

Draft SSC Report April 2022



C-3 Scallop SAFE

C-3 Scallop Harvest Specifications

- Full assessment for scallops this year
 - No assessment model for ABC determinations
 - State sets GHs based on dredge survey and trends in CPUE
- 2021 survey showed increase in EKI/WKI beds, decrease in YAK beds
- The SSC supports SPT recommendations to set OFL and ABC at their maximum values as specified in the FMP
- Overfished status cannot be determined due to lack of abundance data
- Overfishing did not occur in 2020/21 and cannot be assessed for 2021/22 because estimates of discards are not yet available
- Recent catches have been well below ABC

C-3 Scallop Harvest Specifications

- The SSC ***supports*** changing the assessment frequency for scallops to less than annual, which requires an FMP amendment
- The SSC ***recommends*** the State consider some changes to scallop surveys, including:
 - Consider annual surveys in key beds in Yakutat region
 - Re-allocation of some effort to better delineate and map the extent of scallop beds
 - Re-consideration of the CamSled survey to support abundance and biomass estimation
- The SSC ***recommends*** focusing future modeling work on a single district (for example Yakutat) and provided additional technical recommendations

C-3 Scallop Harvest Specifications

- The SSC *recommends* that the SPT consider the following issues:
 - Are OFL levels appropriately set (using the reference period 1990-1997), given more recent CPUE trends and biological information?
 - Is there value in an analysis to assess whether or not this fishery is underutilized and, if so, identifying barriers to increased participation in this fishery?
 - Regarding socio-economic considerations, has NS8 standard for continued community participation been met in this fishery?