



Draft Scallop PDT Meeting Summary

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

Mariner's House – Boston, MA

PDT members in attendance: Deirdre Boelke, Demet Haksever, David Rudders, William DuPaul, Dvora Hart, Chad Keith, Travis Ford, Brian Hooper, Matthew Camisa, and Lt. Josh Boyle.

PDT Members that called into the meeting: Emily Keiley, Emily Gilbert, Julia Olsen, and Kevin Kelly
About 15 members of the public attended in the audience

Purpose of Meeting: Review FW25 alternatives, preliminary projections for 2014 specifications, analyses of WP AM alternatives, and initial discussion of zero YT possession limit alternative being considered in FW51 in the GF FMP.

Specific PDT Recommendations:

1. Define boundary within NL at 40.5 N (pending further analyses using VIMS dredge survey results)
2. Recommend consideration of a prohibition on RSA compensation fishing in NL to be precautionary. Some on PDT do not think issue is as urgent as concerns raised last year. Still waiting for numbers from NERO for RSA fishing by area for 2012 and 2013 to date.
3. Considered another specification alternative that would include access in deep water of ETA to add about 2 million pounds of catch. But decided to include that as an alternative for unused CA1 trips instead. Better to save ETA for when scallops are larger.
4. Consider access in ETA deep-water only for unused CA1 trips.
5. Consider several measures to reduce impacts on MA AA (delayed opening until June, maximum crew, and prohibit RSA compensation fishing).

Future Work for PDT

1. In the future, PDT will look at LPUE model for just 2005 to present instead of 1994-present. For 1994-2004 based on VTR information and 2005 to present based on AMS (DAS charged). A variable is incorporated in the model for the earlier years to account for the change, but will see if major difference just using 2005 to present. If anything this would likely increase LPUE estimate.
2. Adjust shell-height figures to include more than mean of projections to show variability
3. Program is not currently set up to stabilize catch as the main objective; instead the main objective of area rotation has been to maximize yield. Model set up to optimize LT catch, not consistent catch. Since we currently allocate based on max per year, more susceptible to natural production. If there is a desire to modify that PDT could develop a different strategy, i.e. an area that is fished as a "reservoir only" in years when access areas are not available, or reduce F in open areas in years when access areas are above average, and higher F in years when access areas are less available.