



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XE819]

Research Track Assessment for Atlantic Sea Scallops; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: NMFS will convene the Research Track Assessment Peer Review Meeting for the purpose of reviewing the Atlantic sea scallop stock. The Research Track Assessment Peer Review is a formal scientific peer-review process for evaluating and presenting stock assessment results to managers for fish stocks in the offshore U.S. waters of the northwest Atlantic. Assessments are prepared by the research track working group and reviewed by an independent panel of stock assessment experts from the Center of Independent Experts. The public is invited to attend the presentations and discussions between the review panel and the scientists who have participated in the stock assessment process.

DATES: The Research Track Assessment Peer Review Meeting will be held from April 21, 2025 – April 24, 2025. The meeting will conclude on April 24, 2025 at 1 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Please see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for the daily meeting agenda.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in person and virtually. The in-person meeting will be held in the S.H. Clark Conference Room in the Aquarium Building of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC), 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543 and virtually using this Google Meet link:

<https://meet.google.com/her-pcjt-aog>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Brian Hooper, 508-258-9580;

brian.hooper@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For further information, please visit the NEFSC website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/population-assessments/fishery-stock-assessments-new-england-and-mid-atlantic>. For additional information about research track assessment peer review, please visit the NEFSC webpage at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/population-assessments/research-track-stock-assessments>.

Daily Meeting Agenda – Research Track Peer Review Meeting

The agenda is subject to change; all times are approximate and may be changed at the discretion of the Peer Review Chair.

Monday, April 21, 2025

Time	Topic	Presenter(s)	Notes
9 a.m. - 9:05 a.m.	Welcome & Logistics	Brian Hooper	
9:05 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.	Introductions & Agenda	Tom Miller	
9:15 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.	Overview of Research Track Process and Scallop Research Track	Kristan Blackhart	
9:40 a.m. - 10:10 a.m.	Management History and Fishery Practices	Jonathon Peros	
10:10 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Summary of Community Engagement Session	Jonathon Peros	
10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	BREAK		
10:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Scallop Life History	Dvora Hart	
11:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Term of Reference (TOR) 1 Overview	Dvora Hart	Ecosystem
12 p.m. - 1 p.m.	LUNCH		
1 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Temperature Influences	Joseph Caracappa	Ecosystem
1:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.	Shell Disease and Nematodes	Dave Rudders	Ecosystem
2 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	TOR 1 Question and Answer (Q&A)	Review Panel	Ecosystem

2:45 p.m. - 3 p.m.	BREAK		
3 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	TOR 2	Jessica Blaylock	Catch
3:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.	TOR 2 Q&A	Review Panel	Catch
4 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.	Public Comment	Public	
4:15 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Discussion & Summary	Review Panel	Conclusions, Recommendations, & Final Wrap-up for TORs 1 & 2
5 p.m.	ADJOURN		

Tuesday, April 22, 2025

Time	Topic	Presenter(s)	Notes
9 a.m. - 9:05 a.m.	Welcome & Logistics Agenda	Brian Hooper Tom Miller	
9:05 a.m. - 9:25 a.m.	Gulf of Maine Surveys	Jonathon Peros	
9:25 a.m. - 10:10 a.m.	TOR 3	Dvora Hart	Surveys
10:10 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	TOR 3 Q&A	Review Panel	Surveys
10:45 a.m. - 11 a.m.	BREAK		
11 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Mid-Atlantic Catch At Size Analysis (CASA) Model	Jui-Han Chang	Models
12 p.m. - 1 p.m.	LUNCH		
1 p.m. - 2 p.m.	Georges Bank Closed Areas CASA Model	Jui-Han Chan	Models
2 p.m. - 3 p.m.	Georges Bank Open Areas CASA Model	Jui-Han Chan	Models
3 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	BREAK		
3:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	TOR 4 Q&A	Review Panel	Models
3:45 p.m. - 4 p.m.	Public Comment	Public	
4 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Discussion & Summary	Review Panel	Conclusions, Recommendations, & Final Wrap-up for TORs 3 & 4
5 p.m.	ADJOURN		

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

Time	Topic	Presenter(s)	Notes
9 a.m. -9:05 a.m.	Welcome & Logistics Agenda	Brian Hooper Tom Miller	

9:05 a.m. - 10 a.m.	Review Homework	Review Panel	If needed
10 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	TOR 5	Dvora Hart	Biological Reference Points (BRPs)
10:45 a.m. - 11a.m.	BREAK		
11 a.m. - 12 p.m.	TOR 5 Q&A	Review Panel	BRPs
12 p.m. - 1 p.m.	LUNCH		
1 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.	TOR 6	Dvora Hart	Projections
1:45 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	TOR 6 Q&A	Review Panel	Projections
2:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.	TOR 8	Patrick Sullivan	Backup Approach
3 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	BREAK		
3:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	TOR 8 Q&A	Review Panel	Backup Approach
3:45 p.m. - 4 p.m.	Public Comment	Public	
4 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Discussion & Summary	Review Panel	Conclusions, Recommendations, & Final Wrap-up for TORs 5, 6, & 8
5 p.m.	ADJOURN		

Thursday, April 24, 2025

Time	Topic	Presenter(s)	Notes
9 a.m. - 9:05 a.m.	Welcome & Logistics Agenda	Brian Hooper Tom Miller	
9:05 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Review Homework	Review Panel	If needed
10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	BREAK		
11 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	TOR 7	Jonathon Peros	Research Recommendations
11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	TOR 7 Q&A	Review Panel	Research Recommendations
11:45 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Public Comment	Public	
12 p.m. - 1 p.m.	Discussion & Summary	Review Panel	Conclusions, Recommendations, & Final Wrap-up TOR 7; any remaining issues
1 p.m.	ADJOURN		

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Special requests should be directed to Brian Hooper, via the email provided in the **ADDRESSES** section.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: March 27, 2025.

Karen H. Abrams,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries,

National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2025-05618 Filed: 4/1/2025 8:45 am; Publication Date: 4/2/2025]