



# New England Fishery Management Council

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PRESS CONTACT: Janice Plante  
(607) 592-4817, [jplante@nefmc.org](mailto:jplante@nefmc.org)

## Scallop Research Set-Aside Program to Support 15 Projects for 2022-2023; Focus on Surveys, Scallop Biology, and More

The Atlantic Sea Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program will support 15 new projects under the 2022-2023 award cycle. The awards are expected to generate \$3.8 million to fund the research and \$12.5 million to compensate industry partners who harvest the set-aside scallops. In order to determine the award amounts, sea scallop price was projected to average \$15 per pound.

Six different institutions will lead the projects, partnering with fishermen, fishing businesses, and non-profit fishery research organizations.

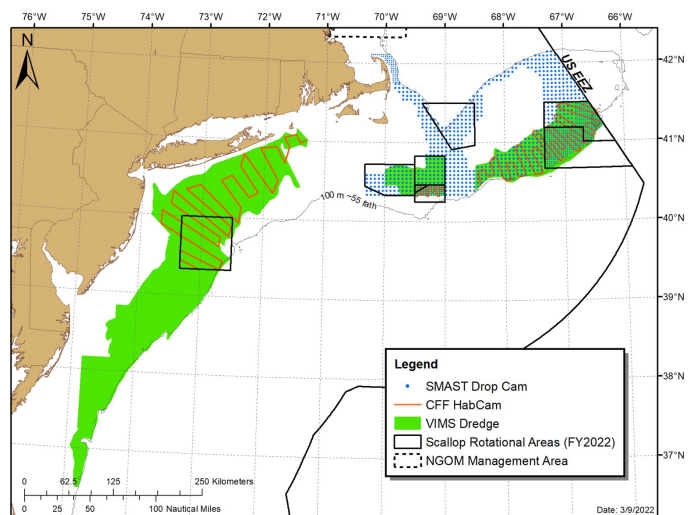
The 2022-2023 RSA projects address research priorities identified by the New England Fishery Management Council in [June 2021](#). The Council's priorities focused on resource surveys, research on scallop biology and sea turtles, scallop recruitment supplementation, bycatch reduction, and gear research.

RSA-funded scallop surveys have been a long-standing priority and have become increasingly important in: (1) providing information that directly helps scientists determine the status and distribution of the resource; and (2) guiding the Council in making management decisions.

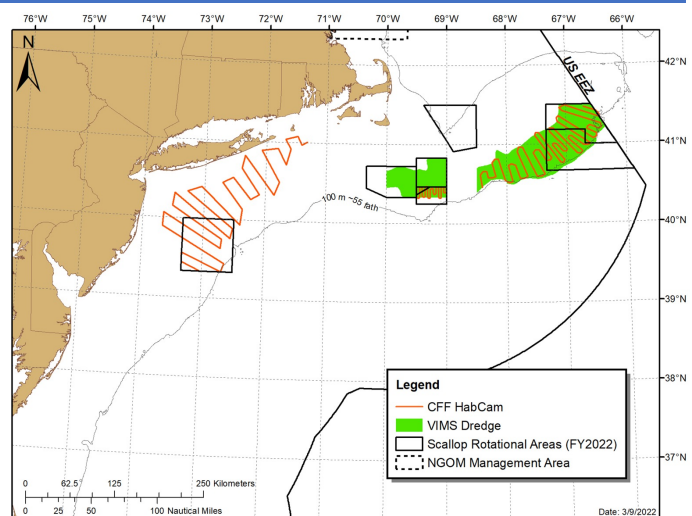
The awards were [announced on March 16, 2022](#) by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center and the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, which are both part of NOAA Fisheries.

The Council and NOAA Fisheries work together to support the Scallop Research Set-Aside Program. While the Council sets the research priorities, it's NOAA Fisheries that manages the RSA competition and administers the program.

### 2022 Georges Bank/Mid-Atlantic Scallop RSA Surveys



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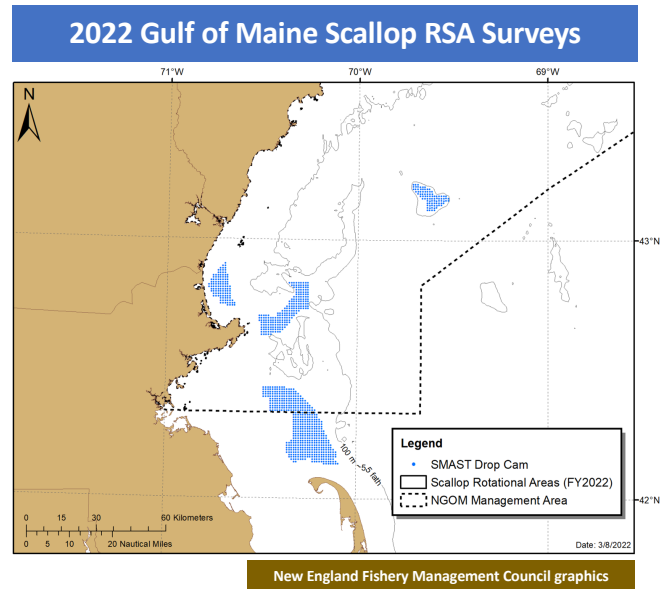




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**RESEARCH SET-ASIDE PROGRAM RECAP:** The Council established the Scallop RSA Program in 1999 through [Framework Adjustment 11](#) to the [scallop management plan](#). No federal money is involved. Instead, the Council “sets aside” scallop poundage to carry out RSA projects.

Previously, the Council set aside 1.25 million pounds of scallops to fund this important industry-funded research program. However, in Amendment 21 to the scallop plan, which was [recently approved](#), the Council folded in the Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) Management Area into its decision tree. This move added another 25,000 pounds to the RSA program to factor in the NGOM area’s contribution to research. The total RSA amount now sits at 1.275 million pounds.



Anyone with questions about the 2022-2023 Scallop RSA Program awards can contact [Ryan Silva](#), GARFO’s Cooperative Research Liaison. Email him at [ryan.silva@noaa.gov](mailto:ryan.silva@noaa.gov) or call (978) 281-9326. Visit the [RSA webpage](#) for a listing of project collaborators.

## 2022-2023 Scallop Research Set-Aside Project Selections

Institution *	Project Title	Set-Aside Award Based on \$15.00 Per Pound of Scallop Meats
UMass Dartmouth School for Marine Science and Technology	Examining and Tracking Scallop Aggregations in the Gulf of Maine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2022 Award: 67,623 pounds</li> <li>2022 Value: \$1,014,342</li> </ul>
UMass Dartmouth School for Marine Science and Technology	High-resolution Drop-Camera Survey to Track Scallop Recruitment Events in Nantucket Lightship South and Closed Area II Southeast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2022 Award: 19,833 pounds</li> <li>2022 Value: \$297,502</li> </ul>
Coonamessett Farm Foundation	Optical Assessment of Sea Scallop Abundance and Distribution in Select Areas of the Mid-Atlantic and Georges Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2022 Award: 215,358 pounds</li> <li>2022 Value: \$3,230,366</li> <li>This two-year project will be awarded 2022 RSA pounds</li> </ul>
Virginia Institute of Marine Science	Assessment of Sea Scallop Abundance and Distribution for the Nantucket Lightship, Closed Area II, and Southern Flank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2022 Award: 45,233 pounds</li> <li>2022 Value: \$678,501</li> <li>2023 Award: 47,057 pounds</li> <li>2023 Value: \$705,859</li> </ul>
Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen’s Alliance	Sea Scallop Growth and Reproduction Research to Support Improved Resource Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2022 Award: 41,435 pounds</li> <li>2022 Value: \$621,529</li> <li>This two-year project will be awarded 2022 RSA pounds</li> </ul>



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## 2022-2023 Scallop Research Set-Aside Project Selections

Institution *	Project Title	Set-Aside Award Based on \$15.00 Per Pound of Scallop Meats
Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation	Establishing Standard Methods to Assess the Biological Condition of Sea Scallops Before and After Offshore Wind Farm Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2022 Award: 9,774 pounds</li><li>• 2022 Value: \$146,613</li></ul>
Coonamessett Farm Foundation	Evaluating the Key Factors that Influence the Efficacy of Transplanting to Supplement Recruitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2022 Award: 59,965 pounds</li><li>• 2022 Value: \$899,478</li></ul>
Virginia Institute of Marine Science	Workshop on the State of Knowledge Related to Scallop Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2022 Award: 38,232 pounds</li><li>• 2022 Value: \$573,483</li><li>• This two-year project will be awarded 2022 RSA pounds</li></ul>
Coonamessett Farm Foundation	Using Sedimentary eDNA to Track the Presence of Scallop Spat and Predators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2022 Award: 26,628 pounds</li><li>• 2022 Value: \$399,422</li></ul>
UMass Dartmouth School for Marine Science and Technology	Modeling Exploration of the Impacts of Natural and Anthropogenic Stressors on Sea Scallop Recruitments over the U.S. Northeast Continental Shelf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2022 Award: 91,161 pounds</li><li>• 2022 Value: \$1,367,419</li><li>• This two-year project will be awarded 2022 RSA pounds</li></ul>
Virginia Institute of Marine Science	Understanding the Feeding Ecology of the Sea Scallop, <i>Placopecten magellanicus</i> , through DNA Metabarcoding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2022 Award: 77,800 pounds</li><li>• 2022 Value: \$1,166,995</li><li>• This two-year project will be awarded 2022 RSA pounds</li></ul>
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution	Model Assessment of Sea Scallop Growth Potential on the Northeast U.S. Shelf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2022 Award: 166,667 pounds</li><li>• 2022 Value: \$2,500,000</li><li>• This two-year project will be awarded 2022 RSA pounds</li></ul>
Coonamessett Farm Foundation	Seasonal Survey for the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery on the Eastern Part of Georges Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2022 Award: 93,383 pounds</li><li>• 2022 Value: \$1,400,743</li></ul>
Virginia Institute of Marine Science	Synthesis of Sea Scallop Survey Dredge Efficiency Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2022 Award: 19,136 pounds</li><li>• 2022 Value: \$287,033</li></ul>
Coonamessett Farm Foundation	Understanding the Impacts of the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery on Loggerhead Sea Turtles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2022 Award: 65,534 pounds</li><li>• 2022 Value: \$983,004</li></ul>

\* Project collaborators are listed on the [Northeast Fisheries Science Center's 2022-2023 Scallop RSA webpage](#). Only one project will be awarded 2023 set-aside pounds. All other two-year projects will be awarded 2022 set-aside pounds.

**OTHER RESOURCES:** Visit the Council's [scallop webpage](#) and GARFO's [RSA Programs webpage](#). Don't forget GARFO's Northeast Industry-Funded Scallop Observers [webpage](#) and [what's coming up](#) for Northern Gulf of Maine scallopers.