



# New England Fishery Management Council

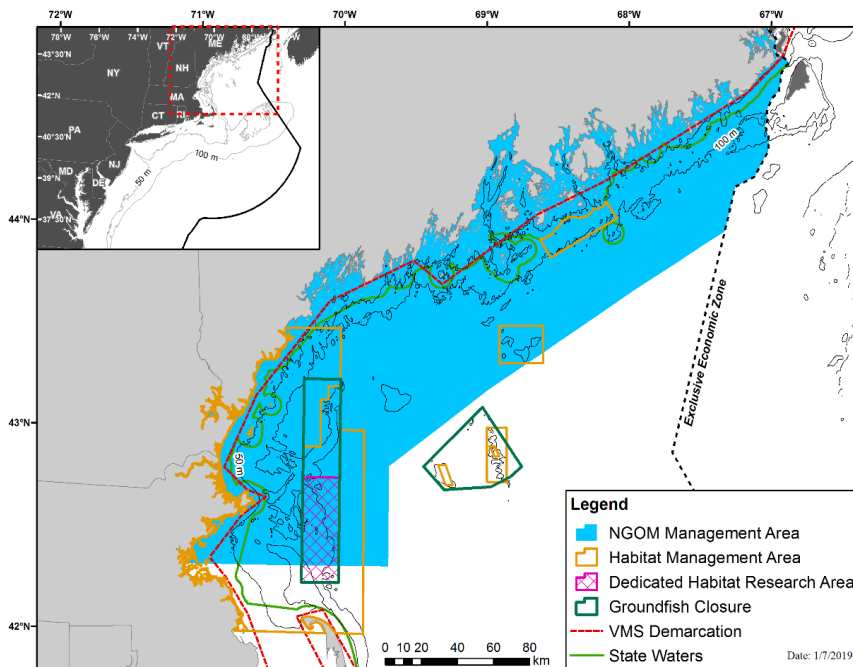
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## Scallops: Council to Hold 10 Scoping Meetings on Northern Gulf of Maine, Limited Access General Category Amendment

The New England Fishery Management Council has scheduled 10 scoping meetings from Maine to Virginia to gather public input on the development of Amendment 21 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan. This amendment is being developed to address three primary issues:

- Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) Management Area measures;
- Limited Access General Category (LAGC) individual fishing quota (IFQ) possession limits; and
- The ability for Limited Access vessels with LAGC IFQ to transfer their quota to vessels that *only* hold LAGC IFQ permits.



*Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area in blue.*

*– New England Fishery Management Council graphic*

“The scallop fishery is very diverse, and we want this to be an inclusive process,” said Vincent Balzano, chairman of the New England Council’s Scallop Committee. “We’re traveling up and down the coast to give stakeholders a chance to learn about the amendment and provide input on the key issues they think the Council should address.”

The first scoping meeting will be held on Thursday, February 28, 2019 in Rockport, ME in conjunction with the annual Maine Fishermen’s Forum. The session will begin at 1 p.m. in the Camden Room at the Samoset Resort.

“Given that we’ll be talking about Northern Gulf of Maine issues in

this amendment, we wanted fishermen in Midcoast and Downeast Maine to have easy access to one of our scoping meetings,” said Balzano. “Maine is a big state, and we know some fishermen have to drive for hours to get to a New England Council meeting. That’s why we’re hoping people will take advantage of the opportunity at the Maine Fishermen’s Forum to let us know what they’d like to see considered for the Northern Gulf of Maine and LAGC IFQ issues.”



# New England Fishery Management Council

The Council emphasized that attendance is highly encouraged at all of the scoping meetings.

“This is the first and best opportunity for members of the public to raise issues and concerns for the Council to consider during the development of Amendment 21,” stated the Council in its scoping document. “Your comments early in the amendment development process will help the Council address your concerns more thoroughly and ensure that an adequate range of alternatives is considered.”

As an added convenience, the Council has scheduled a March 22 webinar to collect additional input.

## Scallop Amendment 21 Scoping Meeting Schedule

Rockland, Maine Thursday, February 28, 2019 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Samoset Resort, 220 Warrenton Street, Rockport, ME 04856 Telephone: (207) 594-2511
Riverhead, New York Thursday, March 7, 2019 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Hotel Indigo, 1830 West Main Street, Route 25, Riverhead, NY 11901 Telephone: (631) 369-2200
Narragansett, Rhode Island Friday, March 8, 2019 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Corless Auditorium, University of Rhode Island, Graduate School of Oceanography, 215 South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02882 Telephone: (401) 874-6222
New Bedford, Massachusetts Wednesday, March 20, 2019 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Waypoint Event Center, 185 MacArthur Drive, New Bedford, MA 02740 Telephone: (774) 634-2099
Chatham, Massachusetts Thursday, March 21, 2019 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Chatham Community Center, 702 Main Street, Chatham, MA 02633 Telephone: (508) 945-5175
Webinar Friday, March 22, 2019 10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<a href="https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8181759988548273922">https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8181759988548273922</a> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.
Hampton, Virginia Monday, March 25, 2019 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Embassy Suites, 1700 Coliseum Drive, Hampton, VA, 23666 Telephone: (757) 827-8200
Cape May, New Jersey Tuesday, March 26, 2019 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Grand Hotel of Cape May, 1045 Beach Avenue, Cape May, NJ 08204 Telephone: (609) 884-5611
Manahawkin, New Jersey Wednesday, March 27, 2019 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Holiday Inn, 151 Route 72 West, Manahawkin, NJ 08050 Telephone: Telephone: (609) 481-6100
Gloucester, Massachusetts Wednesday, April 3, 2019 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, 30 Emerson Ave., Gloucester, MA 01930 Telephone: (978) 282-0308



# New England Fishery Management Council

Here are more details about the primary issues that will be discussed during the Amendment 21 scoping process.

**Issue 1 – Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area:** The Council is planning to develop measures that will support a growing directed scallop fishery in federal waters in the Northern Gulf of Maine. To do so, Amendment 21 will consider measures that prevent unrestrained removals from the Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area and allow for orderly access to the scallop resource in this area by both the Limited Access General Category and the Limited Access components of the scallop fishery. This will include establishing mechanisms to set allowable catches and accurately monitor catch and bycatch.

## Questions to Consider:

- What alternatives should the Council consider in Amendment 21 to change how the Limited Access and Limited Access General Category components of the federal scallop fishery operate in the Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area? Should the Council consider different approaches to managing this area at different levels of scallop biomass? What do you perceive the impacts of these changes to be?
- What specific issues are most important when evaluating the tradeoffs of developing additional measures in the Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area?
- Should the Council consider establishing a separate research set-aside from the NGOM total allowable catch (TAC) to support research and monitoring in the management area?

*“Most of the boats that participated in the Northern Gulf of Maine fishery last year worked out of Gloucester, so we scheduled a scoping meeting there for April 3<sup>rd</sup>, which is after the area opens, to make it easier for fishermen to attend.”*

*– Vincent Balzano,  
New England Council  
Scallop Committee  
chairman*

General Category Permits Before and After Implementation of Amendment 11 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan					
Fishing Year	General Category permits (open access)	Number of permits qualifying under the Amendment 11 program			Total
		IFQ (includes Limited Access permits)	Northern Gulf of Maine	Incidental	
		(A)	(B)	(C)	
2007	2,493				2,493
2008		342	99	277	718
2009		344	127	301	772
2010		333	122	285	740
2011		288	103	279	670
2012		290	110	280	680
2013		278	97	282	657
2014		260	103	260	623
2015		242	90	242	574
2016		273	104	255	632
2017		250	97	242	589



# New England Fishery Management Council

**Issue 2 – Limited Access General Category Individual Fishing Quota Possession Limit:** The Council is considering measures to increase the LAGC IFQ possession limit, which currently is 600 pounds.

## Questions to Consider:

- If the Council modifies the LAGC IFQ trip limit, what should it change to?
- Should the trip limit be the same for open area and access area trips?
- Are there other approaches that the Council should consider, such as a weekly landings limit?
- What specific issues are most important when evaluating the tradeoffs of increasing the LAGC IFQ trip limit from 600 pounds?

**Issue 3 – One-Way Limited Access Quota Transfers to LAGC IFQ Vessels:** The Council will consider measures that allow Limited Access vessels to transfer IFQ to LAGC IFQ vessels.

## Questions to Consider:

- Should the Council allow Limited Access vessels that qualified for LAGC IFQ to transfer quota to LAGC IFQ-only vessels?
- Should the Council consider permanent and temporary transfers?
- How might this change impact the LAGC IFQ fishery?
- What specific issues are most important when evaluating the tradeoffs of allowing LA vessels to transfer IFQ to LAGC IFQ-only vessels?

*“The Council has outlined a range of issues in Amendment 21 that could impact Limited Access and Limited Access General Category vessels. It’s important that we create opportunities to hear from these groups throughout our region during our scoping process.”*

*– Vincent Balzano, chairman  
New England Council Scallop Committee*

## A Helpful Key: What Do These Mean?

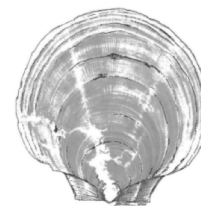
- NGOM – Northern Gulf of Maine
- LA – Limited Access
- LAGC – Limited Access General Category
- IFQ – Individual Fishing Quota
- TAC – Total Allowable Catch

## Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan

### SCOPING DOCUMENT

for

### Amendment 21



**(Northern Gulf of Maine and Limited Access General Category Amendment)**

Prepared by the

New England Fishery Management Council

Download a copy of the scoping document and meeting schedule from the Council’s [Amendment 21 webpage](#).



# New England Fishery Management Council

The Council is considering Issues 2 and 3 for several reasons, including to:

- Improve overall economic performance of the LAGC IFQ component of the scallop fishery and ensure that it remains profitable;
- Ensure that there is continued participation in the General Category fishery at varying levels; and
- In order to accomplish this, consider approaches that aim to reduce the impacts on vessels and crews of: (1) decreases in the ex-vessel price of scallops; (2) increases to fixed costs, such as maintenance and repairs; and (3) increases in variable costs, such as trip expenses, including fuel, food, oil, ice, and water.

## How to Comment

The Council is looking forward to hearing from fishermen and other stakeholders on these important issues. Here’s how you can help.

1. Attend a scoping hearing and provide oral information and feedback.
2. Submit written comments one of three ways:
  - Fax: (978) 465-3116
  - Email: [comments@nefmc.org](mailto:comments@nefmc.org)
  - U.S. Postal Service to the address at right.

Allocated LAGC IFQ Poundage – Fishing Years 2013-2018			
Fishing Year	LA/LAGC IFQ Permits	LA/LAGC IFQ Allocated Pounds	Total IFQ Allocated Pounds
2013	38	222,714	2,449,856
2014	40	220,286	2,423,145
2015	40	271,168	2,971,831
2016	40	405,650	4,473,179
2017	40	227,076	2,489,019
2018	40	279,987	3,086,472

*The table above shows the number of LA/LAGC IFQ permits and quota allocations to LA/LAGC IFQ permits (0.5% of annual projected landings) relative to total IFQ allocations (5.5% of annual projected landings) from fishing year 2013 to 2018. – New England Council Amendment 21 scoping document*



– Michael Torre, University of Maine photo

All written comments should be received by April 15, 2019 and labeled as “Atlantic Sea Scallop Amendment 21 Scoping Comments.” The mailing address is:

Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director  
New England Fishery Management Council  
50 Water Street, Mill #2  
Newburyport, MA 01950

**Questions?** Contact Jonathon Peros, the Council’s scallop plan coordinator, at (978) 465-0492 ext. 117, [jperos@nefmc.org](mailto:jperos@nefmc.org).

Also, visit the Council’s [Amendment 21](#) and [Atlantic sea scallop webpages](#).