



---

## NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

### Scallop Scoping Meeting Summary

April 7, 2008

Portland, ME

The meeting was started at 7:05 pm and ran about 40 minutes. About eight members of the public attended. The meeting was led by Dave Simpson (CT DEP, NEFMC Council Member) and Sarah Pautzke (NEFMC staff). Terry Stockwell (NEFMC Council Member) and Kevin Kelly (Scallop Survey Advisory Panel) were present.

After the presentation, clarification was asked about what indications existed with regards to excess capacity in the LA fishery, what the Mid-Atlantic public had to say, and if changing the NGOM measures requires an amendment or framework. One indication of excess capacity is the number of idle boats. Operators have 3 boats and only 2 crews and are keeping 3<sup>rd</sup> boat around just because it gives them fishing rights. The Mid-Atlantic folks had some concern about capacity reduction – some were against it and others were for it. And lastly, a Council member suggested that in order to change the way TAC is developed for the NGOM would probably require an amendment.

#### Issue #1: ACLs and AMs

It was suggested that ACLs could be allocated through a sector or an IFQ to maintain control of the quota and as long as the TAC is not run over, the remainder should roll-over into the following year. With regards to bycatch, we need to create a target and set up a bycatch TAC that is associated with a particular scallop TAC. The TAC should be checked on more than once a year to ensure we don't exceed it.

#### Issue #2: LA Capacity Reduction

Not a lot of excess capacity in Maine, although there is potential for it, and it is being addressed at a state level because it is mostly a state-waters fishery. One concern that was voiced was that capacity reduction will need to be done in a way that does not negatively impact the small businessmen, thus limits will need to be placed on permit stacking, DAS leasing, etc.

#### Issue #3: OFD Definition Revision

The new area-based OFD was supported by a fisherman because he is against averaging the open area and access area and closed area fishing mortalities because of the overfishing that is probably occurring in the open areas (as a result of the averaging).

#### Issue #4: LAGC Measures

Sectors have potential and should be easier than for groundfish. With regards to rollover of the IFQ, it would depend on stock status because it might result in catching more than the TAC if too much rollover is allowed.

Several members of the public made comments related to the NGOM Program developed by Amendment 11. It was argued that the NGOM TAC is based solely on federal landings, not state **and** federal landings, which is what it should be based on, especially since both current state and federal landings will count against this determined TAC. The NGOM resource should be surveyed for incorporation into the NGOM TAC development. NGOM and other areas should be treated the same. Most surveys are done south of 42. More research should be done north of that latitude.

Also, fishermen must choose between a federal and state permit. If the NGOM TAC is reached prior to Dec. 1 (start of ME state scallop season), then the NGOM permit holders will be excluded from the state fishery.

It was argued that all scallop vessels in the NGOM should abide by the 200 lb daily limit and have their landings applied towards the NGOM TAC instead of allowing LA vessels unlimited access to the NGOM resource until the NGOM TAC is filled.

Scallops caught in the NGOM should not be applied toward an IFQ that applies outside that area and vice versa. The areas were established as separate entities and should be managed as such.

#### Issue #5: EFH Measures for Consistency with GF A13

One fisherman stated that EFH areas should remain closed because it was closed as EFH, and thus should remain so, with limited to no fishing. However, another argued that the areas should be consistent between the GF and SC FMPs.

#### Issue #6: RSA's

One commenter suggested that we should have EFH and economic impact studies as part of the whole system to help rebuild both scallops and groundfish. It was also mentioned that rollover of the RSA is a good thing. The Maine DMR Scallop Advisory Council is interested in pursuing research projects that aim to better understand the NGOM scallop resource.

#### Issue #7: Changing FY to May 1

Some suggested starting the FY on May 1 is a good idea to match it with groundfish and make it more compatible with science needs.

#### Additional Comments

Area rotation should continue; it works well with the open access areas and closed areas.