

Sea Scallop Benchmark Assessment Q&A



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

2018 Sea Scallop Benchmark Assessment

During a benchmark stock assessment all data, models, and methods are up for review.

The NEFSC has heard from fishermen and will be evaluating data that addresses concerns about the health of the scallop population.

The results of this stock assessment will be available to managers for the 2019 fishing year.



Very young sea scallops NOAA/NEFSC



How is the health of the sea scallop stock?

Scallops are not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. The sea scallop stock is healthy population and has grown since the mid-1990s. After the 2015 assessment, biomass was roughly one and a half times the target.

Are any new data evaluated in this assessment?

- Landings, recruitment, and biomass
- The drivers of natural mortality within the scallop populations.
- Gulf of Maine sea scallop stock information
- Data collected by a strategic partnership with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science to survey the Mid-Atlantic Bight.

Scientific Survey Data

Federal Surveys

State Surveys

Fishery Data

Vessel Trip Reports

Dealer reports

Fishery Observer Program

Biological data from
landings

2018 Benchmark Assessment Process

Sea Scallop Working Group Meetings

Data: February 2018

Data: March 2018

Model: April/May 2018

Peer Review Panel

June 2018

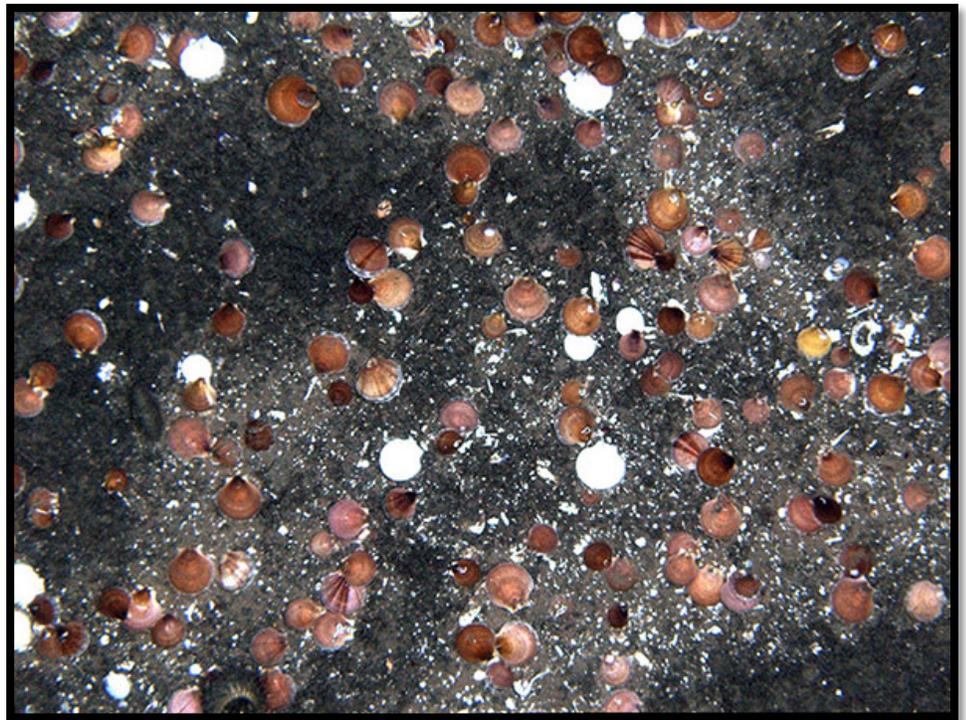
Assessment materials available to managers

August 2018

For more information: [Visit](#)
nefsc.noaa.gov/benchmark-assessments

Contact

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Sea scallops on the bottom photographed by the HabCam, 2015. NOAA/NEFSC

What is a 'HabCam'?

A 'HabCam' is a habitat mapping camera system. This camera is towed by the federal survey vessel at the same time as the scallop dredge. It's towed at 5 knots approximately 2 meters from the sea floor. Developed by scientists, engineers, and fishermen, this camera provides a better picture of scallops on the sea floor.

This camera has allowed scientists at the NEFSC to better understand how effectively our dredge is targeting scallops. It has also allowed us to see the scallop populations inside and outside the closed areas. We have used data from the HabCam in the scallop assessments since 2012, and will continue to do so during this assessment.

Sea scallop assessment history

