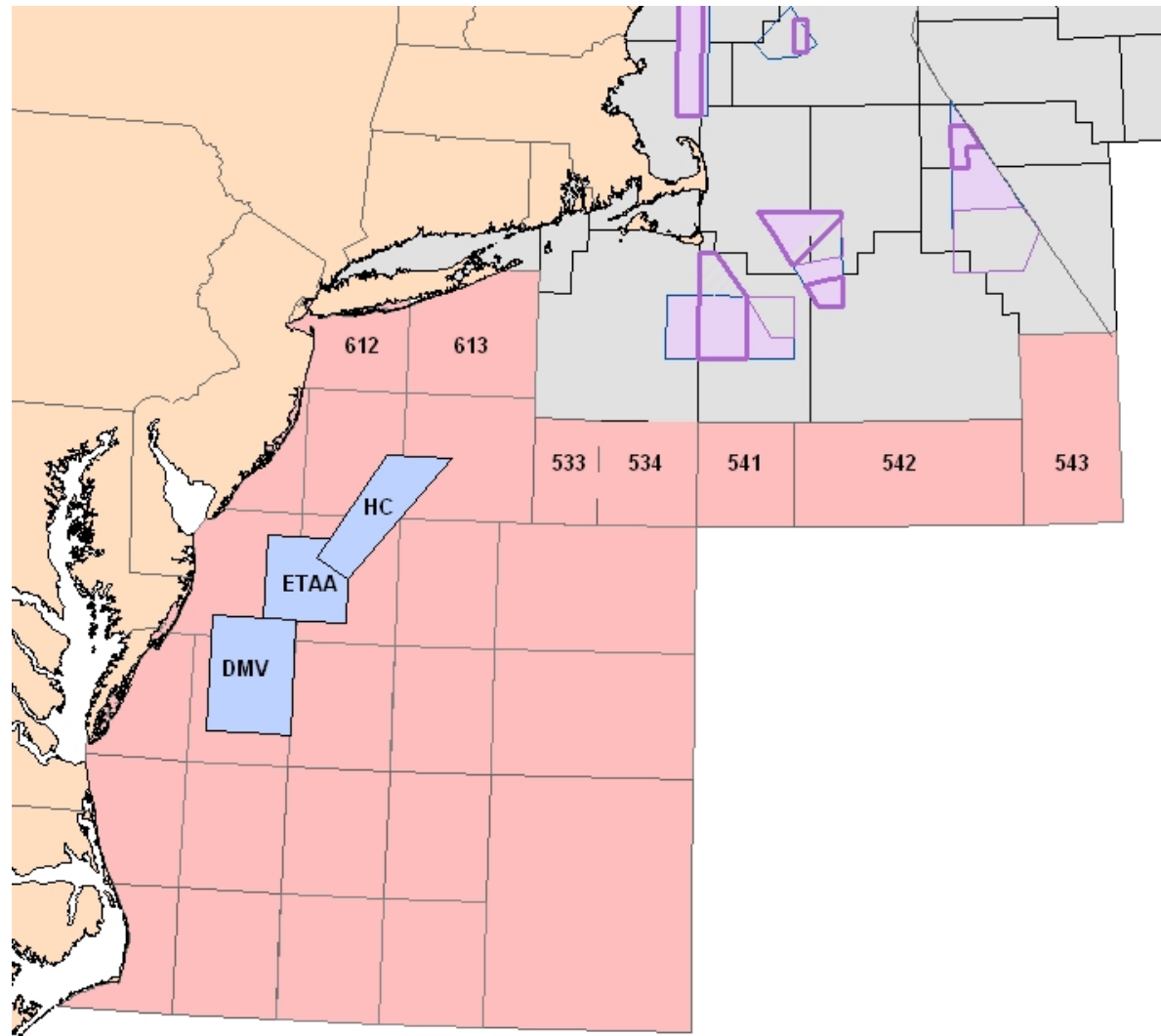
# Reasonable and Prudent Measures

---

- *To comply with RPM, no later than FY2010 NMFS must limit the amount of allocated LA scallop fishing effort that can be used in waters south of the northern boundaries of statistical areas 612, 613, 533, 534, 541-543 during the periods in which turtle takes have occurred. Restrictions on fishing effort described above shall be limited to a level that will not result in more than a minor impact on the fishery.*



# Area defined in RPM – “Mid-Atlantic”



# Alternatives to comply with RPM

---

- ***Restrict # of DAS in MA***  
*2 options for season and area*
- ***Restrict # of MA AA trips***  
*2 options for season*
- ***Seasonal closure of Delmarva***  
*2 options for season*
- ***Reduce possession limit of MA AA trips***
- ***Possible combinations – Doc #10***

# Minor adjustments to the observer program

---

- Provisions to discourage vessel owners from not paying deployed observers  
Specifically - add observer payment to the list of annual requirements that must be met before a scallop permit can be renewed
- Limit the amount of observer compensation general category vessels can get per observed trip in access areas

# Major Decisions

---

- 1. To close or not to close the Channel?***
- 2. Lower or higher F rate?***
- 3. Appropriate measure for RPM?***
- 4. Impact of scenario of YT allocation***

# Minor Decisions

---

- 1. Include provision to allow partial leasing of LAGC IFQ?***
- 2. Include any measures related to observer program?***
- 3. Act on other Committee motions?***

# 1. To close or not to close portion of GSC – summary of impacts – Doc 7B

---

- **Closure has 2 immediate effects:**
  - reduces F and forces effort elsewhere
  - As a result more DAS allocated to compensate for the closure and vessels have to fish in smaller area so LPUE lower and area swept higher in first few years while area closed

# 1. To close or not to close portion of GSC – summary of impacts (cont.)

---

- **Longer term impacts (2010-2016) (Tables 36-42)**
  - Exploitable biomass similar for all 4 - slightly higher for CLF18
  - CLF18 - higher landings (5-10 mil lbs. more)
  - NCLF24 – lowest exp biomass and landings
  - Overall LPUE higher and area swept lower for scenarios that do not close the channel
  - CLF18 is estimated to increase scallop revenues by \$28.4 million and total economic benefits by \$22.1 million for the period from 2010-2016 compared to the status quo (NCLF20).

# 1. To close or not to close portion of GSC – summary of impacts (cont.)

---

- Closure could shift effort to open areas in MA – potential impacts on non-target species and turtles
- Impacts on YT allocation (2010) – more GB and SNE YT needed for closure alternative, followed by CLF24

	NCLF20	NCLF24	CLF18
CC/GOM	30 (3.4%)	39 (4.5%)	17 (2.0%)
GB	110 (9.2%)	146 (12.2%)	182 (15.2%)
SNE/MA	111 (22.5%)	135 (27.3%)	179 (36.3%)

- Social impacts include less flexibility for businesses stemming from possible short-term decreases in revenue, which would especially affect businesses with smaller cash flows, or less access to economic and social resources. Social impacts will predominantly be felt in the Northern fleet and for small boats/businesses due to decreased flexibility.



# 1. Preliminary AP and Cmte input

---

- AP met in September and made a motion to not support a new closure.  
*Note: prior to analyses*
- **Cmte motion from Nov:**  
*Motion 2: Preble/Alexander*  
*Eliminate the scenario that would close the Great South Channel and have an F of 0.20 (CLF20).*  
*Vote: 9:0:0, motion carries unanimously.*

# Major decisions before Council

---

- 1. To close or not to close portion of GSC?*
- 2. Lower or higher F rate?*

*Council selection of FW21 scenario?*

*Various impacts based on YT allocation – can revisit after YT discussion*

# 3. Appropriate measure for RPM

---

- FW21 includes 4 alternatives
- RPMs and T/C cannot alter the basic design, location, scope, duration, or timing of the action and may involve only minor changes.
- RPM#1 - minimize takes (in this case by limiting effort) up to point that would not have more than minor impact on the fishery
- Analyses of more than minor –  
Section 5.3.1 on page 147-188

### 3. Appropriate measure for RPM (cont.)

---

- Threshold based on amount of effort shift imposed by RPM, which impacts fishing mortality, yield, revenue, and costs
- PDT and Cmte discussed use of 10%
- Alt#1 and #2 – high distributional impacts
- Alt #3 – positive impacts on F, minimal impact on revenue
- Alt #4 – high impacts on revenue

### 3. Appropriate measure for RPM (cont.)

---

- **Cmte recommendation:**

- Motion 1: Robins/Preble**

- Identify Option 2.7.1.3 Option A (Seasonal closure of Delmarva in Sept and Oct) as preferred alternative in FW21.

- Vote: 9:0:0, motion passes unanimously.**

- Rationale: Less distributional impacts, about 10% effort shift, fishing behavior response uncertain, other approaches may reduce effort more than expected.

### 3. Appropriate measure for RPM (cont.)

---

- Some Cmte discussion of combining RPMs to further minimize takes up to a more than minor impact threshold
- Does the Council agree with the Committee that RPM Alternative #3 is sufficient in meeting the threshold required by ESA? Or does the Council want to consider an additional measure that would further limit effort in the Mid-Atlantic up to a point that would not have more than a minor impact?
- Staff requested to provide combined alternatives and analyses (**Doc #10**)

### 3. Possible combined RPMs

---

Combination of Delmarva seasonal closure in Sept. and Oct. as well as:

- Reduced possession limit on any access area trip in ETA (Opt.A) and/or Delmarva (Opt. B) from June 15-Aug31
- Limiting the # of AA trips that can be taken in ETA with a reduced possession limit between June 15-Aug31
- Restriction on the # of MA AA trips that can be used during June 15-Aug31

### 3. Possible combined RPMs(cont.)

---

- Summary of combined results – Table 1 in Doc #10
- Alt 1.2 – most favorable because net impacts:
  - slightly positive impact on F
  - total effort shift of 6.4%
  - effort reduction from MA AA from June-Oct of 36% - so benefits for turtles
  - minimal change on costs
  - no change in landings or revenue
- Alt.1.3 Option A next best option



# Minor Decisions

---

## ***1. Include provision to allow partial leasing of LAGC IFQ?***

### **Motion 5. Preble/Cunningham**

Add an alternative in FW21 that would allow leasing of partial allocations (in amounts equal to or greater than 100 pounds) throughout the fishing year with existing applications and protocols. It is understood that the intention is not to slow down the implementation of FW21. Vote: 7:0:1, motion carries.

- Document #9 – strawman alternative

## Minor decisions (cont.)

---

**2. *Include any measures related to observer program?***

No Cmte rec – non-payment issue and/or GC limit on compensation on AA trips

- ***No expected impacts for either – indirect benefits***

# Minor decisions (cont.)

---

## 3. *Act on other Committee motions?*

- Motion 6: Cunningham/Preble  
Recommend that the Council support consideration of extending exemption in GSC area in April-June for LAGC IFQ permit holders if the data supports this action. Vote: 7:0:1 (**See Doc #5D**).
- Without objection, changing the VMS positioning requirement for LAGC IFQ and LAGC incidental permits to once per hour will be included in FW22. (**Priorities Discussion**)
- Motion 8. Robins/Tooley  
Recommend that the GF Committee consider allocating 100% of the projected YT ABC “needed” to the scallop fishery for each YT stock area for 2010, and 90% of what is needed for 2011 and 2012. Vote: 5:1:1, motion carries. (**See Doc #8, #12**)