

**Potential Priorities for 2014**

The Council is going to have an initial discussion about 2014 priorities at the September Council meeting and make final decisions at the November Council meeting.

Below is a list of potential items based on work that could continue from 2013 and other items that were discussed last year but remained “below the line”, as well as new issues that have been raised through more recent correspondence to the Council.

The PDT reviewed this list at their meeting on August 20 and did not have any specific recommendations for work priorities, but did provide some feedback about potential concerns about scallop access area effort in newly opened areas on GB in December 2014, the current implementation date of the EFH Omnibus action.

The Scallop AP met on September 17 and recommended.....

The Scallop Committee met on September 18 and recommended .....

**SEA SCALLOP FMP****Regulatory Action Required**

1. Framework 27 – Fishery Specifications for 2015 and 2016 (default)
  - Setting DAS, access area trips, IFQ for LAGC fishery, Northern GOM hard-TAC, target TAC for incidental catch permits, etc. Measures will focus on FY2015. Following the benchmark assessment in 2014, the Council may want to revert back to two-year specification setting (FY2016, 2017 and 2017 (default)).
  - No specific additions to this framework have been identified at this time
  - Target Implementation – May 2015
2. NMFS and the PDT have new annual responsibilities related to estimating scallop and YT catch during the year (i.e. LA AM exception, re-evaluation of YT sub-ACL based on updated information).

**Other Potential Issues**

3. Framework 26 – Modify scallop access areas on GB based on potential changes to EFH closed area boundaries
  - Target Implementation – Best case scenario December 2014 (would need to wait for EFH Omnibus Action to be implemented)
  - See attached timeline for details
  - Council could initiate this action to address access related to EFH areas (December 2014) OR wait for regular framework action developed in 2014 to set specs for FY2015 and 2016(default) (May 2015)

### **Non-Scallop FMP Work Priorities (All require some level of Scallop PDT work)**

4. PDT assist with analyses of Omnibus Habitat Amendment
5. NEFSC Scallop Survey Peer Review (December 2013/January 2014, or maybe later)
6. NEFSC Sea Scallop Benchmark Assessment (Spring/Summer 2014)
7. Assistance with 2014 RSA review and awards process (some PDT and Committee participation)
8. Need to cross check with GF FMP to see if there are any issues being considered that would require Scallop Cmte/PDT work (i.e. new sub-ACLs for scallop fishery)

### **Strawman below the line items from 2012:**

9. Amendment 16 – Consideration of IFQs for the limited access scallop fishery
10. Amendment 17 - Added at September 2011 Council meeting by motion: *Coordinate action with Groundfish Cte to develop strategies to manage YT flounder bycatch under the Scallop FMP including those strategies listed in Motion 13 from Sep 13, 2011 Scallop Cte meeting* (For example, sub-dividing the YT sub-ACL, participation in GF sectors for LAGC fishery, changing the sub-ACL to a baseline allocation rather than based on projected catch, re-designing the access area program etc. This action would focus on YT initially, but could be expanded to other bycatch species if needed. Depending on the scope of this action it could require an Amendment.  
*Two elements of this motion have been picked up other actions already:*
  - 1) *possible sub-division of YT sub-ACL was in FW24 (but not selected)*
  - 2) *changing the sub-ACL allocation to a baseline rather than projected catch was adopted in GF FW48.*
11. Measure to address 5% allocation versus % of actual catch for LAGC fishery (expand current disclaimer to include LAGC fishery as well – would allow catch above ACL if updated projection of F lower).

### **Potential ideas based on correspondence received in 2013**

12. Consider modifying the small dredge exemption program – Letter to Council Feb 2013
13. Consider modification to industry funded observer program – Letter to Council – April 2013
14. Consider measure to address unused 2012 CA1 access area trips – Letter to staff - August 2013

### Three-year Outlook Timeline – Scallops

		Scallop FMP	EFH Omnibus	Other Scallop Related Work	Notes	
2013	March					
	April					
	May					
	June		Council approves range of alts. for analysis			
	July					
	August					
	Sept				FW25 alternatives will NOT include access into EFH closed areas since earliest access is not until December 2014 the earliest	
	Oct			PDT assisting with EFH analyses		
	Nov	Final action on FW25	Council approves DEIS at Nov Council meeting	Staff will be finalizing LAGC IFQ Report	<b>Decision for Council -</b> 1) initiate new action to provide new access/catch for end of FY2014; OR 2) wait to include new access until FY2015 in specs for FY2015 and FY2016 (default)	
	Dec			NEFSC - Scallop Survey peer Review		
	2014	Jan			Review of 2014 RSA proposals	
		Feb			On or about Jan 15, the 2013 YT catch projection will occur	
March		FY2014 begins (default FW24)				
April		Council final action - FW26 Council initiate FW27 (FY2015-2016)	Council Final Action		If Council decides NOT to initiate FW26 the spec package for FY2015 could include access into EFH areas (earliest access in May2015)	
May		FW25 implemented		NEFSC - Sea Scallop Benchmark Assessment		
June						
July						
August						
Sept		Council review range of allocation alternatives for			FW27 will need to assume EFH options change as well as remain the same	
Oct						
Nov		Council Final Action - FW27				
Dec		FW26 implemented	Implementation			
2015	Jan			On or about Jan 15, the 2013 YT catch projection will occur		
	Feb					
	March	FY2015 begins (default FW25)				
	April					
	May	FW27 implemented				