



#4

New England Fishery Management Council
Scallop Advisory Panel Meeting
September 17, 2012
New Bedford, MA

AP members in attendance: James Fletcher, Ed Welch, James Gutowski, Robert Maxwell, Gary Hatch, William Wells (Chair), Kirk Larson, Scott Bailey, Michael Marchetti, Peter Hughes, Ron Enoksen, Bob Keese, and Paul Parker

NEFMC Staff present: Deirdre Boelke and Demet Haksever

There were about 25 members of the audience present for the meeting

The Chair of the Scallop advisory panel, Bill Wells, began with introductions and reviewed the agenda. Staff gave a presentation on the recent scallop surveys and potential specifications as well as a second presentation highlighting unfinished work for FW24. The primary objective of this meeting is to provide input on FW24 alternatives and potential priorities for 2013. The motions are below and audio is available for this meeting.

SPECIFICATIONS

Motion 1: Hughes/Gutowski

FW24 should be designed as a one year framework only (FY2013).

Vote: 9:1:2, motion passes

Motion 2: Hughes/Enoksen

Alternative 1 be the preferred alternative for specifications in FW24.

Amended motion:

Eliminate Alternative 2 and develop a new alternative that would open 4 access areas in 2013 (HC, CA2, CA1, and NL). The number of trips could vary by area. The possession limit can vary from Alternative 1.

Vote: 10:0:0, motion carries

Motion 3: Parker/Keese

Allocate the fleetwide GC trip allocation at 5% of the TAC for each access area open per year.

Amended motion:

Allocate the GC 5.5% of the total available access area TAC per year and prorate the trips proportionally among remaining areas open that year excluding closed area II.

Vote: 9:0:3, motion passes

Motion 13: Welch/Gutowski

Confine the allocation lottery process for AA trips so that it is random, but one vessel cannot get more than one trip per area if that is possible.

Vote: 7:0:5, motion carries

Motion 4: Enoksen/Hughes

Request that NMFS implement Emergency Action to prohibit 2013 default access areas trips allocated under FW22 for HC and Delmarva not be allowed until FW24 is implemented. Carry over trips from

2012 in those areas could still be used in the first 60 days of FY2013. In addition, close ETA using the previous boundaries until FW24 is implemented.

Motion withdrawn

Motion 5: Gutowski/Hughes

Move that the AP recommends that the Committee recommend adding to FW 24 the creation of a new access area in the northern part of CA II, including the current cod HAPC and the CA II triangle above it, as well as the area of high scallop abundance to the west, and a modification of the current CA I access area by expanding it to the north of the current access area till the edge of Georges Bank. Further, that recent survey information for these areas be evaluated and trips be tentatively allocated for 2013. Use of such trips would be contingent upon finalization of the Omnibus EFH Amendment which includes options for ending the status of each of these areas as habitat closures. Any supporting groundfish action should be included in Framework 24, as it is a joint groundfish-scallop framework.

Vote: 10:1:1, motion passes

Motion 6: Enoksen/Hughes

Vessels that take 2013 access area trips authorized by FW22 will give up all access area trips authorized to that vessel under FW24 plus 10 open area DAS. Vessels that take trips into HC (at a reduced possession limit) that are ultimately authorized by FW24 and allocated to that vessel will not be penalized if the trips are made before implementation of FW24.

Vote: 9:1:0, motion passes

Clarify that 2013 default allocations includes HC and Delmarva trips

Motion 9: Hughes/Larson

Request NMFS implement an emergency action to close ETA using the previous boundaries until FW24 is implemented.

Vote: 11:0:0, motion carries

OTHER FW24 MEASURES

Motion 7: Enoksen/Gutowski

Add an alternative to FW24 that would implement a seasonal closure in CA2 only from August 15 – November 15 (3 month closure). CA1 and NL would not have a seasonal restriction.

Vote: 11:0:1, motion carries

Motion 8: Fletcher/ Marchetti

Council be presented with an option of stopping the dredges a specific number of feet off the bottom for 2 minutes as a method for controlling bycatch.

Vote: 1:8:2, motion fails

Motion 10: Parker/Maxwell

Approve 2.3.2 in FW24 – allow both permanent and/or temporary transfer of LAGC IFQ during the year.

Vote: 10:1:0, motion passes

Motion 11: Hughes/Larson

Identify Alternative 2.3.3 (Allow transfer of IFQ for LA vessels with LAGC quota) as a future priority item for a future action, Amendment of Framework.

Vote: 3:5:3, motion fails

Motion 12: Bailey/Keese

Support leasing between LA vessels with IFQ and leasing of IFQ from vessels with a LA permit to a vessel with LAGC IFQ permit only (leasing down) to be considered in a future amendment.

Vote: 4:6:2, motion fails

FUTURE PRIORITIES

Motion 14: Hughes/Gutowski

Identify reopening currently closed areas of high scallop abundance as a high priority (i.e. EFH closed areas).

Vote: 11:0:0, motion carries

Motion 15: Parker/Keese

Initiate scallop framework in 2013 to set specifications for FY2014 (i.e. setting DAS, access area trips, NGOM TAC, IFQ, potential modification of scallop access area boundaries, etc.).

Vote: 11:0:0, motion carries

Motion 16: Keese/Parker

Identify as a priority for a future action that would develop a separate access area program for LAGC vessels only (i.e. close a near shore area like Crab Ledge and limit future access for LAGC vessels only).

Vote: 4:6:2, motion fails

Motion 17: Fletcher/Marchetti

Identify a priority research item to investigate the feasibility of harvesting PSP free roe on scallops. The additional poundage from roe would not count against possession limits in access areas.

Vote: 5:3:3, motion passes

Motion 18: Gutowski/Hughes

Recommend the Council identify consideration of gear modifications for bycatch reduction measures as a high priority for a future action.

Vote: 11:0:1, motion passes

Motion 19: Gutowski/Welch

Recommend the Council reconsider the YT AM for the LA fishery (both YT stocks).

Vote: 11:0:0, motion carries

