

**C4 Scallop FMP amendment**  
**Council Motion**  
**April 9, 2023**

The Council adopts the following Purpose and Need statement and preferred alternative for final action.

Purpose and Need:

*For two decades stable harvest specifications and conservative Guideline Harvest Levels have been established for scallops. Given the lack of assessment modeling approaches, the Council supports increased flexibility in assessment frequency to reduce the burden on staff and review resources and to provide more time for the development of new assessment methods. The Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP) requires that a Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation report be produced annually, and an FMP amendment is required to accommodate an alternative assessment cycle.*

Alternative 2: Revise the Scallop FMP to remove the requirement for annual specifications.

Include in the FMP text the circumstances identified in the Analysis for when it is appropriate to use a multi-year approach.