



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

 **Bass Strait Central Zone
Fishery Management Advisory
Committee (ScallopMAC)**

 **Meeting 27**

Minutes

**Date: 23 June 2016
Park Royal, Melbourne Airport**

Attendance

Name	Membership
Mr John Pollock	Chair
Mr Bill Talbot	Scientific member
Mr Allan Barnett	Industry member
Mr John Hammond	Industry member
Mr Steve Mantzaris	Industry member
Mr Stuart Richey	Industry member
Mr Andrew Watts	Industry member
Dr Sylvia Zukowski	Environment member
Ms Sally Weekes	AFMA member
Mr James Parkinson	Invited Participant, Tasmania
Ms Darci Wallis	Invited Participant, Victoria
Mr Clayton McCloud	Executive Officer, AFMA
Mr Bob Lister	Observer (Executive Officer, Scallop Fishermen's Association of Tasmania, Chair of Co-management Committee)
Ms Debbie Wisby	Observer (President, Scallop Fishermen's Association of Tasmania) – via telephone
Peter Mellios	Observer - industry
Louis Hatzimihalis	Observer - industry
Apologies	
Johnathon Davey	Observer – Seafood Industry Victoria

1. Preliminaries

1.1 Welcome and apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:30am and welcomed members, invited participants and observers to the meeting. The Chair noted an apology from Johnathon Davey, Seafood Industry Victoria.

1.2 Declarations of interest

A table of previously declared conflicts of interest was distributed to the MAC prior to the meeting and is available at **Attachment 2**.

The Chair asked members to declare any specific conflicts of interest with items on the agenda or to declare conflicts of interest that were not recorded in the provided table. Following any specific conflicts of interest, the Chair requested that each member leave the meeting while the MAC discussed whether the conflict should preclude them from participating in the agenda item. Following consideration by the MAC, the member was invited to re-join the meeting.

Mr Richey, Mr Hammond, Mr Barnett, Mr Mantzaris and Mr Watts all declared their conflicts of interest with agenda item 7. The MAC noted these conflicts of interest and recognising their knowledge and valuable contribution to the discussions and all five were invited to re-join the meeting.

The MAC also decided that the observers could also participate in the discussions on agenda item 7. Observers Louis Hatzimihalis and Peter Mellios stated their conflicts of interest, which were added to the list at Attachment 2.

1.3 Adoption of Agenda

The MAC adopted the agenda at **Attachment 1** and noted that item 8 to be presented by the Department of Agriculture would be moved forwards to 10:45am.

The AFMA member raised a potential issue with confidential information from the meeting regarding the TACs and how best to inform industry of MAC recommendations. The Chair emphasised the importance of the minutes being drafted and circulated as soon as possible to enable the recommendations to be taken to the AFMA commission.

The MAC agreed to produce a non-confidential summary at the conclusion of the meeting and distribute to industry stakeholders.

2. Meeting Administration

2.1 Confirmation of record of previous meeting

The MAC adopted the minutes of the ScallopMAC meeting of 24 March 2016 noting they had been finalised via email and posted on the AFMA website.

2.2 Actions arising from previous meetings

The RAG noted the status of action items at **Attachment 3**.

Mr Richey asked for a more detailed analysis on the cost of industry moving to electronic logbooks, specifically the two options of either staying on paper logs or switching to e-logs.

<p>Action: AFMA to provide the MAC with an analysis outlining the costs to industry of remaining on paper logs or transitioning to electronic logbooks.</p>

Ms Wisby asked for clarification regarding how concession holders are sent information. Ms Weekes explained that concession holders can chose to have correspondence sent via email or regular mail and that they need to contact AFMA licensing to update these details.

<p>Action: Chair to accept Peter Mellios as an observer on the MAC for future meetings.</p>

2.3 Correspondence

ScallopMAC noted correspondence since the last meeting.

3. Fishery update

3.1 AFMA management

The AFMA member provided an update on the current management of the fishery:
Of particular note:

- The final draft BSCZSF budget for 2016/17 has been circulated. The AFMA member thanked everyone who provided comments.
- Weighing at the wharf – All operators will be required to accurately weigh the scallops they land at the wharf using certified scales and record on the Catch Disposal Record, prior to sending to the fish receiver. The weight at the fish receiver premises, after allowing for drainage in transport, will be the weight accepted for quota purposes. A letter will be sent to all concession holders informing them of the change and there will be a three month grace period from the start of the season.
- There is a RAG and MAC member workshop planned for September 2016, more details will be sent out shortly.
- Final approvals are being sought for AFMA to collect quota trading prices via GoFish.

3.2 Tasmanian State Government management

The invited participant from the Tasmanian Government, James Parkinson, provided an update on the Tasmanian fishery:

- The statewide exploratory survey was conducted in April 2016 in the White Rock and at Marion Bay areas. Overall, densities in both areas were low.
- As a result, the FAC recommendation was to leave both areas closed with no additional dredge surveys scheduled.
- A targeted survey on the beds off Stanley may occur later in the season once the Bass Strait fishery opens.

3.3 Victorian State Government management

The invited participant from the Victorian Government, Darci Wallis, provided an update on the status of the Victorian scallop fishery:

- The TAC has been set at 135 tonnes again for 2016 season, which is open from 1 April to 31 March 2017.
- Working with Seafood Industry Victoria to determine research quota for exploratory surveys.
- The Victorian Government is still investigating the permanent transferability of quota in an attempt to reduce licenses in the fishery. The time it takes to do this is uncertain given it requires ministerial approval

3.4 Industry

Mr Lister, Executive Officer of the Scallop Fishermen's Association of Tasmania, provided an update on the Tasmanian Industry. He notes that:

- As a precaution all pre-season survey scallops taken from north east and east coasts of Tasmania must be held by the fisherman and/or processor on a voluntary industry and precautionary basis until a satisfactory laboratory test result is received.
- The Food Safety Management Plan is currently being reviewed by Biosecurity Tasmania.

- A sample taken from the King Island survey returned a PST reading of 0.12 mg/Kg, which is concerning at this stage of the year.

The Chair asked that an environment update be added to the agenda for the next MAC meeting.

Action: ScallopMAC EO to add environment update as a standing item on the agenda.

4. Biomass estimate survey results

Dr Knuckey from Fishwell Consulting presented the results of the 2016 biomass survey (see **Attachment 4** for summary). Dr Knuckey noted that due to delays caused by weather only scallop densities and biomass estimates would be provided at the meeting. Biological data such as gonad stage, number of meats per kg and bycatch compositions would be contained in the final report.

Dr Knuckey recommended to the MAC that all density “bubble” maps be made available to all of industry as it will help them choose where to fish based on known high densities. The MAC agreed that this was a good idea.

The MAC discussed the possibility of holding an industry workshop, which was raised at the previous meeting, to design future biomass surveys. Members agreed that this would be a good idea and would better engage industry on scientific decisions which are made when designing survey methodology. Members agreed that a workshop should be held later in the year, possibly in November, when the season is coming to an end.

Action: Fishwell to provide AFMA with scallop density maps from King Island and Flinders Island to provide to all concession holders prior to season start.

Action: AFMA to investigate timing and costs of holding an industry workshop to discuss the design of future surveys in November 2016.

5. ScallopRAG advice for the 2016 TAC and closed areas

The ScallopRAG Chair presented the advice of the RAG from its meeting of 22 June 2016 in relation to arrangements for the 2016 season.

Area closures

The RAG recommended closing areas in both the eastern and western Bass Strait, noting the different growth rates and assumption that there is likely to be different recruitment patterns. Having closures in both King Island and Flinders Island areas ensures that there is some level of protection for spawning biomass in both areas.

In selecting sites to close, the RAG agreed that beds of the highest density are the priority areas for closure, given the scientific evidence regarding the relationship between scallop densities and maximising spawning potential.

On that basis the RAG recommended to close the following beds:

- Flinders Island 2 (1859 t biomass size greater >85mm)

- King Island New* (4758 t biomass size greater>85mm) – Including all of King Island East, bottom of King Island 4 (KI4) and top of King Island 5 (KI5).

*Prior to the MAC meeting on 23 June 2016, Fishwell Consulting calculated the estimated biomass in the new combined area to be 4822 t (4758 t biomass size greater>85mm).

In terms of the west, the King Island East bed had the highest density, but on its own would not provide enough biomass to meet Tier 2 of the Harvest Strategy (3000 t), therefore the RAG recommended including part of both KI4 and KI5 that followed the boundary of the bed – renamed King Island New. This affords protection to the whole bed and makes sense from a biological perspective to include that whole bed.

TAC recommendation

Given the results of the 2016 survey and the current market demand for scallops, the RAG recommended:

TAC:

- 3000 t stepping up to a maximum of 5000 t (if required) by 500 t increments.

Triggers:

- once 2600t is taken the TAC will increase to 3500t
- once 3100t is taken the TAC will increase to 4000t
- once 3600t is taken the TAC will increase to 4500t
- once 4100t is taken the TAC will increase to 5000t
- no stepping up of TAC after 31 October 2016 (as the season closes 31 December 2016).

In recommending that limit the RAG considered:

- A maximum TAC of 5000t is conservative compared to the total estimated biomass in the fishery (less than 23 % of the known spawning biomass). This also takes into consideration what the market can potentially handle given the closure of the Tasmanian Fishery this year, which caught a total of 733 t in 2015.
- If the TAC was higher the market may not hold given what was taken in 2015 in both the Commonwealth and Tasmanian fisheries and would also encourage inefficient operations
- Setting a lower TAC to begin with and stepping it up allows for the TAC to track catches more closely which is better from an economic perspective in that it maintains a higher value of fishing rights.

The RAG acknowledged anecdotal information from the survey vessel that beds to the north of KI4 contain high densities of recruits (small scallops). With respect to these, the **RAG recommended:**

Industry follow the harvest strategy with respect to discard rate and close beds voluntarily if the discard rate is not met:

Scallop beds fished that do not meet the discard rate of less than 20% of scallops less than 85mm in size will be closed to fishing under voluntary arrangements applied by industry via the co-management committee.

The RAG recommended that AFMA monitor catches from this area using logbooks and VMS data.

6. ScallopMAC recommendation on the TAC and closed areas for the 2016 season

The MAC discussed the RAG recommendations. Key points were:

- Industry members were concerned that the highest density beds were proposed to be closed to fishing and that economic factors were not given greater importance in the decision. The high density beds are the most economical to fish given they have the highest catch rates. Industry members considered that the same spawning potential could be achieved by closing other beds. The scientific member and Dr Knuckey explained that the proposed closure at King Island was relatively small in size and that there were a number of other high density areas either side of the King Island New bed which would be open and that have the potential to provide equally good catches.
- Industry members expressed interest in gaining more information on a bed north of KI4 that was not surveyed as part of the formal survey but had been identified during the survey period. The anecdotal evidence suggested this bed contained high densities of both small and large scallops. Industry was concerned that this area would be fished commercially during the season unless it was closed by legislation and suggested that it could be closed instead of King Island New.
- AFMA advised that in order for the bed to be closed instead of King Island New, to determine if the area met the requirements of the harvest strategy it would have to be formally surveyed, results analyzed and considered by the RAG, MAC and Commission. There would also be a cost to industry associated with that additional process.
- In terms of TAC, the MAC was comfortable with the RAG's recommendation to open with 3000 t, stepping up to 5000 t if required. However, some industry members felt constrained with the recommendation to cease the stepping up of the TAC after 31 October 2016. The MAC agreed that the Co-management Committee, in consultation with industry should review catches in relation to the TAC triggers on or before 31 October 2016 and if a trigger is about to be reached, advise AFMA if the increase should occur.

Recommendation

Taking into consideration the advice of the RAG, the MAC recommended the following:

TAC:

- 3000 t stepping up to a maximum of 5000 t (if required) by 500 t increments.

Triggers:

- once 2600t is taken the TAC will increase to 3500t
- once 3100t is taken the TAC will increase to 4000t
- once 3600t is taken the TAC will increase to 4500t
- once 4100t is taken the TAC will increase to 5000t

- Co-management committee in consultation with industry to review catches in relation to TAC triggers on 31 October 2016 and if a trigger is about to be reached, advise AFMA if the increase should occur.

Area closures:

The MAC recommended closing the following beds:

- Flinders Island 2 (1859 t biomass size greater>85mm)
- King Island New (4758 t biomass size greater>85mm). The boundary of this closure is consistent with the RAG advice and includes KI East and parts of KI4 and KI5.

The MAC also recommended the following in regards to the dense bed of smaller scallops north of KI4:

- If an exploratory look at this area shows a formal survey may be worthwhile, undertake a formal survey of the area in consultation with RAG.
- If the area meets the requirements of the harvest strategy, propose that this area be closed and re-open King Island New.

7. Consultation schedule for 2017

The AFMA member presented a proposed consultation schedule for the 2017 season (**Attachment 5**). Members agreed that if the industry workshop was to be held in November, then it would be more practical to hold the MAC at the same time to conduct preseason planning, including survey design, for 2017.

<p>Action: AFMA to send proposed timeline of key events for the 2017 BSCZSF to MAC members.</p>

8. Biotoxin testing in shellfish update

Ms Alderman from the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture and Water Resources presented a paper on biotoxin management options for Bass Strait scallops for export.

Scallops harvested offshore and sold with roe on must comply with the regulatory limits for biotoxins in accordance with the food standards code and the export legislation. Under the department's legislation the export of whole scallops must be underpinned by an effective biotoxin management plan in order to be eligible for export. Currently, operators who land scallops in Victoria are not covered by a biotoxin management plan. Ms Alderman presented a list of options available to the Victorian industry to become compliant with export arrangements.

The MAC noted that developing a biotoxin management plan falls outside the remit of the MAC, but it was very important issue that industry needs to address. Industry members agreed to continue discussions outside of the MAC. Ms Alderman indicated she was willing to assist them in developing a plan or answering any questions on the topic.

Other Business

The MAC agreed that a letter, signed by the RAG and MAC chairs, should be written to John Richey, skipper of the survey vessel, thanking him for a professional and well performed survey in testing conditions.

Action: AFMA to draft letter to John Richey to thank him and his crew for completing the survey to a high standard in very difficult weather on behalf of the RAG and MAC.

The Chair thanked all members for their contribution and closed the meeting at 3:30pm.

Signed (Chairperson):



Date: 5/7/2016

List of Attachments

1. ScallopMAC 27 Agenda
2. Conflicts of interest
3. Current list of action items
4. Summary of 2016 Biomass Survey results
5. Proposed timeline of key events for the 2017 BSCZSF

Attachment A

Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Management Advisory Committee (ScallopMAC)

Meeting 27 – Park Royal, Melbourne Airport
Agenda

Thursday 23 June 2016
Time (EDT): 9:30

Approximate time	Agenda item
9:30am	1. Preliminaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1. Welcome and apologies 1.2. Declaration of interests 1.3. Adoption of agenda
9:40am	2. Meeting Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1. Minutes of previous meeting 2.2. Actions arising from previous meetings 2.3. Correspondence
10.00am	3. Fishery update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1. AFMA management 3.2. Tasmanian management 3.3. Victorian management 3.4. Industry update
10.30am	<i>Morning tea</i>
10:45am	4. Biomass estimate survey results (Fishwell Consulting) <i>Ian Knuckey will present the 2016 scallop biomass survey results and explain how the biomass was estimated. As the survey was delayed due to bad weather the results will be provided at the meeting.</i>
11:15am	5. ScallopRAG advice for the 2016 TAC and closed areas <i>ScallopRAG Chair will present the ScallopRAG advice on the TAC and closed areas for the 2016 season.</i>

Approximate time	Agenda item
11:45am	<p>6. ScallopMAC recommendation on the TAC and closed areas for the 2016 season</p> <p><i>ScallopMAC develop the TAC and closure recommendation to the AFMA commission on the 2016 TAC.</i></p>
12:30pm	<p><i>Lunch</i></p>
13:30pm	<p>7. Consultation schedule for 2017</p> <p><i>ScallopMAC will be asked to provide input into the timing of consultation processes for the 2017 season.</i></p>
13:45	<p>8. Biotxin testing in shellfish update</p> <p><i>Ms Shelly Alderman and Mr Shayne Daniels from the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources will provide a verbal update on progress in moving towards a testing program for biotoxins relevant to the BSCZSF.</i></p> <p>9. For Information - Change to signing procedures for logbooks</p> <p><i>ScallopMAC are asked to note the changes to signing procedures for logbooks that will be effective for the 2016 season.</i></p>
16:30pm	<p>10. Other business</p> <p><i>Close</i></p>

Attachment 2

ScallopMAC members updated and confirmed their interests as follows:

Participant	Membership	Interest declared
John Pollock	Chair	No interest, pecuniary or otherwise, in the fishery.
Bill Talbot	Research Member	ScallopRAG Chair. No interest, pecuniary or otherwise, in the fishery.
Allan Barnett	Industry Member (Tasmania)	Holds Commonwealth and State concessions, a Commonwealth fish receiver permit and operates a scallop processing plant.
John Hammond	Industry Member (Tasmania)	Holds Commonwealth and State concessions.
Steve Mantzaris	Industry Member (Victoria)	Operates a scallop processing plant.
Stuart Richey	Industry Member (Tasmania)	Holds Commonwealth and State concessions.
Andrew Watts	Industry Member (Victoria)	Holds Commonwealth and State concessions.
Dr Sylvia Zukowski	Environment Member	No interest, pecuniary or otherwise, in the fishery.
Sally Weekes	AFMA Member	AFMA Manager for the BSCZSF. No interest, pecuniary or otherwise in the fishery.
James Parkinson	Invited Participant (Tasmanian government)	Fisheries Management Officer in Tasmania. No interest, pecuniary or otherwise, in the fishery.
Darci Wallis	Invited Participant (Victorian government)	Manager of the scallop fishery in Victoria. No interest, pecuniary or otherwise, in the fishery.
Clayton McCloud	Executive Officer	AFMA Senior Management Officer. No pecuniary interest in the fishery.
Bob Lister	Observer	Executive Officer, Scallop Fishermen's Association of Tasmania
Debbie Wisby	Observer	President, Scallop Fishermen's Association of Tasmania, CEO of Seafood Company in Tasmania (Director is a Tasmania Scallop Concession Holder and active Commonwealth scallop fisher), Local Government Councillor, Commonwealth Processor, Industry Representative – AFMA Squid RAG Industry Invited Participant – AFMA SEMAC Fisheries Consultant Team Member – Squid Research Expression of Interest - AFMA
Peter Mellios	Observer	Director, Steve and Con Seafoods, a scallop processing plant
Louis Hatzimihalis	Observer	Skipper of a BSCZSF boat

Attachment 3

Current action item list

MAC meeting no.	Agenda Item no.	MAC Action Item	Details
25	6	Harvest strategy review	<p>Identified as a research priority and included in the AFMA Research Committee 2016 call for research, titled <i>Review of the effectiveness of spatial management measures in the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery</i>.</p> <p>One applicant submitted an expression of interest, however the ARC agreed to delay undertaking a project to address the review of spatial management issues in the fishery until further scientific knowledge around the biology of the species is available.</p>
26	2.2	Debbie Wisby to provide AFMA with a list of questions regarding who is responsible for PST testing.	<p>Complete.</p> <p>In relation to this item on PST testing, Ms Wisby clarified that negotiations by the Scallop Fisherman's Association of Tasmania with the relevant Victorian and Tasmanian bodies was ongoing.</p>

26	2.2	AFMA to provide an update on a standard set of annual economic data at the next ScallopMAC meeting. Consultation will be undertaken with ABARES and Stuart Richey.	<p>In progress. ABARES have provided comment on the indicators and said that they could populate some of the items if requested.</p> <p>ABARES could potentially look to do another formal economic survey of the BSCZSF if there is interest from the industry either next financial year or the following one.</p> <p>Broader industry participation is important irrespective of whether it is the ABARES survey or to smaller one proposed.</p> <p>Suggested approach – finalise the survey information and send out to all concession holders at the end of the 2016 season. If there is interest in doing the formal ABARES survey, MAC can support that.</p>
26	2.2	Mr Richey to provide AFMA with a list of questions regarding the BSCZSF budget that he would like clarification on.	Not completed with respect to the 2015-16 budget. However, AFMA has provided clarification to Mr Richey regarding the 2016-17 budget.
26	4.1	AFMA to consult with the proponent of the biomass survey (once selected) and ensure the RAG and Co-management Committee are consulted on the design of the survey. AFMA will investigate the option of holding an industry workshop to discuss survey design for next season.	<p>Part 1 complete:</p> <p>AFMA and Fishwell Consulting consulted with the co-management committee on 27 April 2016 and the RAG on 2 May 2016 regarding input into the survey areas and methodology for the biomass survey.</p> <p>Part 2: investigate workshop – in progress.</p>
26	4.2	AFMA to clarify the Expression of Interest process for vessels to participate in the 2016 BSCZSF biomass survey, including who can apply and how operators will be notified.	Complete. Letter sent on 13 April 2016 calling for Expressions of Interest from all Commonwealth scallop concession holders and active operators.

26	5.2	AFMA to clarify how quickly industry can implement e-Logs and how overheads for paper logbooks are attributed.	Complete. Email sent 7 June 2016 to ScallopMAC.
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Attachment 4

Summary of 2016 Biomass Survey results

The key points noted by ScallopRAG were:

- King Island 1
 - This bed was previously surveyed in 2015 as KI Main, but was separated into KI1 and KI2 for the 2016 survey to reduce its size.
 - This bed was commercially fished in 2015
 - An estimated biomass of 1885 t (1879 t over 85mm)
 - A mean bed density of 10.9 kg/1000m²
 - Average width of 111.5mm
 - 99.7% of scallops over 85mm

- King Island 2
 - This bed was previously surveyed in 2015 as KI Main, but was separated into KI1 and KI2 for the 2016 survey to reduce its size.
 - This bed was commercially fished in 2015
 - An estimated biomass of 3189 t (3171 t over 85mm)
 - A mean bed density of 13.2 kg/1000m²
 - Average width of 109 mm
 - 99.4% of scallops over 85mm
 - Compared to 2015, this bed contained similar size scallops, however mean density decreased from 23.8kg/1000m² to 13.2 kg/1000m², which can be explained by the commercial fishing undertaken in 2015.

- King Island Middle
 - This bed was surveyed in 2015 and closed during the 2015 season
 - Densities and size were almost identical to 2015
 - An estimated biomass of 601 t (601 t over 85mm)
 - A mean bed density of 18 kg/1000m²
 - Average width of 109 mm
 - 100% of scallops over 85mm

- King Island 3
 - This area was new to the 2016 biomass survey and was commercially fished in 2015
 - Catches were highly variable, 95% confidence interval between 34-1208 t
 - There were clearly two cohorts visible in the length frequency graph
 - An estimated biomass of 621 t (570 t over 85mm)
 - A mean bed density of 4.5 kg/1000m²
 - Average width of 96 mm
 - 91.8% of scallops over 85mm

- King Island 4
 - This area was new to the 2016 biomass survey and was commercially fished in 2015. KI4 borders and sits directly west of KI East (which was closed last year)
 - Catches and densities were consistently high in KI4
 - An estimated biomass of 2909 t (2769 t over 85mm)
 - A mean bed density of 19.4 kg/1000m²
 - Average width of 100 mm
 - 95.2% of scallops over 85mm

- King Island East
 - This bed was surveyed in 2015 and closed during the 2015 season. KI East sits in between KI4 and KI5
 - Survey tows returned consistently high catches and mean density has almost doubled between 2015-2016 (21.3 to 41.9 kg/1000m²)
 - An estimated biomass of 929 t (929 t over 85mm)
 - A mean bed density of 41.9 kg/1000m²
 - Average width of 110 mm
 - 100% of scallops over 85mm

- King Island 5
 - This area was new to the 2016 biomass survey and was commercially fished in 2015. KI5 borders and sits directly east of KI East (which was closed last year)
 - An estimated biomass of 6557 t (6544 t over 85mm)
 - A mean bed density of 21.1 kg/1000m²
 - Average width of 105 mm
 - 99.8% of scallops over 85mm

- Flinders Island 1
 - The Flinders Island bed that was surveyed and closed in 2015 was split into two areas for the 2016 survey.
 - An estimated biomass of 2307 t (1940 t over 85mm)
 - A mean bed density of 12.4 kg/1000m²
 - Average width of 92 mm
 - 84.1% of scallops over 85mm

- Flinders Island 2
 - An estimated biomass of 2305 t (1859 t over 85mm)
 - A mean bed density of 16.5 kg/1000m²
 - Average width of 90mm
 - 80.7% of scallops over 85mm

Attachment 5

Proposed timeline of key events for the 2017 BSCZSF

Proposed Date	Meeting/event/process	Purpose
October/Nov 2016	Industry workshop and MAC	For preseason planning, including survey design. To seek MAC advice on options to open the fishery: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Open with 150 tonnes on 1 April 2016 2. Proceed directly to biomass survey
If proceed directly to biomass survey, the following schedule would apply		
Early Feb 2017	Co-management committee (teleconference)	Discuss and recommend potential survey areas for 2017.
Early Feb 2017	ScallopRAG (teleconference)	Recommend survey areas and Research Catch Allowance (RCA) for 2017 survey. Final decision on RCA made by AFMA commission.
Mid Feb 2017	Survey EOI (letter)	Send out call for expressions of interest to all concession holders to undertake 2017 survey.
Early March 2017	Vessel/s selection (teleconference)	Survey vessel selected by an independent panel.
May/June 2017	Survey undertaken	Survey undertaken
June 2017	ScallopRAG (in person)	RAG meeting to discuss results of 2017 survey and recommended a TAC to the MAC.
June 2017	ScallopMAC (in person)	MAC meeting to discuss results of 2017 survey and recommended a TAC to the AFMA commission.
Late June / early July	Commission decision	Consider RAG and MAC advice and set TAC
Mid-July 2017	Fishery opened or closed.	