

Framework 25

Sea Scallop Fishery Specifications for 2014 and 2015 (default)
Scallop AP and Committee Meetings – September 2013





Framework 25 - Purpose and Need

- The purpose of this action is to prevent overfishing and improve yield-per-recruit from the fishery.
- The primary need for this action is to set specifications to adjust the day-at-sea (DAS) allocations, general category fishery allocations and area rotation schedule for 2014 and 2015 (default)
- In addition, the Council added two other issues to be addressed
 1. Address 2013 CA1 access area trips
 2. Implement AMs for SNE/MA windowpane sub-ACL



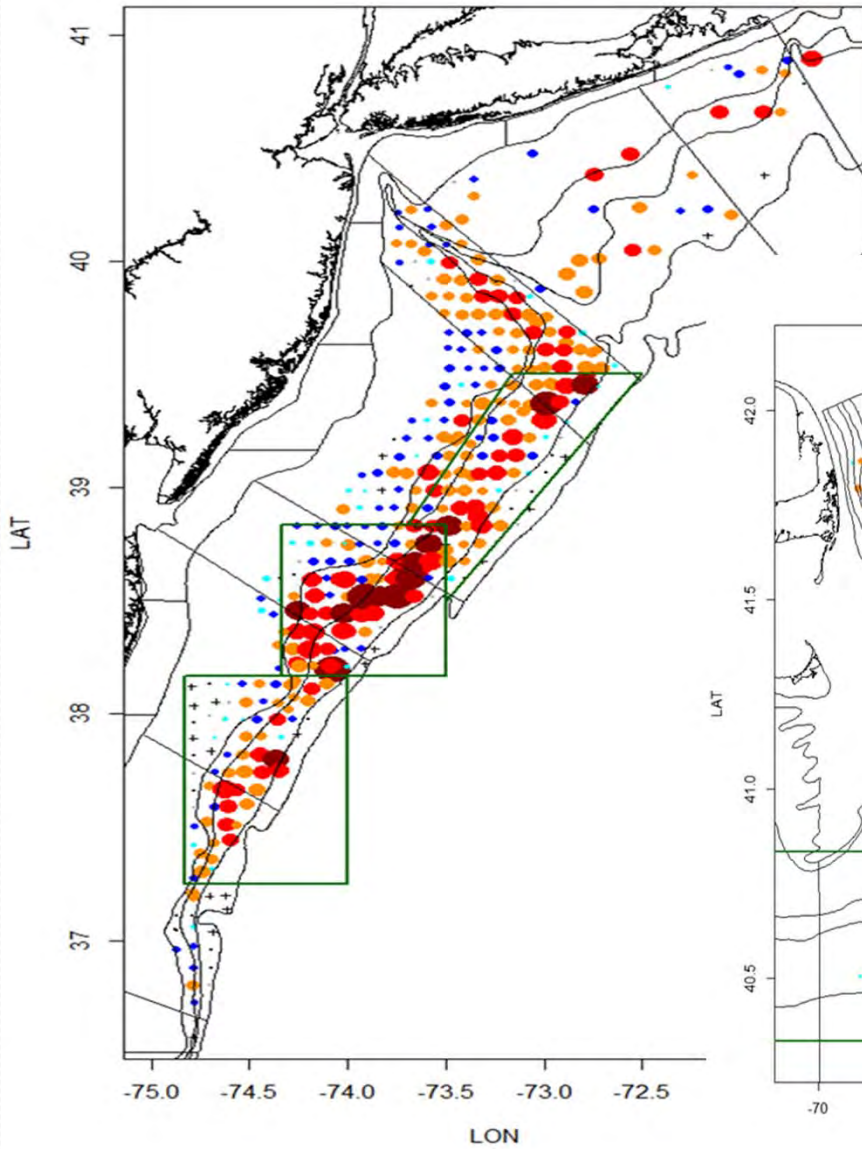
2013 Survey Season

- NEFSC – 183 dredge tows and over 7 million images
- VIMS – About 500 paired dredge tows in NL, northern edge and most of the Mid-Atlantic
- Arnie's Fishery – habcam of CA₁ access area and northern edge
- SMAST – drop camera in Delmarva and CA₂ south
- Overall very extensive survey coverage – 2 surveys in most areas

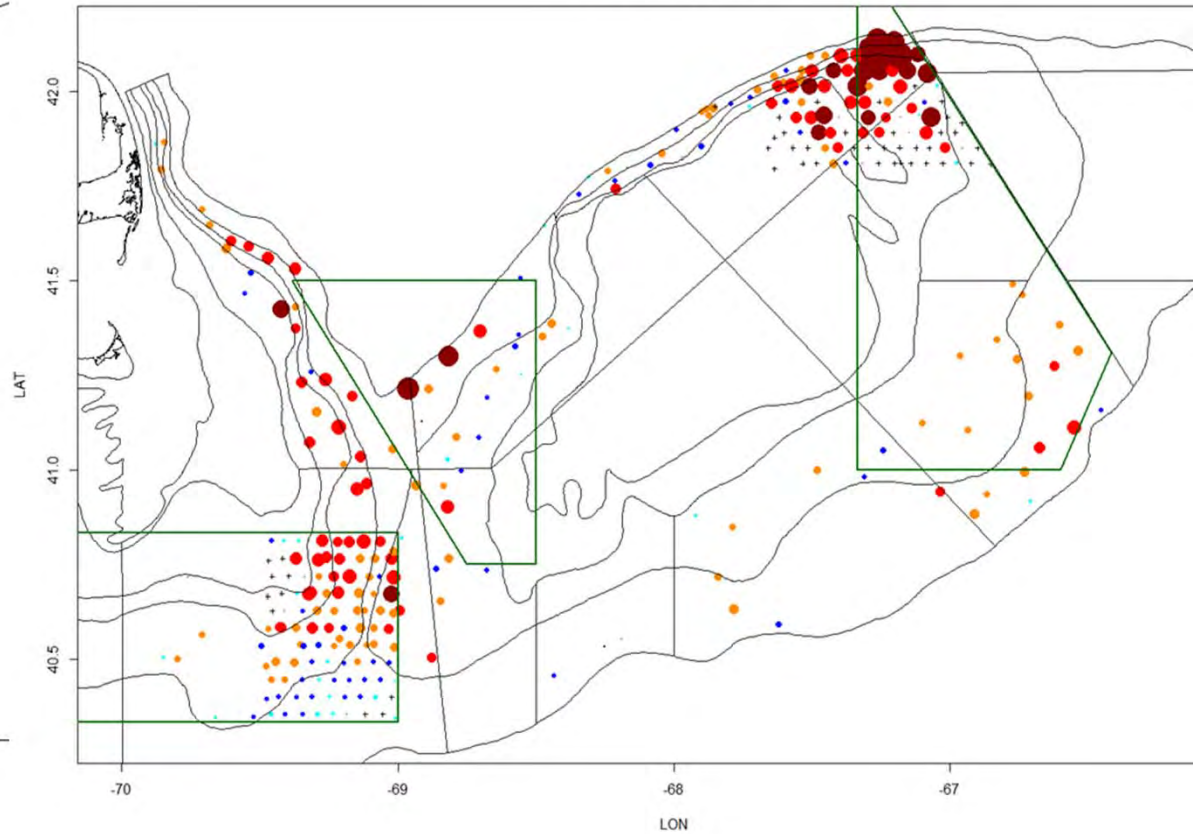
Total Biomass

(NEFSC and VIMS Dredge combined)

Mid-Atlantic Biomass

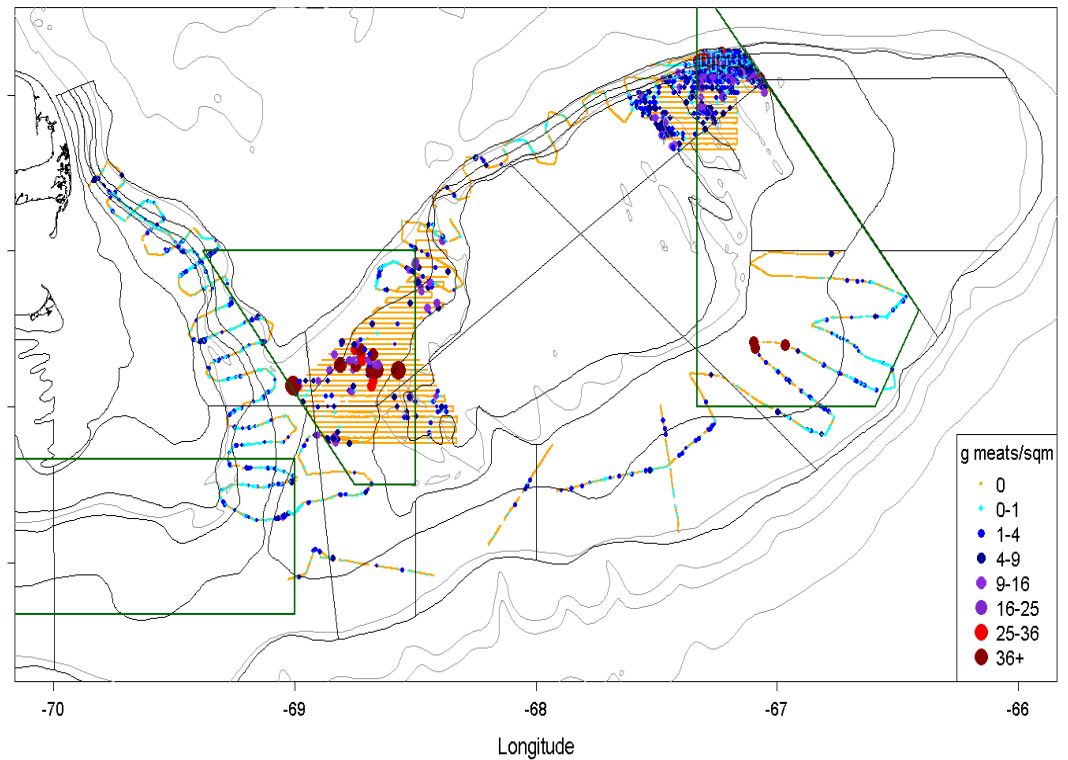
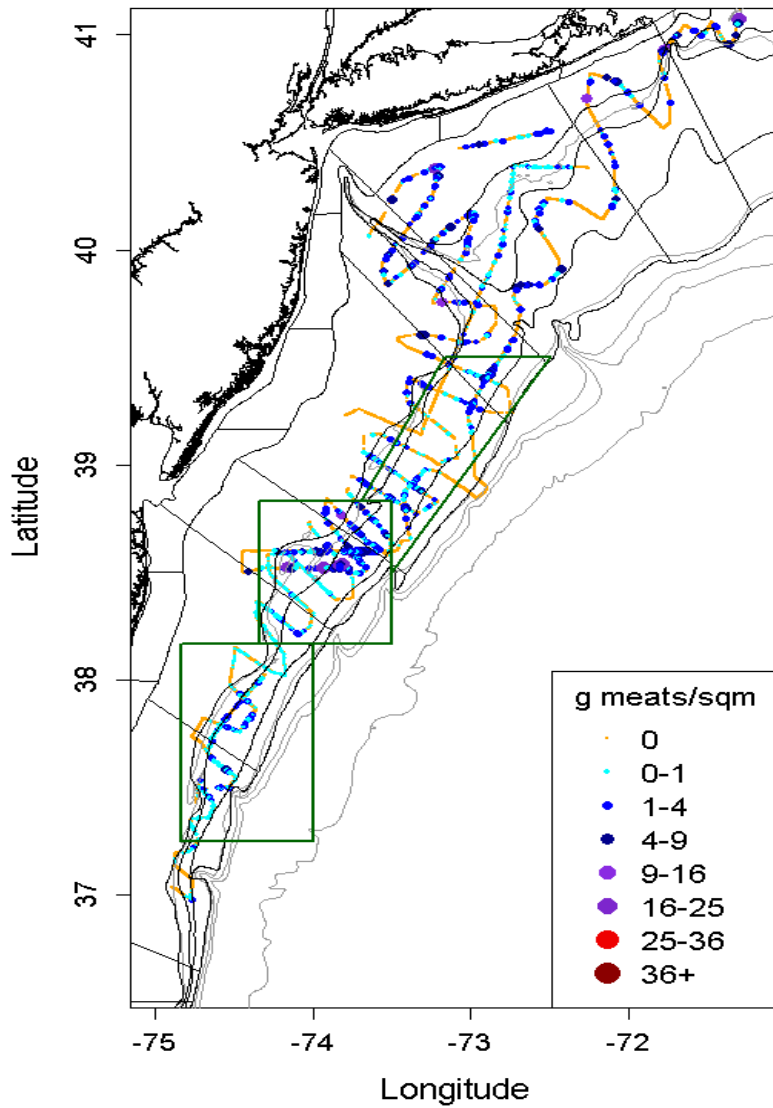


Georges Bank Biomass



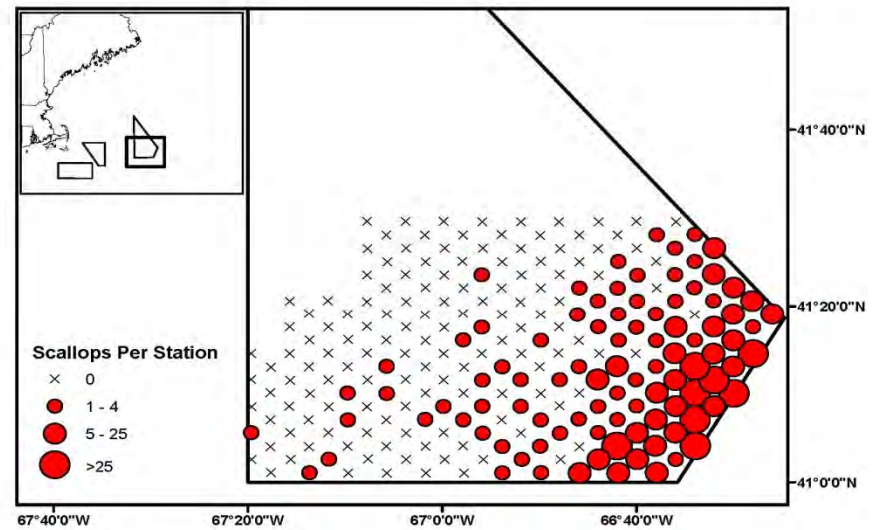
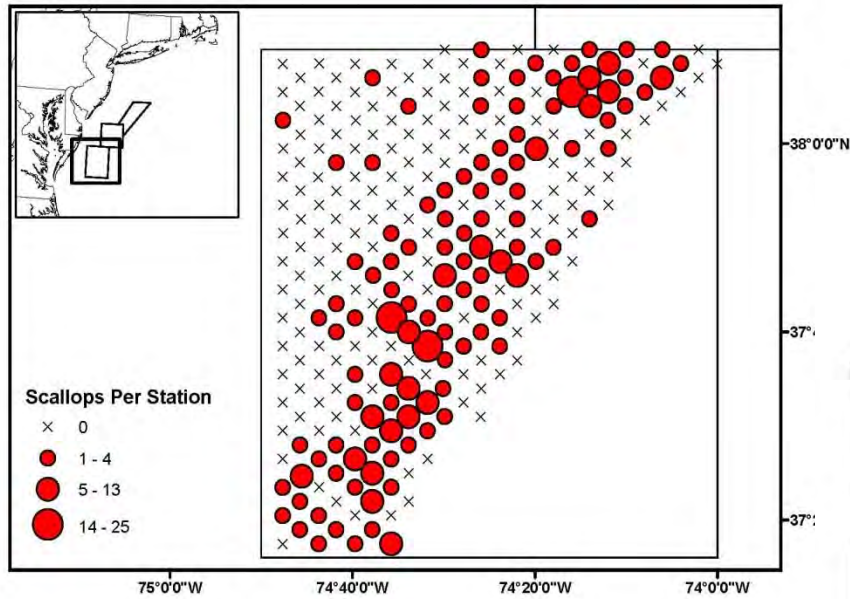
Total Biomass

(NEFSC and Arnie's Habcam combined)



SMAST

Delmarva and CA2 south

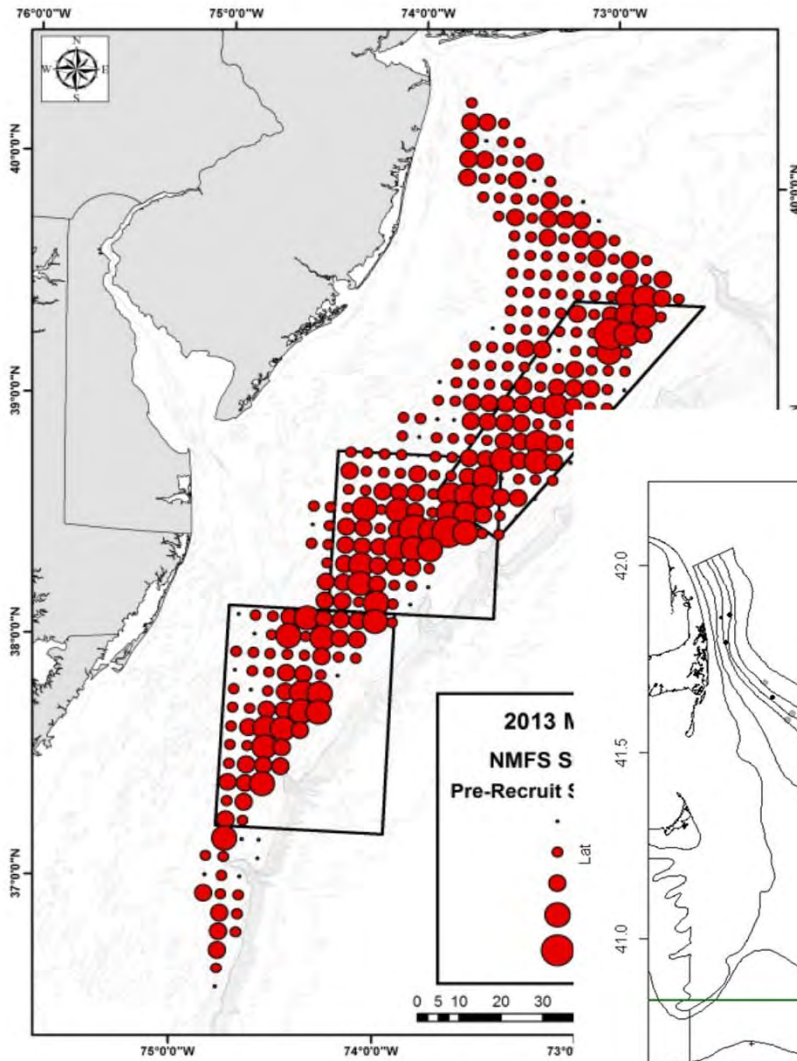


Mid-Atlantic Bight	Dredge	SE	Habcam	SE	SMAST	SE	Mean	SE
Hudson Canyon South	7839	1126	7528	1097			7684	786
Delmarva	4559	605	6067	655	6249	803	5625	400
Elephant Trunk	14317	1758	19063	1993			16690	1329
Inshore of ET	109	421	868	825			489	463
Virginia Beach	1208	605	395	388			802	359
NYB/LI (includes str 21)	20662	2468	29816	2485			25239	1751
Block Island	N/S	N/S	1655	364			1655	364
TotalMA Rotational	26715	2173	32658	2367			29687	1607
TotalMA Open	21979	2575	31079	2647			26529	1847
Total MidAtlantic	48694	3370	63737	3551			56216	2338

Georges Bank

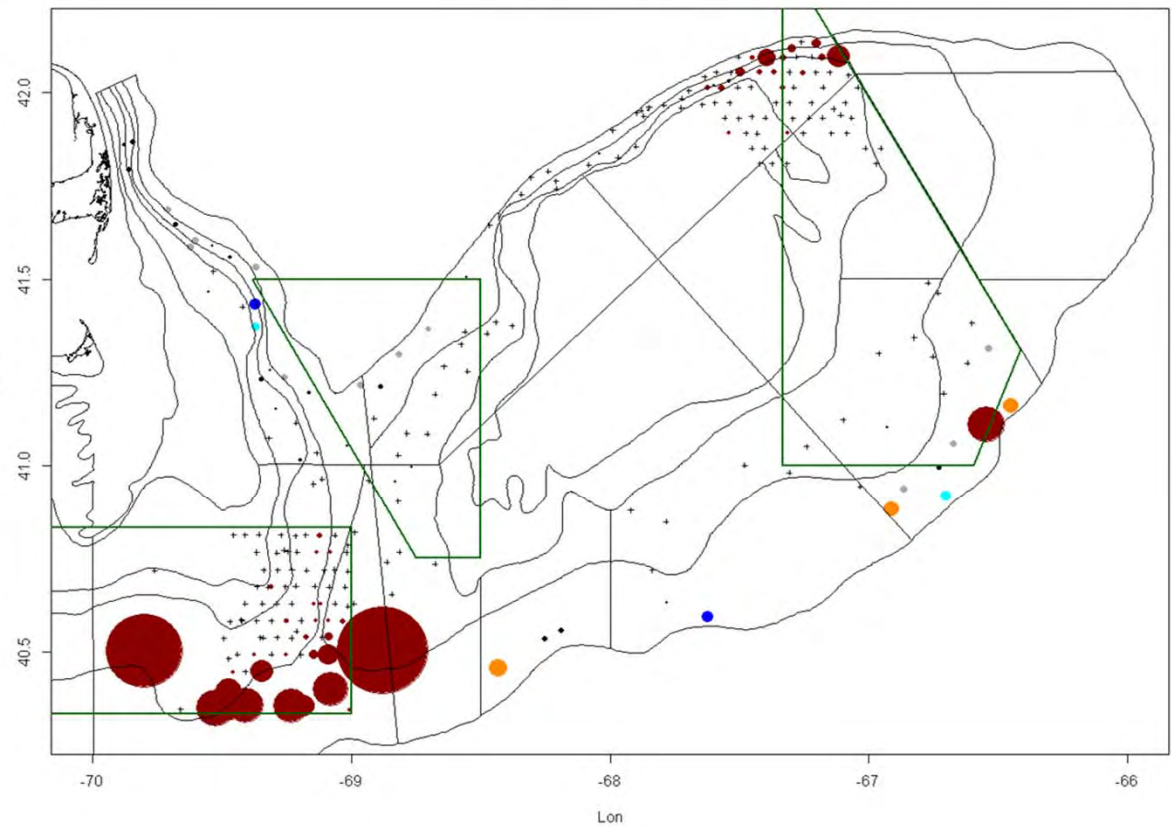
Closed Area I Acc	494	108	3340	401			1917	208
Closed Area I NA	16940	5750	4553	747			10747	2899
Closed Area II Acc	5552	1042	9845	1221	5148	1049	6848	639
Closed Area II NA	9041	1220	8497	765			8769	720
NLS Acc	3271	342	4098	584			3685	338
NLS NA	90	28	N/S	N/S			90	28
S Channel	11711	2842	13496	1130			12603	1529
Southern Flank	5704	1197	11445	1946			8575	1142
Northern Edge	4425	580	3160	537			3793	395
Total GB Clsd/Acc	35389	5980	30333	1771			32861	3119
Total GB Open	21840	3138	28101	2313			24970	1949
Total Georges Bank	57229	6754	58434	2913			57027	7899

TOTAL	105923	7548	122171	4593			113242	8238
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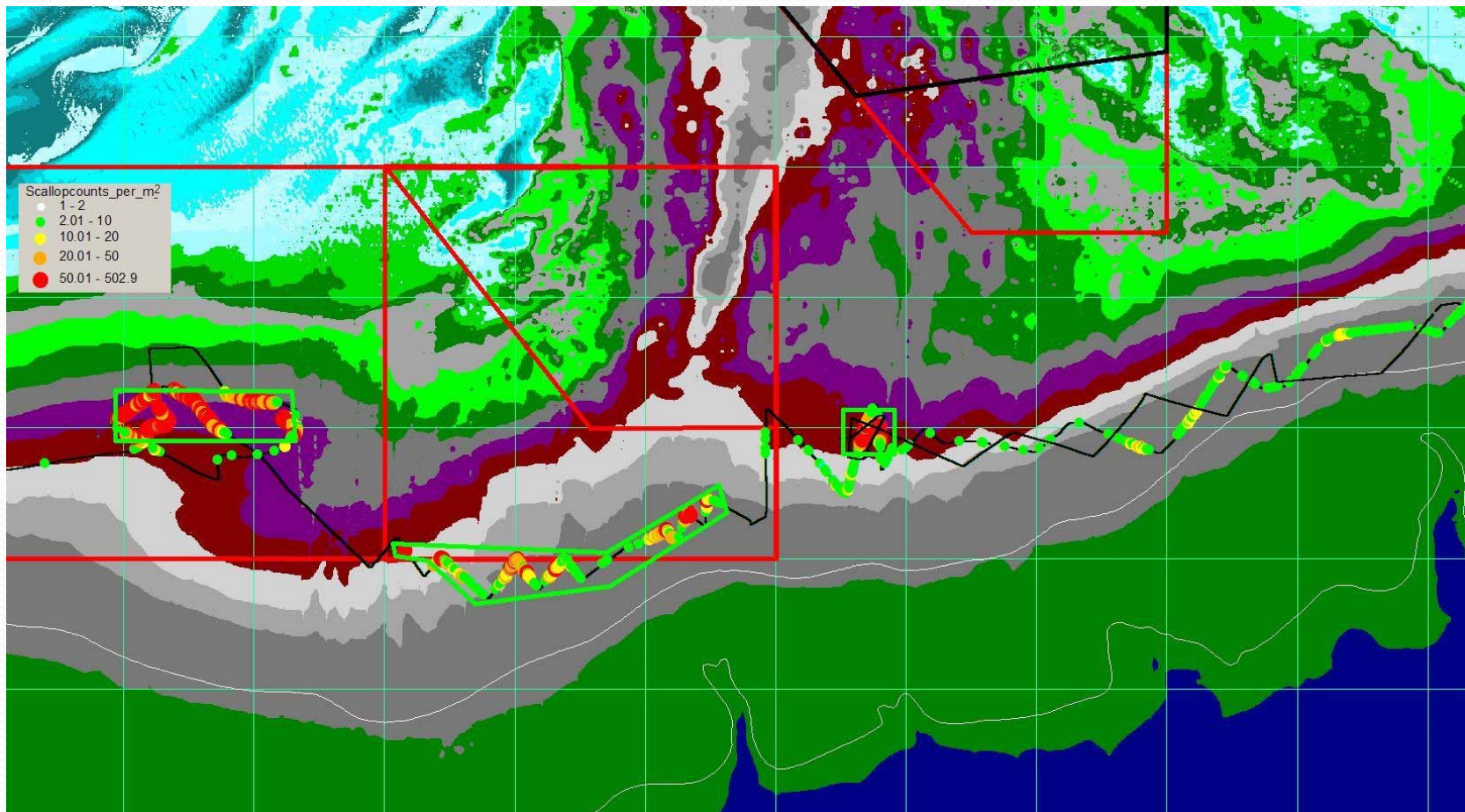
Recruits and Pre-recruits (2 year olds and 1 year olds)

Georges Bank Pre-recruits



“Remarkable and unusual event”

Special survey post August PDT meeting (F/V Kathy Marie)



Summary of 2013 compared to 2012

- Total biomass stable
- Exploitable biomass lower
- Small scallop observed in 2012 are growing, but not ready for fishery yet
- Since biomass stable and larger proportion of scallops are smaller – fishing mortality higher
- Estimate of F for 2012 is 0.377 (OFL=0.38)
- Large recruitment event near NL – what do we do?

Section 2.0 – Management Alternatives

2.1.1 OFL and ABC – PDT will present the same control rules developed in A15 and used for FW21-24, with updated survey and fishery data

- OFL - equivalent to the catch associated with F_{msy} – currently estimated at $F = 0.38$
- ABC control rule – catch set at 25% probability of exceeding OFL. Risk is evaluated in terms the probability of overfishing compared to the fraction loss of yield.

	OFL	ABC	Discards	ABC for fishery
2014	29,848	25,680	6,193	19,487
2015	36,693	31,730	7,068	24,662

FY2012

OFL = F of 0.38 = 34,382 mt

State water catch
(est 73 mt)

NGOM ACL
(hard TAC = 32 mt)

ABC
(F of 0.32 = 33,234 mt)
(ABC = F with 25% chance of exceeding OFL including discards)

Estimate of discards
(4,266 mt)

ABC available to the fishery (ACL)
(28,961 mt)

LAGC Incidental
(23 mt)

Set-asides
(290 mt for observer and 567 mt for research)

ACL available to directed fishery
After set-asides and incidental catch removed
28,081 mt

LA sub-ACL (94.5%)
(26,537 mt)

LAGC IFQ sub-ACL (5.5%)
(1,544 mt)

Performance of OFL/ABC/ACL/ACT to date

	OFL	ABC (including discards)	Discards	ABC available to fishery = ACL (after discards removed)	Actual Landings	% of ACL (landings/ ACL)	Total Catch (landings plus assumed discards)	% of ABC (including discards)
	A	B	C	A-C = D	E	E/D	E+C=F	F/B
2011	32,387	31,279	4,009	27,269	26,795	98.3%	30,804	98.5%
2012	34,382	33,234	4,266	28,961	26,160	90.3%	30,426	91.6%
2013	31,555	27,370	6,366	21,004	21,000	100.0%	27,366	100.0%
2014 (default)	35,110	30,353	6,656	23,697				
2014 proposed	29,848	25,680	6,193	19,487	OFL and ABC values updated on PDT call 9/13			
2015 proposed	36,693	31,730	7,068	24,662				

- 2013 Actual catch is a projection only – the fishing year is only half over.
- Assumes 100% of all sub-ACLs harvested, 50 mt for incidental catch, 200 mt for state water catch, 10 mt for NGOM catch and 100% of set-asides.
- Further breakdown of 2011 and 2012 landings provided in Tables 10-11 in Document #3

Discard estimate

- Discard = mortality from discards on deck + incidental mortality during fishing (unobserved)
- Assumption of discard mortality from assessment and A15 is 10% of landed scallops for MA and 20% of landed scallops for GB
- Limited direct research of this topic
- Since more biomass presently on GB – total discards higher as proportion of total biomass

Potential Fishery Specifications

- PDT met on Aug 19/20 to review 2013 survey results and CASA results for 2013
- SAMS projections not complete yet
- Very preliminary – lower catch than 2013
 - LA fishery - Fewer access area trips and similar or fewer DAS
 - LAGC – lower IFQ
 - NGOM – 26.3 mt or 31.8 mt hard TAC
 - Incidental catch – 23 mt lb target TAC (should maybe be higher)
 - Research set-aside – 567 mt
 - Observer set-aside – 1% of total ACL
 - Assumption for state water catch – has been 73 mt (should maybe be higher)

Potential Specification Alternatives

- No Action (Alt 1): 2014 Default set in FW24
 - LA: 23 DAS no AA trips GC: 2.77 million lbs
- Alternative 2: One AA trip (split NL, CA2, and Del)
 - 2b: only northern part of NL
- Alternative 3: One AA trip (split NL, CA2 and Del) with a new closed area in and around NL
- Alternative 4: One AA trip (CA2 and Del) and NL treated as open area with controlled # of DAS
- Status Quo: FY2013 levels - for analysis purposes only



Other measures in FW25

1. **Address 2013 Closed Area I access area trips**

Catch rates have been lower than expected in CA₁ and some vessels have unused 2013 trip left. This action is considering some type of extension.

2. **AMs for SNE/MA windowpane flounder sub-ACL**

AMs are required for the sub-ACL allocated to the scallop fishery. FW25 is considering a range of measures (seasonal closures, seasonal gear restricted areas, and several proactive gear modification AMs).

Alternatives for unused FY2013 CA1 Trips

- No Action – no rollover of FY2013 trips
- Alternative 2 – Allow rollover (through 2014, 2015, or when the area reopens in the future)
- Alternative 3 – Shift trip to different access area (2014 or 2015)
- Alternative 4 – Shift trip to open area for 2014 (as poundage or DAS conversion)

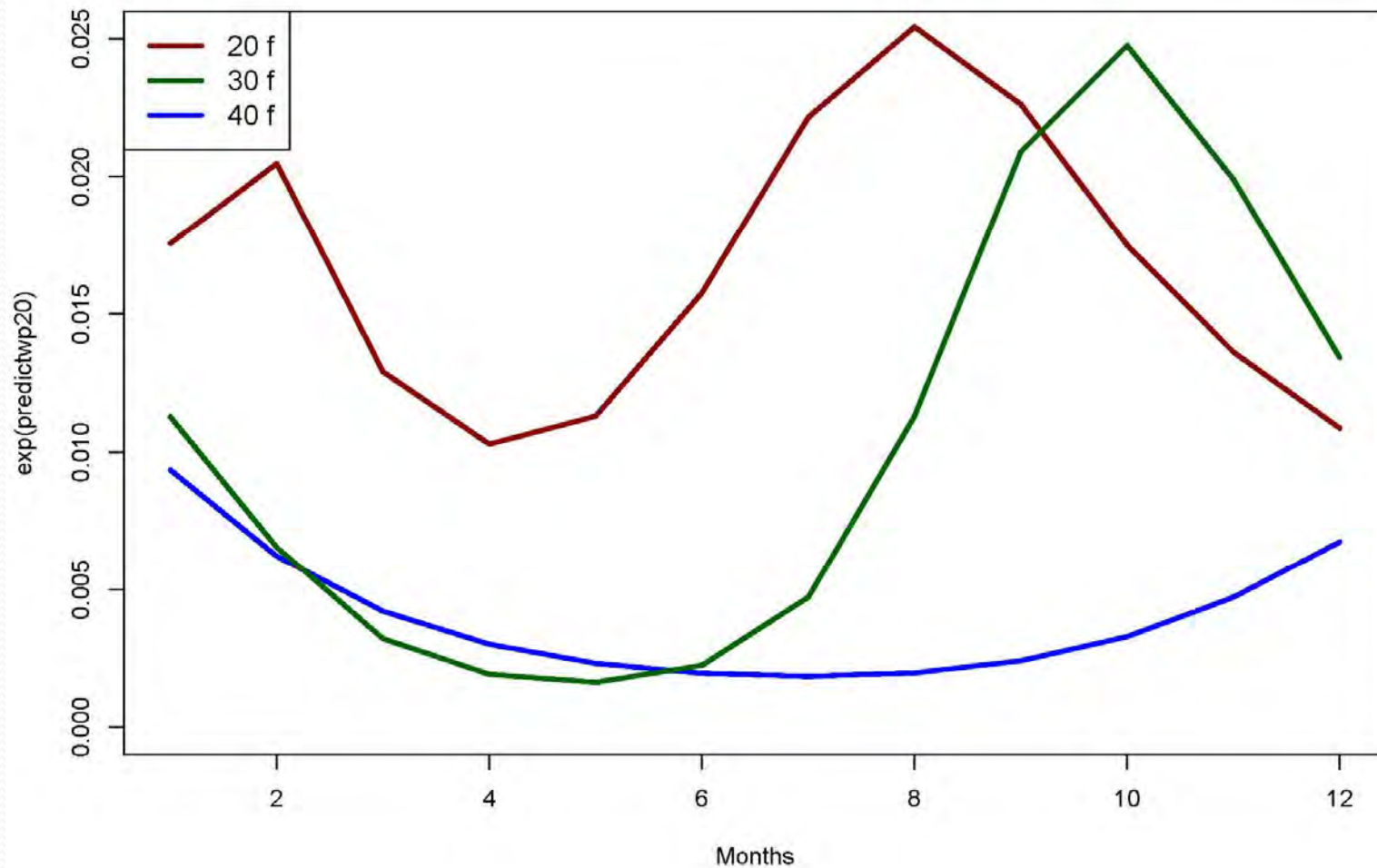
LAGC Measures

- LAGC IFQ – likely lower than 2013
- Allocation of fleetwide AA trips – with or without CA2?
- Consider a sub-ACT for LAGC IFQ sub-ACL to address uncertainty of IFQ carryover?
- NGOM – No Action (70,000) and Alt 2 (58,000)
- Incidental – No Action (50,000) and Alt 2 (?)

SNE/MA WP AMs

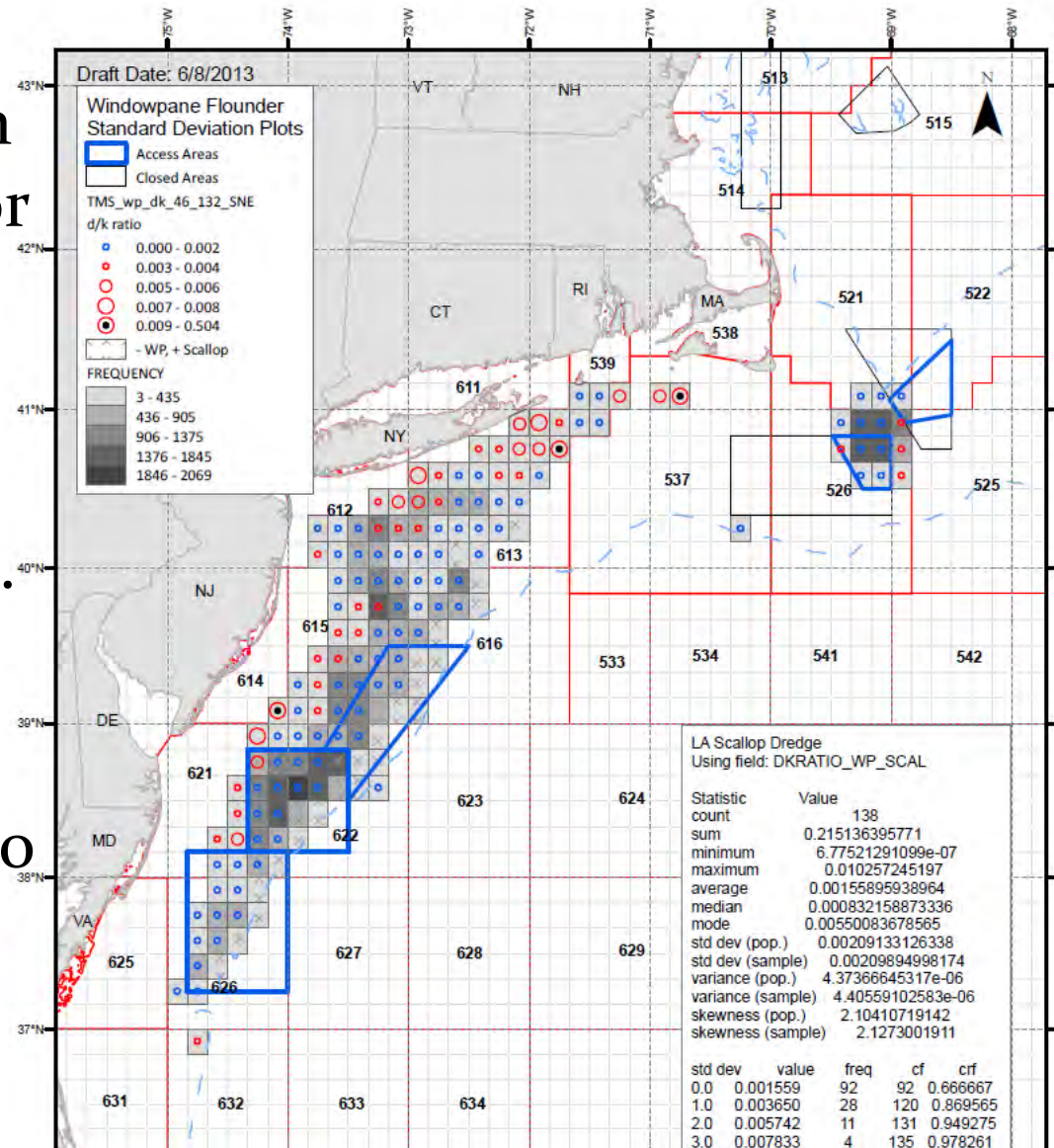
- No Action – No AMs
- Alt 2 – Reactive AM – Seasonal closure
- Alt 3 – Reactive AM – Seasonal gear restricted area
 - shorter apron and reduced twine top hanging ratio
 - several options for how trawl vessels addressed
- Alt 4 – Proactive AM – Max of 7 rows of rings in apron
- Alt 5 – Proactive AM – Max hanging ratio of 1.5:1
- Alt 6 – Proactive AM – Max of 5 rows of rings in newly opened access areas
- Alt 7 – Proactive AM – Max hanging ratio of 1.5:1 in newly opened access areas

Seasonal patterns for bycatch

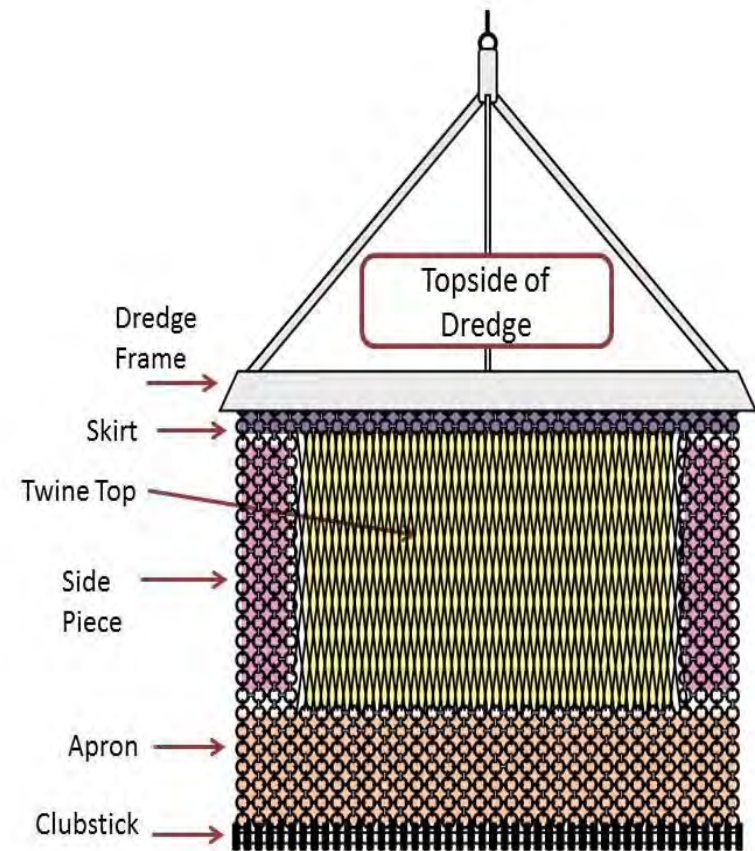
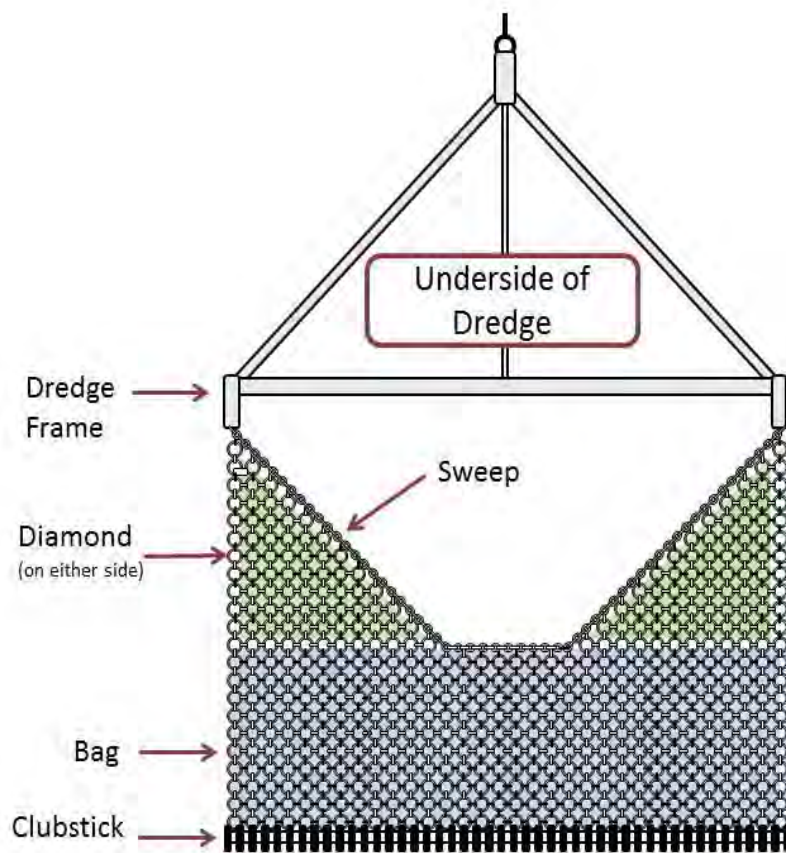


Bycatch Hot spots – still under development

- Observer data by month (permit and gear type for 2006-2012)
- ID regions with consistently higher d/k
- Start with 10%, 20%, etc. of wp bycatch
- Reallocate that effort
- Try to expand obs data to fishery with VMS data



Gear Restrictions (2)





AP Work Today

- Provide input on ten items highlighted in FW25
- Provide input on potential priorities for 2014
- Provide initial input on Draft IFQ Report

- Timeline for FW25
 - Council final action at November 2013 meeting
 - Expected implementation around May 1, 2014

#	Page in FW25	Staff question
1	14	Provide general input on preliminary specification alternatives. See August PDT summary
2	15	Is range of CA1 alternatives sufficient?
3	16	Should a sub-ACT be considered to address uncertainty of IFQ carryover? See Aug PDT summary.
4	16	Should a higher target TAC alternative for Incidental catch be considered? See letter from NMFS.
5	16	Should a higher assumption for state water catch be used for 2014? See letter from NMFS.
6	18	AP - are the seasonal and depth trends for WP bycatch from the observer data consistent with what you would expect?
7	19	AP- What is currently used in the fishery for the # of rows in the apron of a dredge and hanging ratio for twine top? How does that compare to observer data staff has?
8	19	AP-Any ideas for how the reactive gear restricted AM alternative could be drafted for vessels that use chain to hang twine top rather than rings?
9	21	AP- Are there any trawl modifications that could be included? Any tested?
10	22	Input on the range of reactive and proactive AMs developed to date?