

Scallop Amendment 21 (NGOM, etc.) Framework 32 (2020 Specifications)

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Sanctuary Advisory Council
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Gloucester, MA



Two scallop actions

Amendment 21

- Adjustments to structure of scallop management program, regardless of year to year catch limits
- Focus on Northern Gulf of Maine measures, but includes other issues as well
- Considering adjustments to how the NGOM fishery is prosecuted
- More information here:
<http://www.nefmc.org/library/amendment-21>

Framework 32

- Specifications for 2020 fishing year (April 2020-March 2021)
- Includes overall catch limits for fishery, NGOM TAC, access fishery specifications, etc.
- May include a closure on Stellwagen Bank to protect small scallops

Draft Timelines for FW32 and A2 I

2019

- January: *Council Approved A2 I Scoping Document*
- Feb – April: *A2 I Scoping Period, 10 Scoping Meetings*
- June: *Review A2 I scoping comments; develop goals/objectives*
- Ongoing: *Develop range of alternatives for both actions*
- December: *Approve Framework 32 (2020 specs)*

2020

- January - March: *Writing A2 I and FW32 impacts*
- April: *Approve A2 I Range of Alternatives*
- June or September: *Approve A2 I document for public hearings*
- *EIS process: target implementation no later than April 2021.*

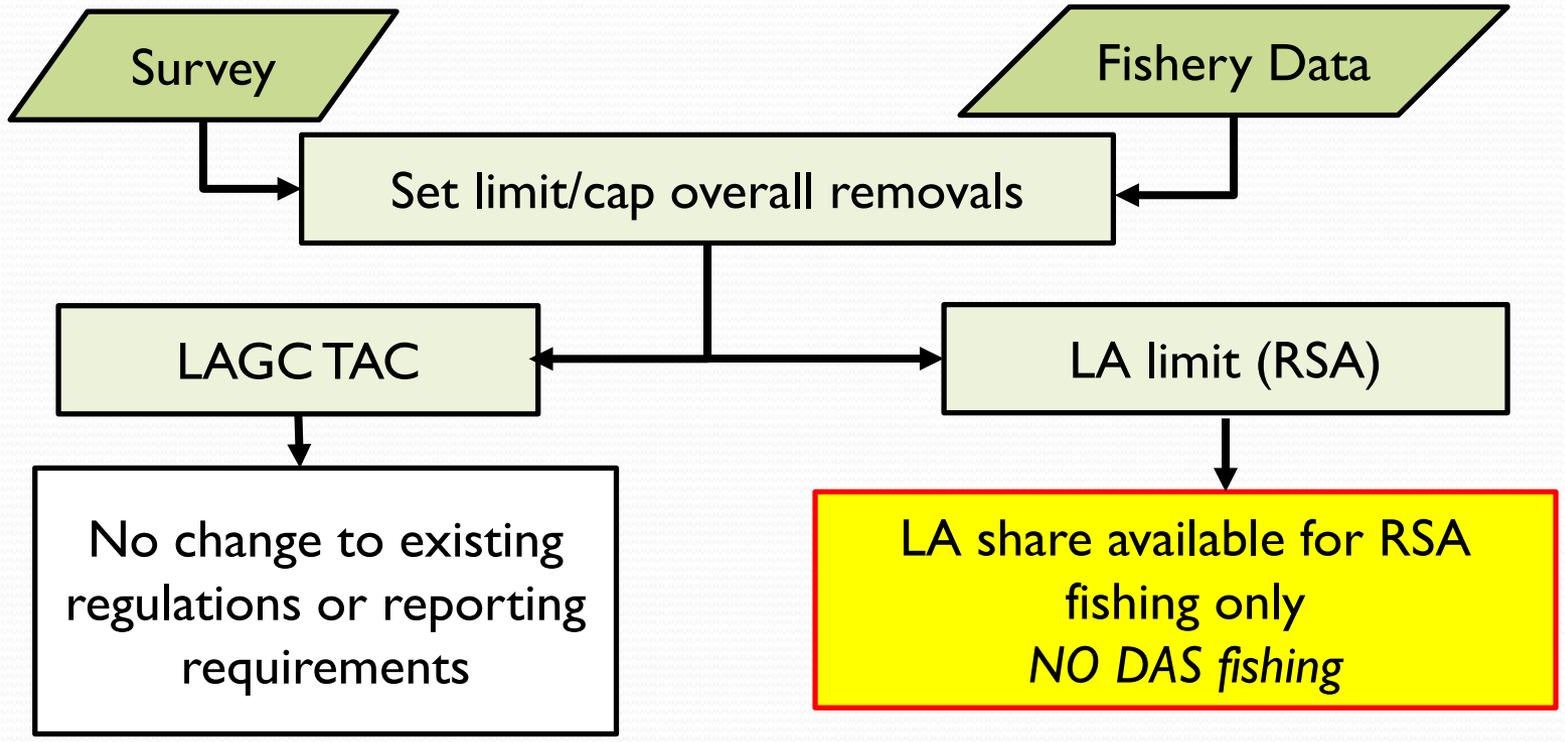
Scallop
Committee
meets 10/24 and
11/20;
Council meets
December 4-6



Council's NGOM Problem Statement

Problem: Unknown biomass and recent high landings

Tools and Process:

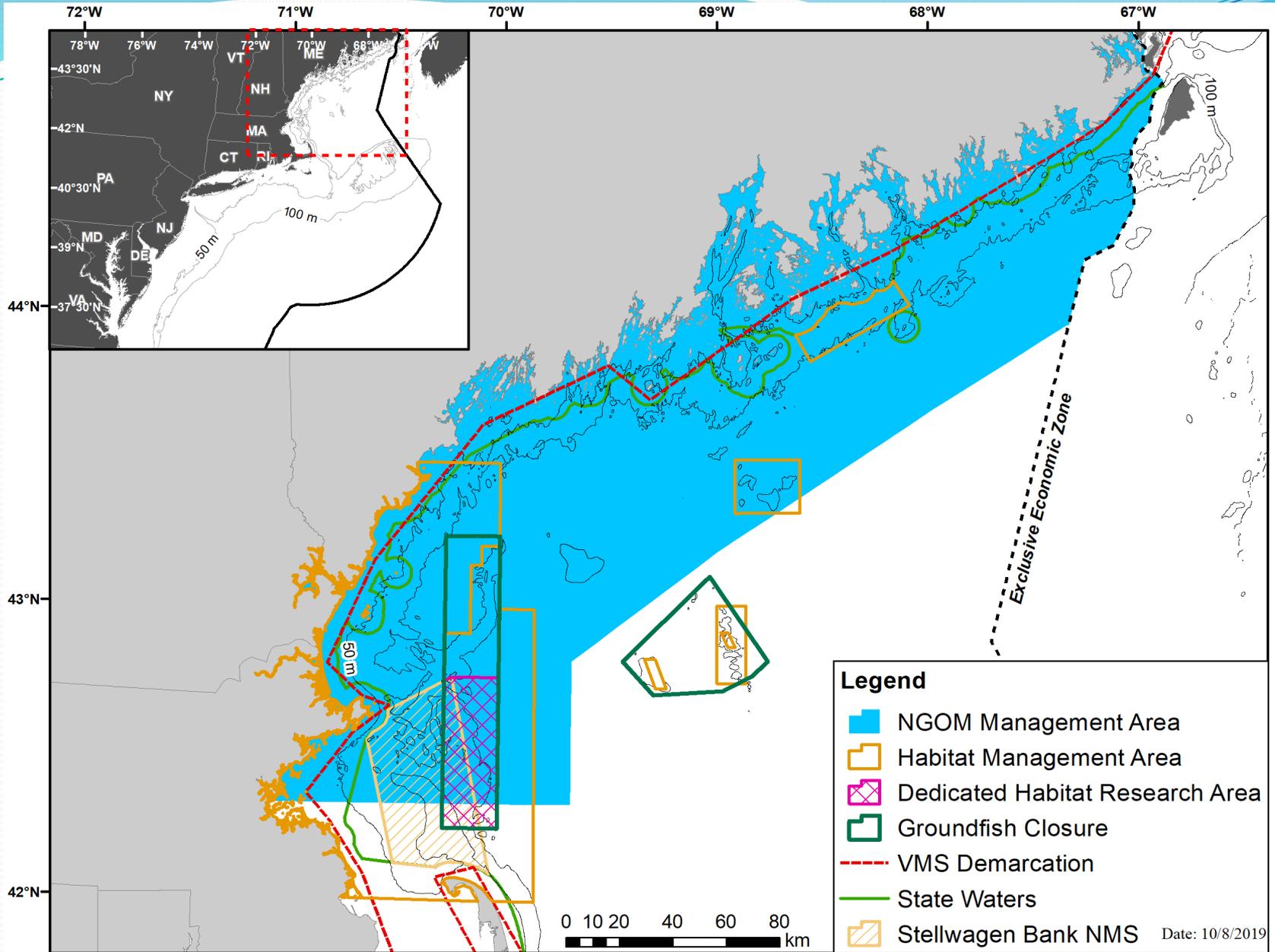


Goal: Understand total removals + improve management

Amendment 2 | Outlook: NGOM

Steps taken in May 2019:

- Reaffirmed A | I vision statement, NGOM objectives
- Committee Tasking to develop alternatives that:
 1. Allocate to LA and LAGC, under range of biomass
 2. Minimize current derby style fishery, lengthen season
 3. Reliably monitor and report catch and bycatch
 4. Establish a NGOM RSA program
 5. Gear restricted area (10.5' dredge width) in NGOM and GOM dredge exemption
 6. Remove requirement for state licensed IFQ vessels to use IFQ when fishing NGOM during state season (New - state waters exemption issue)

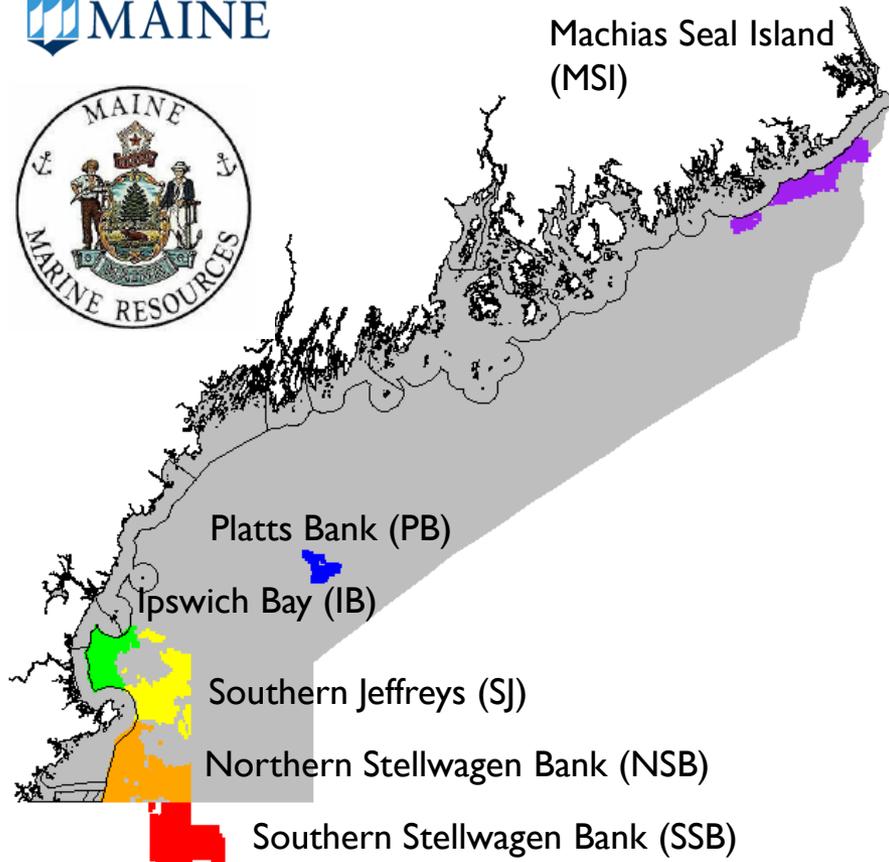




2019 NGOM Fishery

- 137.5k pound TAC → Landings ~128k lbs
- Opened April 1 → Closed April 25
- 41 Active vessels in 2019 (LAGC only)
- Average trips per vessel: 16 (Max: 24)
- ME DMR dredge survey funded through RSA
- Fishery occurred on Stellwagen Bank.

ME DMR/UMaine Scallop Survey



- F/V Clean Sweep
- Timing:
 - Survey: 5/27/19 – 6/24/19
 - NGOM Fishery open 4/1 – 4/25
- 323 dredge tows (5 min) across 6 areas
- Random stratified survey design
- Strong recruitment on Stellwagen Bank.
- Exploitable scallops in 2020 on Jeffreys and in Ipswich Bay

ME DMR/UMaine Scallop Survey

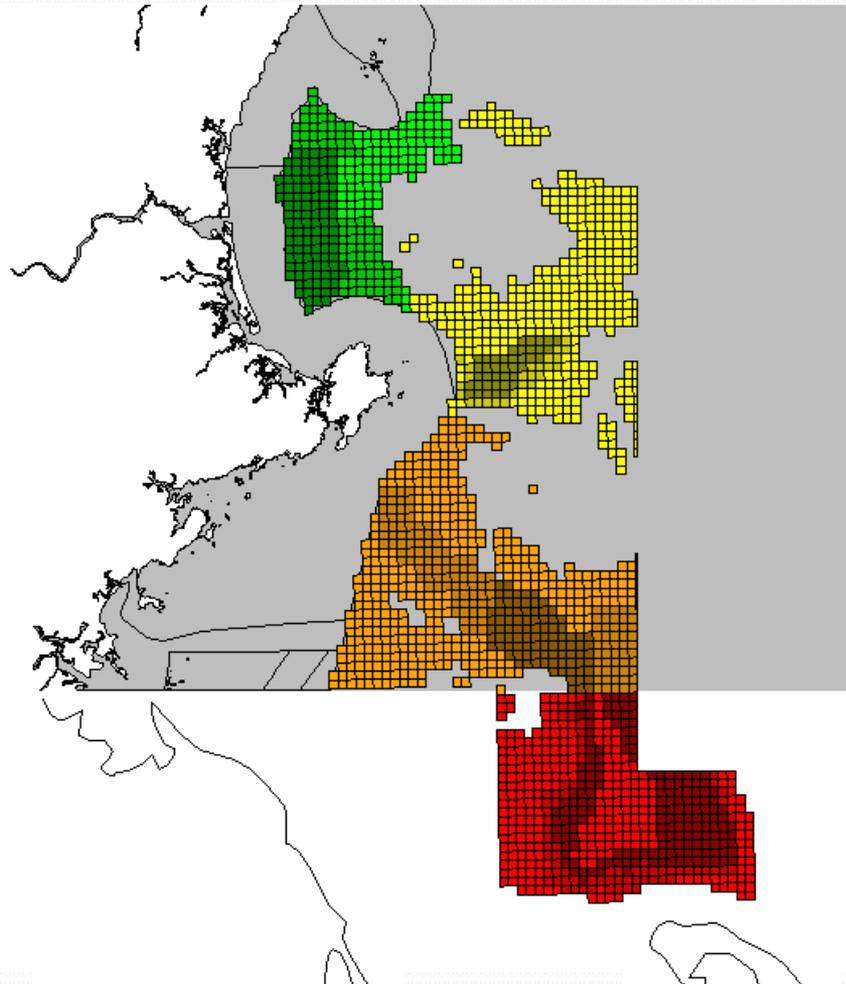
Gear

- 7ft unlined drag
- 2" rings, 4" twine top
- Rock chains



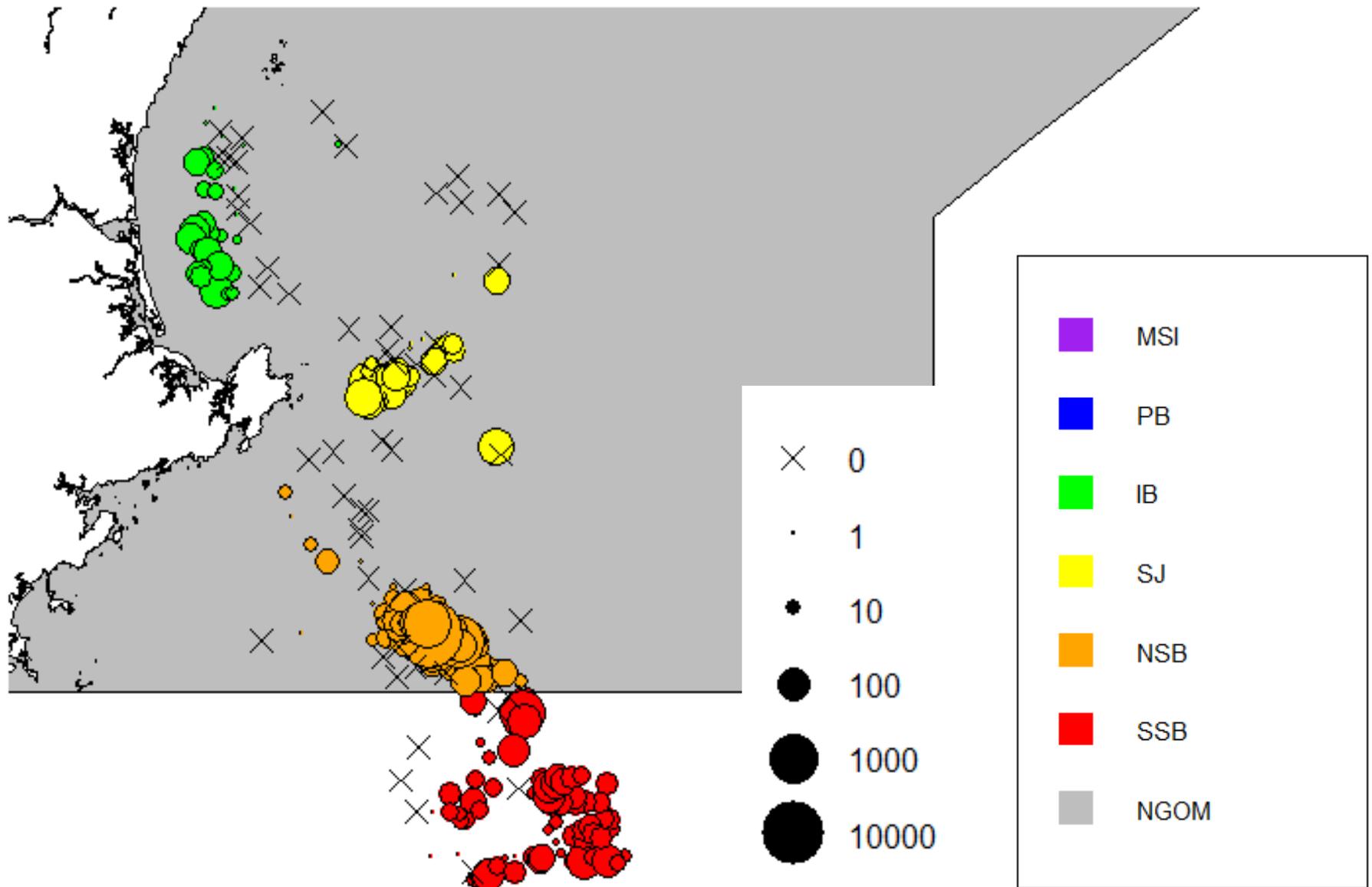
Substrata Area Delineation

•Density substrata of southern areas were delineated using fisherman input, VTR, VMS and pervious survey data

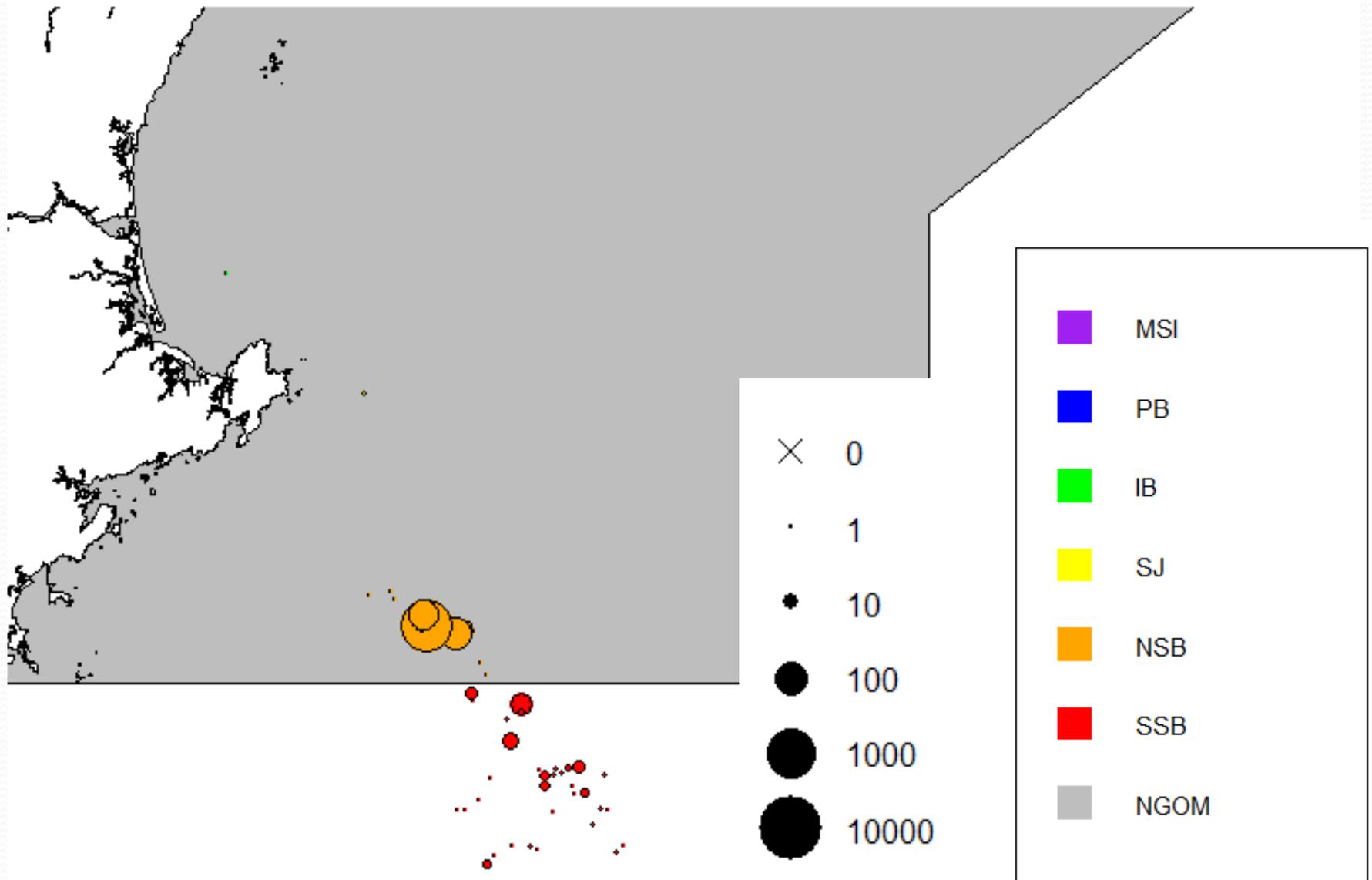


Area	Density	Number of Cells (1 km ²)	
Ipswich Bay	High	108	
	Medium	84	
	Low	100	
Southern Jeffreys	High	40	
	Medium	25	
	Low	368	
Northern Stellwagen	High	93	
	Medium	145	
	Low	375	
Southern Stellwagen	High	175	
	Medium	71	
	Low	276	

Abundance 2019 – Southern extent

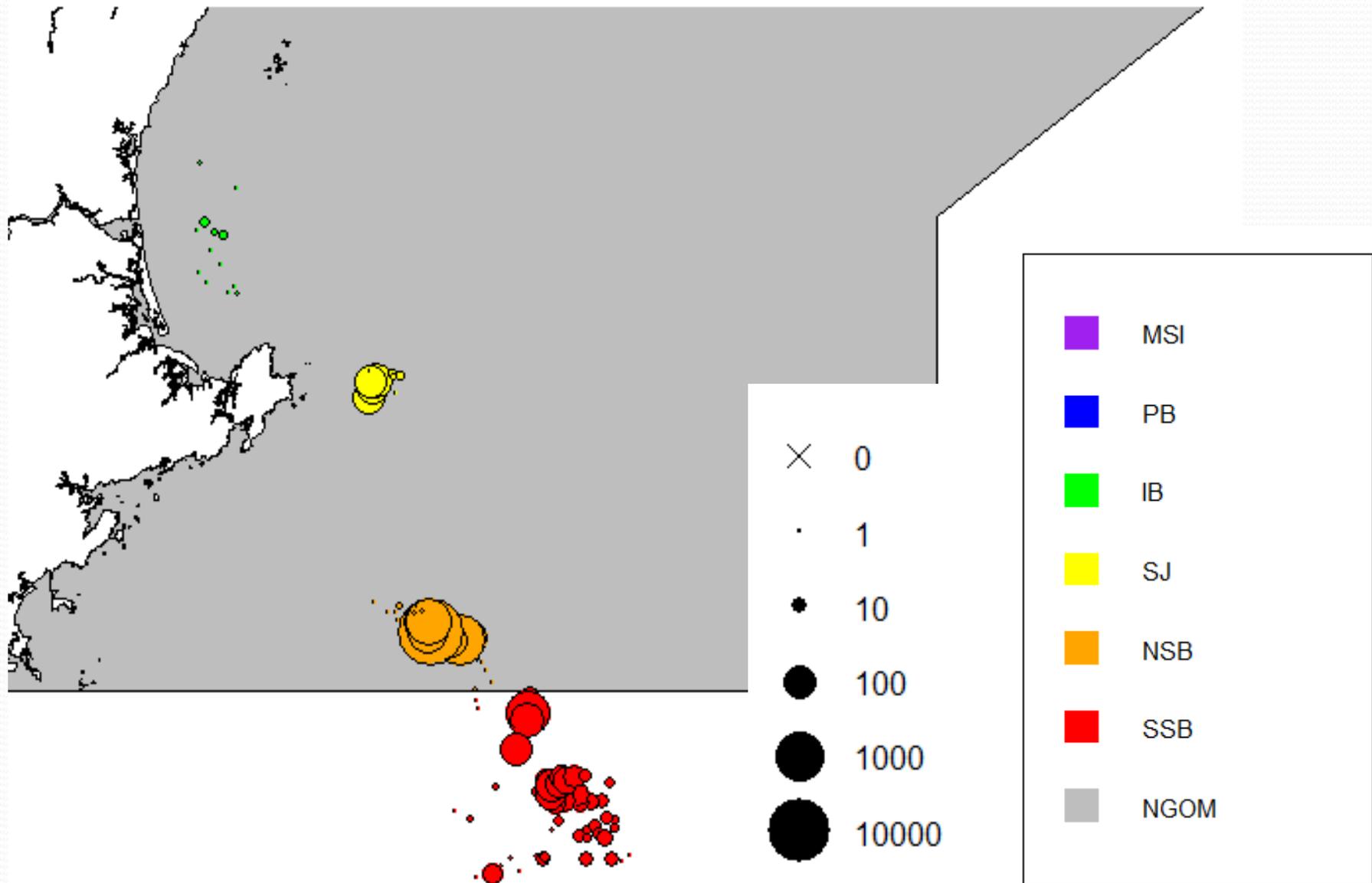


Abundance <35mm SH 2019 – Southern extent

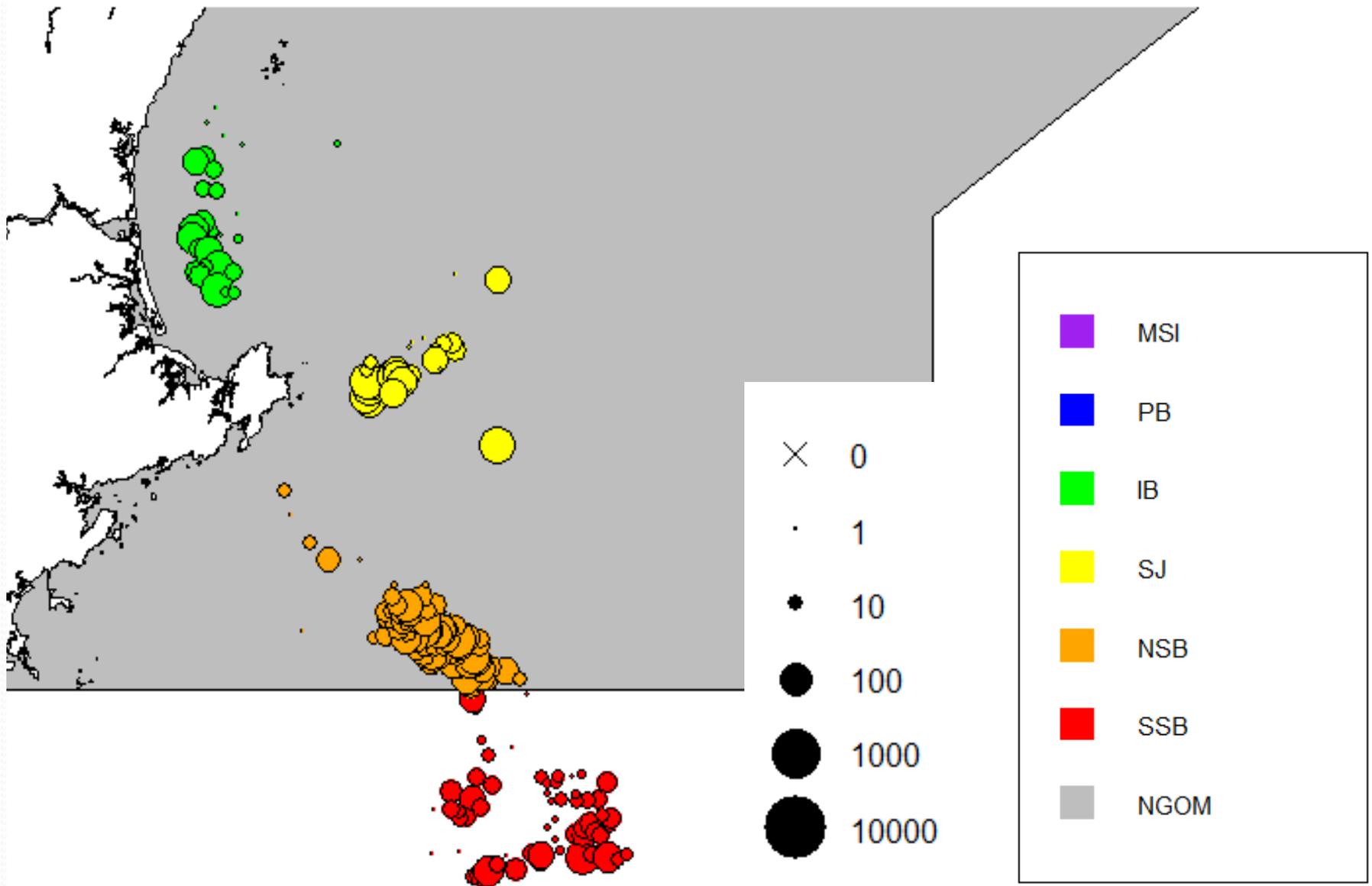




Abundance 35<75mm SH 2019 – Southern extent



Abundance >75mm SH 2019 – Southern extent



2019 NGOM Survey & Outlook

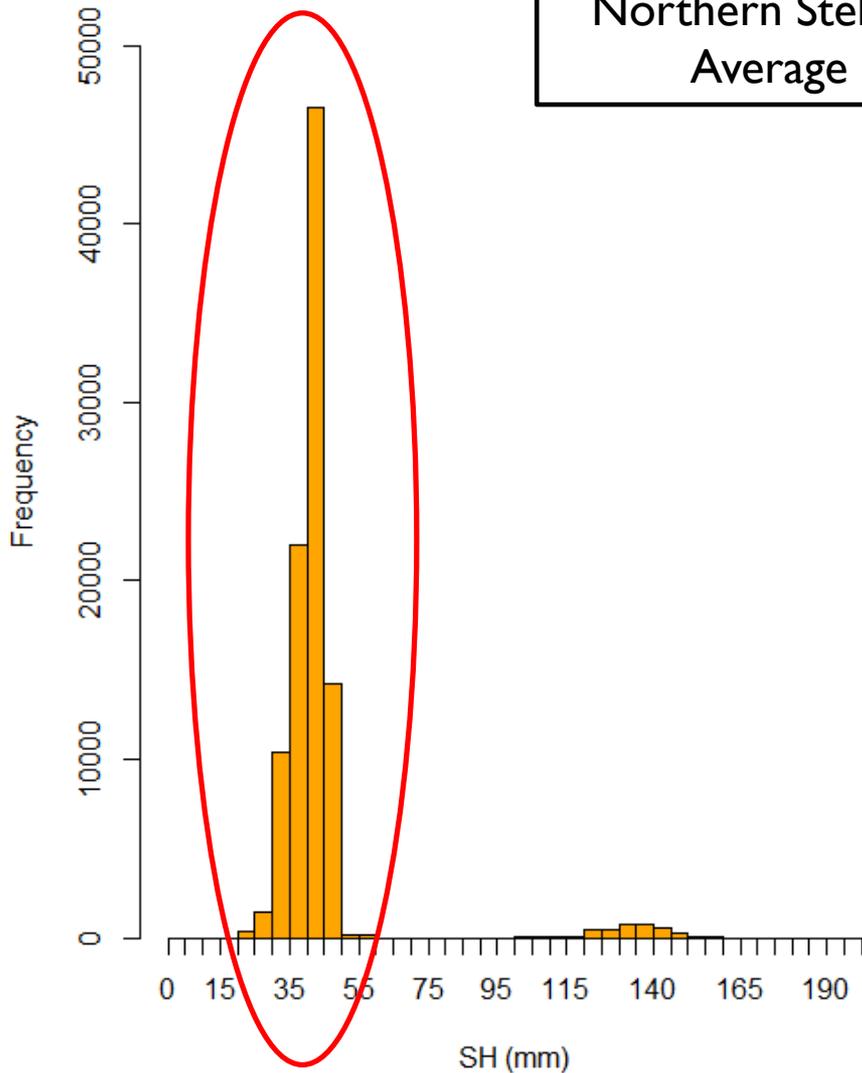
- Strong recruitment event on Stellwagen Bank (N & S).
- Jeffrey's Ledge: Highest density per meter squared (2.53).

Area	Number of Scallops (mil.)	Biomass (mt)	Mean meat weight (g)	Average Shell height (mm)
Machias Seal Isl.	24	288	11.9	113.5
Ipswich Bay (Fed Waters)	~7	135	18.0	107.1
Jeffrey's Ledge	~25	682	19.4	108.3
Northern Stellwagen Bank	~54	622	2.2	53.6

- 2020/2021 TAC: Projection method used in FW29 and FW30. (Reviewed in SAW/SARC 65)

2019 NGOM Survey & Outlook

- Strong recruitment detected on Stellwagen Bank





Management Considerations

- The Council is planning to consider a scallop fishery closure to protect this year class and improve yield-per-recruit.

ME DMR/UMaine
2019 dredge survey,
scallop density per
m² for SH 35-75 mm.

