

Surfclam and Ocean  
Quahog Advisors'  
perspectives and requests  
in their critical issues  
noted in the 2023 Fishery  
Performance Report

June 7, 2023

Presented by:

Samuel Martin  
Tom Dameron  
Joe Myers



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# 2019 NSSP Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish

Official FDA Version Posted  
October 29, 2020

# International Shellfish Sanitation Conference



- 2019 Conference ended Oct 10, 2019
- FDA accepted and posted the 2019 NSSP Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish on Oct 29, 2020
- It has been over 2 ½ years since the NSSP Guide revision to remove the closed status



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# 2019 Revisions

- FDA and NOAA will regulate growing area and harvest control in federal waters. (pg. 12)
- Controlled Access Status allows harvesting in biotoxin-concerned areas without routine monitoring. (pg. 49)
- Criteria for returning growing areas to open status should consider public health, conservation, and economics. (pg. 177)



# Economic Considerations

- Georges Bank Region represents 20% of the fishable area and 33% of biomass for ocean quahogs.
- Georges Bank is potentially twice as productive as other fishable areas.
- The closed area is preventing industry from utilizing more of the quota which is significantly underfished.

# Requests

- The MAFMC SC/OQ AP urges Council to request NOAA and FDA leadership to recognize the economic importance of Georges Bank
- Request prompt implementation of Controlled Access regulation for the area.



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# Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fishery Performance Report

Perspective on Research from the  
SCOQ Advisory Panel

Presented by Joseph J. Myers  
June 7, 2023

# Cumulative Geographic Harvest Restrictions

- Georges Bank PSP Controlled Access Status
- Great South Channel HMA
- SCOQ Co-Occurrence
- Wind Energy Areas



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# Characterization of the Resource in Need of an Update

- Growth Rates and Productivity
- Recruitment Events
- Vulnerability from Climate Change



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