



FMP and Amendment Development Timeline

It generally takes a **minimum of 2.5 years** to complete a new fishery management plan (FMP) or major amendment, from the time the Council initiates action to implementation of new regulations. Below is a sample timeline and associated workflow for development of an FMP or amendment. This table reflects the minimum time required for each phase of action development. Timing will vary depending on Council priorities, staff workload, complexity of the action, availability of staff at the NMFS regional office and science center, and other factors. A more detailed description of this process can be found at <http://www.mafmc.org/s/FMP-Work.pdf>.

Months 0-4	<p>Initiation and Scoping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council initiates action • Fishery Management Action Team (FMAT) created • Scoping document drafted, reviewed, and finalized • Scoping hearings conducted and written comments collected • Scoping comments summarized • Council meeting to review scoping comments and establish scope of topics for action
Months 5-10	<p>Develop draft alternatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council/Committee/AP/FMAT/SSC meetings to develop and analyze alternatives • Refine alternatives and the analysis of impacts • NEFMC/ASMFC coordination if needed • Develop draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and submit to NMFS for review & preliminary approval
Months 11-15	<p>Review and revise DEIS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GARFO and NEFSC review DEIS • Public hearing document developed
Months 16-20	<p>Public comment on draft amendment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public hearings and 60 day public comment period • Public comments summarized
Months 21-23	<p>Review public comments and select preferred alternatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review public comments with advisory bodies (Committee/AP/FMAT/SSC) and Council • Modify alternatives if needed • Council meeting to take final action
Months 24-25	Complete final revisions to EIS and submit to NMFS
Months 26-29	<p>NMFS Rulemaking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed rule • Comment periods and response to comments • Final rule
Month 30+	Implementation – New regulations become effective