

## Executive Summary

An annual Scallop Stock Assessment Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report is required by the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council's *Fishery Management Plan for the Scallop Fishery off Alaska* (FMP). Under the FMP, the report is prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) with input from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Council's Scallop Plan Team (SPT). The SAFE summarizes the current biological and economic status of the fisheries, guideline harvest ranges, and support for different management decisions or changes in harvest strategies.

The Scallop Plan Team met on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 virtually to update the scallop SAFE report with recent abundance survey information and fishery performance data. Plan Team review was based on presentations by staff from the Council, NMFS, and ADF&G and included opportunities for public comment and input.

### New Information in the 2022 SAFE:

- *2021 fishery-independent dredge and trawl survey results for the Yakutat Region*
- *State management region - specific*
  - *2020/21 discard estimates*
  - *2020/21 fishery CPUE*
  - *2020/21 landings*
  - *2021/22 preliminary landings and CPUE estimates*

### Scallop Stock Status:

Scallop abundance is estimated for portions of three of the nine registration areas only, therefore, in the absence of stock size and MSST estimates, **the status of the scallop stocks is "unknown"**.

The total catch estimate for the 2020/21 was 238,551 lb (108 t) of shucked meats. This is 20.6% of the ABC (1.156 million lb; 524 t) and 18.6% of OFL. **Overfishing did not occur in 2020/21.**

Scallop *landings-only* in 2021/22 are estimated to be 298,755 lb (136 t), and although discard estimates are not yet available, it is anticipated that **overfishing did not occur in 2021/22.**

Area-specific harvest limits for the 2021/22 season were met in approximately the Yakutat, Prince William Sound, Kodiak Northeast, Shelikof, and Southwest Districts.

### Scallop Plan Team Harvest Recommendations for 2022/23:

The Scallop Plan Team recommends that OFL in the 2022/23 season be set equal to maximum OY (1.284 million lb; 582 t) as defined in the Scallop FMP. The Team also recommends that ABC for scallops in 2022/23 be set consistent with the maximum ABC control rule (90% of OFL) and which is equal to 1.156 million lb (524 t).