



New England Fishery Management Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Council Approves Scallop Leasing Scoping Document; Readies for Seven In-Person Meetings and Two Webinars

The New England Fishery Management Council will hold seven in-person scoping meetings and two webinars over the next two months to solicit public input on whether a leasing program is needed in the limited access component of the Atlantic sea scallop fishery.

The Council approved the [scoping document](#) during its [April 12-14, 2022](#) hybrid meeting, which was held in Mystic, CT. In addition, the Council received short updates on:

- Next steps related to the final report titled [“Evaluation of the Atlantic Sea Scallop Rotational Management Program”](#); and
- Work being conducted by the [Scallop Survey Working Group](#).

Scoping Meetings Kick Off April 27th in Gloucester

The first scoping meeting for limited access leasing will be held on [Wednesday, April 27, 2022](#) in Gloucester, Massachusetts at the Cruiseport beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Other in-person meeting locations run from New Bedford down to New Bern, North Carolina (see [poster](#) at right). The in-person meetings will not have a remote participation option, but two separate webinar scoping meetings are scheduled for June 17 and June 24, 2022.

A complete listing of dates, times, and locations for all in-person and webinar scoping meetings can be found in the table on page 4 of this news release.



SCALLOP INDUSTRY

Comment on Leasing In the Limited Access Scallop Fishery:

- **Is a Leasing Program Needed?**
- **If So, What Should it Consider?**

Attend a Scoping Meeting

- Gloucester (Cruiseport) – April 27 at 5 p.m.
- New Bedford (Whaling Museum) – May 11 at 4 p.m.
- Manahawkin (Holiday Inn) – May 19 at 5 p.m.
- New Bedford (Whaling Museum) – May 25 at 4 p.m.
- Point Judith (Superior Trawl) – May 26 at 10 a.m.
- New Bern (Doubletree) – June 1 at 5 p.m.
- Hampton (Embassy Suites) – June 2 at 5 p.m.
- Webinar – June 17 at 1 p.m.
- Webinar – June 24 at 10 a.m.

In-Person Scoping Meeting Locations
April 27 through June 2, 2022

IMPORTANT: The Council has not taken a position on leasing and first wants to hear from all stakeholders. In September 2022, the Council will decide if it will begin work on an amendment to the federal scallop plan to consider leasing. Visit nefmc.org and click on the scallop shell for more info.

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Scan this QR code with your phone camera to get to the New England Council's scallop leasing webpage.

Download a copy of the Council's [Scallop Leasing Poster](#) shown above. Also, scan the QR code with your phone camera to reach the Limited Access Scallop Leasing [webpage](#) for more information.



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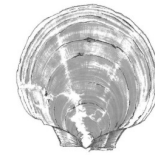
During the scoping meetings, the Council is looking for input on fundamental questions about whether the public thinks a days-at-sea and access area leasing program is needed in the limited access component of the scallop fishery and, if so, what should the leasing program consider. Sample questions are outlined on the next page.

IMPORTANT: The Council does not have a position on leasing. It is conducting these scoping meetings at the request of a segment of the scallop fishery and first wants to canvas the public and industry-at-large to gauge the degree of support for leasing. In September, the Council will:

- Receive a summary of all comments gathered during both the in-person scoping meetings and webinar meetings, as well as written comments; and then
- Decide if it will take the next step and initiate an amendment to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan to develop alternatives for a limited access leasing program.

Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan

SCOPING DOCUMENT for Limited Access Leasing



Prepared by the
New England Fishery Management Council

April 15, 2022

Download a copy of the [Scoping Document](#).

WRITTEN COMMENTS MATTER: The Council weighs both oral and written comments equally. The deadline for submitting written comments is 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 5, 2022. Be sure to label your correspondence as “Atlantic Sea Scallop Limited Access Leasing Scoping Comments.” Submit letters to the Council one of three ways: (1) by email to comments@nefmc.org; (2) by fax at (978) 465-3116; or (3) by mail addressed to: Tom Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill #2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

Public Outreach

The Council has developed a wide range of public outreach materials so that all members of the public are aware of the upcoming scoping meetings. This effort included the production of two billboards – one in New Bedford and one in Manahawkin (images at right) – to draw attention to the scoping meetings in those



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SCALLOP INDUSTRY IS LEASING NEEDED?

Scoping Meetings @ Whaling Museum
May 11th & 25th – 4 pm
MORE INFO • nefmc.org



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SCALLOP INDUSTRY IS LEASING NEEDED?

Scoping Meeting @ Manahawkin Holiday Inn
Thursday, May 19th – 5 pm
MORE INFO • nefmc.org



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locations among stakeholders who may not closely follow Council activities or receive the Council's digital news releases and announcements. In addition, the Council developed a [poster](#), which is being hung in key fishing ports in establishments frequented by crew members, vessel operators, vessel owners, and individuals involved with shoreside operations that support the scallop fishery. The Council also: (1) mailed the [scoping meeting notice](#) directly to all active limited access scallop permit holders, vessel operators, and dealers authorized to buy and sell scallops; and (2) will send printed copies of the [scoping document](#) to stakeholders in advance of the meetings upon request.

Sample Questions from the Scoping Document: What Should Your Comments Address?

The Purpose of the Scoping Document is to:

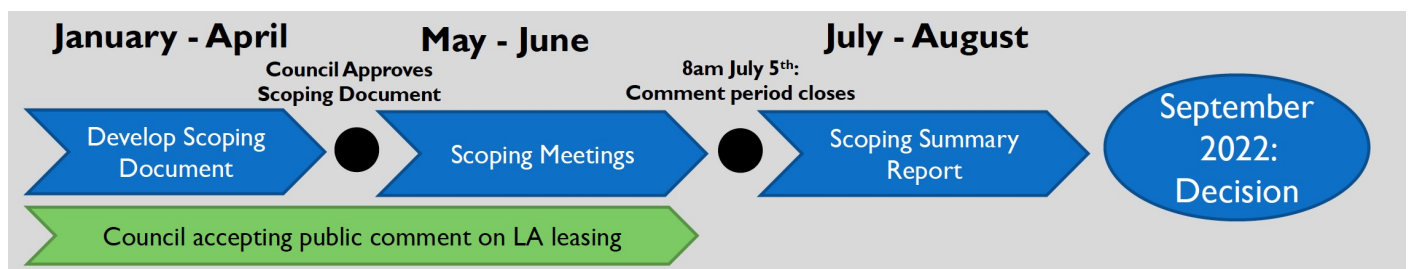
- Inform the public about the scoping process;
- Provide background information on the limited access scallop fishery; and
- Prompt comments from scallop fishery stakeholders.

In Your Opinion:

- Is a leasing program needed in the limited access scallop fishery? Why or why not?
- What issues in the scallop fishery would a leasing program address – and how?
- What are the benefits and/or drawbacks of a leasing program?
- Are there other approaches or tools the Council should consider that would provide flexibility?

Who/What Would be Affected by a Leasing Program?

- How could a leasing program affect the scallop resource?
- How could a leasing program affect permit holders and/or shoreside businesses?
- How could a leasing program affect captains and crews?
- If a leasing program is allowed, how could scallop vessels affect other fisheries?
- Should vessel power and efficiency adjustments be considered for days-at-sea leasing?
- Should there be limits on the amount of allocation a vessel can lease in?
- Additional questions are listed in the [scoping document](#). **See next page for meeting dates.**



REMINDER: The Council is in the scoping/information-gathering phase. The Council will decide – by voting yes or no – on whether to move forward with initiating a leasing amendment during its [September 27-29, 2022](#) meeting in Gloucester. Keep tabs on the [scallop leasing webpage](#) for updates.



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Schedule of Scoping Meetings to Gather Public Input on Limited Access Leasing in the Scallop Fishery

| Date and Time | Meeting Location |
|---|--|
| Gloucester, Massachusetts Wednesday, April 27, 2022 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. | Cruiseport Gloucester 6 Rowe Square, Gloucester Telephone: (978) 282-9700 |
| New Bedford, Massachusetts Wednesday, May 11, 2022 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. | New Bedford Whaling Museum 18 Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford Telephone: (508) 997-0046 |
| Manahawkin, New Jersey Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. | Holiday Inn 151 Route 72 West, Manahawkin Telephone: (609) 481-6100 |
| New Bedford, Massachusetts Wednesday, May 25, 2022 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. | New Bedford Whaling Museum 18 Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford Telephone: (508) 997-0046 |
| Point Judith, Rhode Island Thursday, May 26, 2022 10:00 a.m. to Noon | Superior Trawl Conference Room 55 State Street, Narragansett Telephone: (302) 503-4869 |
| New Bern, North Carolina Wednesday, June 1, 2022 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. | Double Tree River Front 100 Middle Street, New Bern Telephone: (252) 658-9000 |
| Hampton, Virginia Thursday, June 2, 2022 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. | Embassy Suites 1700 Coliseum Drive, Hampton Telephone: (757) 827-8200 |
| Webinar Friday, June 17, 2022 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. | Register for the Webinar After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. |
| Webinar Friday, June 24, 2022 10:00 a.m. to Noon | Register for the Webinar After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. |

~ Don't forget to visit the [Scallop Limited Access Leasing webpage](#) regularly for updates! ~