

GREEN MARINAS ON NANTUCKET ISLAND: A RECIPE FOR A SUSTAINABLE WILD BAY SCALLOP FISHERY ON NANTUCKET ISLAND, MASSACHUSETTS, USA

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This project analyzed environmental, social and economic aspects of the bay scallop (*Argopecten irradians irradians*) fishery and provided recommendations for improvement of water quality and coastal habitats quality in order to increase the bay scallop abundance. Historically, Nantucket Island's unique character and culture as a small fishing community was centered on harvesting whales, cod and shellfish. Currently, the northern bay scallop fishery is the last commercial fishery remaining on Nantucket, as well as the last wild bay scallop fishery left in the United States (US). Northern bay scallop fisheries used to span along the US Eastern seaboard from New Jersey to Cape Cod, but have become depleted due to numerous environmental as well as human factors. The Nantucket bay scallop species and fishing are in danger of following the same footsteps. In the last 20 years, the number of scallops harvested has declined by approximately 85%, alarming the Nantucket community about the sustainability of this traditional fishery. In the last ten years, Nantucket coastal waters have experienced a decline in eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) and water quality, which are two key components for a healthy bay scallop habitat. Economically, other scallop species are sold on the market with the incorrect label of "Nantucket Bay Scallop," threatening the reputation of the quality of the autochthon bay scallop, as well as their economic value. Socially, Nantucket is struggling to balance between tourism and maintaining the character of a unique, small fishing community. Based on comprehensive environmental, social and economic assessments the project resulted in a set of the best management recommendations. This paper addresses in detail one of the key recommendations to apply the Massachusetts guidelines for the clean and green marinas on present marinas on Nantucket Island.

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