



New England Fishery Management Council

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C.M. "Rip" Cunningham, *Chairman* | Paul J. Howard, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 2, 2012
TO: Scallop Advisory Panel Members
FROM: Scallop Committee
SUBJECT: **Meeting purpose and materials for Advisory Panel meeting on November 7, 2012**

There is a Scallop Advisory Panel meeting at the Sheraton Four Points in Revere, MA on Wednesday, November 7 at 9:00 a.m. Enclosed are some of the meeting materials you will need to review before the meeting. The main goal of the meeting is to provide preferred recommendations for the Committee to consider for Framework 24.

The Council initiated Framework 24 at the January 2012 Council meeting. The primary purpose of FW24 is to set fishery specifications for fishing years 2013, and potentially 2014 and 2015 as well. The Council also included a handful of other measures to be considered in this action. To start the meeting, staff will summarize the alternatives and preliminary analyses of potential impacts. **The Scallop PDT has developed a handful of new alternatives to consider and the Committee is looking for input from this panel on those ideas and 15 separate decisions that need to be made in this action. A table summarizing these decisions is included on the back of this memo.**

Please note there is a Scallop Committee meeting the day after your meeting at the same location. As always you are invited to attend that meeting, but the Council will only cover your travel expenses related to the AP meeting.

Please remember to bring all these documents to the meeting with you. Staff will provide copies of any additional meeting materials that are not included in this package. If you have any questions about these enclosures please contact Deirdre Boelke (978-465-0492 ext. 105).

Decision # (FW24 page #)	Description	New PDT input since September Meeting
DECISIONS RELATED TO FISHERY SPECIFICATIONS		
1. Specification Scenario (Alternatives 1-4) (pages 19-23)	FW24 considering 5 overall allocation alternatives. All have the same DAS and LAGC IFQ. But level of LA effort in access areas varies.	Since September the PDT has developed Alternative 4. Less CA2 effort to directly reduce 2013 YT catch in response to low 2013 GB ABC.
2. Prohibit RSA compensation fishing in NL in 2013 under Alternative 2 (p.20)	Should 2013 RSA compensation fishing in NL be prohibited to reduce potential impacts of increased fishing pressure in that area?	PDT expressed concern that a substantial portion of total 2013 RSA could be fished in NL if that area is open (up to 1.25 mil lbs). That will be added pressure for that area and potentially cause issues for 2014 access trips.
3. Default measures for LAGC IFQ fishery (p.24)	Currently the LAGC IFQ is 5.5 % of the total ACL.	Due to timing of survey and delayed implementation of specifications it may make sense to allocate 75% of total IFQ under default measures.
4. Allocation of LAGC trips by area (p. 24 and Table 13)	FW24 is considering 2 options for allocating fleetwide LAGC trips in access areas	
5. Potential payback measure for LA vessels due to delayed implementation of FW24 (p.26, Tables 14, 15)	AP Rec - if a vessel takes 2013 access area trips authorized by FW22, it will have to give up all 2013 access area trips authorized to that vessel under FW24, plus ten 2013 open area DAS.	PDT supports this idea and recommends the DAS payback be reconsidered in light of FT small dredge vessels. A higher value may even be warranted.
6. Potential payback measure for LAGC vessels due to delayed implementation of FW24 (p.28)		The PDT developed draft language to address this issue. Sufficient?
7. NGOM hard TAC (p.34)	2 options: 70,000 and 58,000 pounds	
8. Incidental catch TAC (p.35)	50,000 pounds	
DECISIONS RELATED TO YT BYCATCH MEASURES		
9. Modify GB AA seasonal closures (p.38-42 and Table 20)	Range of options between No Action and eliminate closures.	PDT clarified some of the seasons dates and requests Committee reconsider a revised Option 3a
10. LAGC trawl AMs (p.43-45)	Cmte already included Alt 1 and Alt 3	PDT developed a schedule for seasonal closure for Alt 1 and recommends consideration of Alt 2
11. LAGC dredge AMs (p.45-46)		PDT developed same AMs as LA but different schedules and 3% exemption - if LAGC dredge YT catch less than 3% of total YT ACL no AMs.
12. Timing of AMs for the scallop fishery YT flounder sub-ACL (p.46)	Subsequent year or Subsequent year if reliable data available, otherwise following year	
OTHER MEASURES		
13. Allow transfer of LAGC IFQ during the year (p.47-49)		PDT added some clarification language
14. Expand the observer set-aside program to include LAGC vessels in open areas (p.49-51)		
15. Modify the observer set-aside allocation (p.51)		