

# LEASING IN THE LA SCALLOP FISHERY = LOWER COSTS + MORE SAFETY + HIGHER CREW PAY

The New England Fishery Management Council is taking a hard look at a leasing option in the limited access (LA) scallop fishery to provide industry with more flexibility. **It's a good idea – and it's the right time.**

## Q. What is “leasing”?

**A.** Voluntary permit leasing creates flexibility by providing the option to move scallop fishing from one vessel to another, without changing ownership and without making the change permanent.

## Q. When does leasing make sense?

**A.** Here are just a few, routine cases where it makes sense to move fishing from one vessel to another to avoid losing the trip and the income:

- 1) A vessel breaks down:** Right now, if a boat can't go (especially late in the season), the trip might be lost – and no one earns any money.
- 2) A captain can't make the trip:** Right now, if a captain gets sick or something else keeps them off the water, the trip can also be lost – and no one earns any money.
- 3) A small operator has two part-time permits:** Right now, small operators have to maintain two boats to fish two partial shares, even if they don't make up a full share.
- 4) An operation has too many older boats:** Right now, owners of multiple boats can't reduce the size of their fleet, no matter how old some of their boats are.

## Q. How would leasing help?

**A.** Flexibility! Leasing gives scallop operators an option to make sure that they can fish **all** their trips **every** season, regardless of any unexpected problems that pop up, something they lack under the one boat-one share system.

## Q. What are the big picture benefits of leasing?

**A.** Here are a few of the top payoffs if leasing is an option in the LA fishery:

- 1) Improves Safety:** Leasing allows for the possibility of newer and fewer boats for crew, making it a safer option for everybody.
- 2) Lowers Costs:** By using fewer and newer boats, the costs for fuel go down – making more money available for crew.
- 3) Guarantees Trips:** By having a back-up plan, there will be fewer times when trips are lost because the boat or captain are unavailable
- 4) Cuts Pollution:** Fewer boats on the dock will save millions of gallons of fuel and cut CO2 emissions for everyone

# WE CAN DO THIS!

Back in 2019, the Scallopers Campaign developed a set of principles that addresses most concerns regarding a leasing program, while still delivering great benefits. We offer these as a starting point to develop a program that works for all Atlantic fisheries.

## In our view, the leasing program should:

- Promote flexibility and fairness for the benefit of the sea scallop fleet;
- Improve the economic performance and resiliency of the fishery;
- Improve crew safety in the scallop fishery;
- Ensure conservation neutrality;
- Maintain the individual identity of each LA scallop permit;
- Include a commitment and measures to ensure “No Harm” to non-participating scallop vessels;
- Recognize and address the diversity and characteristics of the LA scallop fleet, including multi-fishery vessels;
- Include a commitment and measures (for example, sideboards) to protect other fisheries from negative impacts of any approved program;
- Reflect and include the existing caps on ownership and control; and
- Limit the amount of leasing to a maximum of one additional full allocation per vessel, so that no vessel may fish more than two allocations.

## It's a Proven Model:

Leasing already works in the GC scallop fishery and in dozens of fisheries across the USA. Crews in these fisheries know they make **more money** when there are **lower costs** and **more options** to fish **all authorized trips**.

## The Bottom Line:

The Council has a good approach: Let's do our due diligence and build a leasing program that delivers benefits to us all and protects other fisheries. Then let's try it out next year. **Speak up now to make sure a few loud voices don't muddy the waters.**

**The Scallopers Campaign... working to bring flexibility, safety, and fairness to the Atlantic sea scallop fishery.**

Learn more and sign up for updates at [www.scalloperscampaign.org](http://www.scalloperscampaign.org).

