

New England Fishery Management Council Timelines

November 13, 2024

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Scallops

1. Framework 39 – Fishing Years 2025 specifications, 2026 default specifications

Scope: 2025 specifications, 2026 default specifications, measures to modify the Area II seasonal bycatch closure, measures to allow NGOM-permitted vessels to transit and possess scallops outside of the NGOM scallop management area.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Connor Buckley / Jonathon Peros

2024	
JUN	Council initiates action
SEP	Council receives update
OCT	SSC recommends ABC for FY2025-2026
OCT-NOV	Committee and PDT complete documents
DEC	Council takes final action
DEC	Council staff completes decision draft
2025	
JAN	Council staff completes preliminary submission
FEB	NMFS publishes proposed rule
MAR	NMFS completes review of preliminary submission
MAR	Council staff completes final submission for NMFS review and approval
APR 1	NMFS publishes final rule, Implementation

2. LAGC IFQ Fishery Program Review

Scope: Determine progress in meeting the goals of the Scallop LAGC IFQ Program as specified in Amendment 11 and the MSA.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Connor Buckley

2024	
MAY	Initial meeting of work group
JUN	Council receives update
JUL-DEC	Work group meetings, assembling data and beginning analysis
2025	
JAN	Council receives update
APR	Work group completes analyses and drafts report
JUN	Council reviews Draft Report
SEP	Council approves Final Report

3. Development of a Long-Term (3-5 year) Scallop Strategic Plan

Scope: Develop a strategic plan for management of Atlantic sea scallops including consideration of rotational management review, scallop enhancement, and overall fishery objectives.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Jonathon Peros

2024	
JUL	Initial meeting of PDT
SEP	Council receives update
DEC	Council receives update
2025	
JAN-MAR	Workshops and development of SWOT analysis
APR	Council reviews results of workshops, and approves outreach plan
MAY-AUG	Public outreach and develop of strategic plan
SEP	Council receives update
OCT-NOV	Finalize elements and focus areas of the Strategic Plan
DEC	Council approves Strategic Plan

Groundfish

1. Develop Atlantic Cod Management Transition Plan

Scope: Consider options for transitioning cod management based on four new stock units.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGERS:

Robin Frede / Angelia Miller

2023	
APR	Council provides feedback on work plan
APR-NOV	RAP, GAP, Committee discuss topics at each meeting
JUN/SEP/DEC	Council receives update
2024	
APR	Council decides initial transition plan
MAY	Focused public workshops
SEP	Council receives update
DEC	Council approves transition plan Phase 1
2025	
JAN-MAR	Council staff completes final submission for NMFS review and approval for Phase 1 actions
MAY 1	Target implementation for Phase 1 actions
JAN-DEC	Council work on Phase 2 actions/management measures

2. Amendment 25 – Incorporate Cod Stock Units into FMP

Scope: Identify four new stock units for Atlantic cod, consistent with the 2023 Atlantic Cod Research Track Assessment and incorporate the new stock units into the Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) Fishery Management Plan.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGERS:

Robin Frede

2024	
APR	Council defines action
JUN	Council receives update
JUN-SEP	Committee/PDT develop alternatives
SEP	Council takes final action
NOV	Council staff completes preliminary submission
DEC	Council staff completes final submission for NMFS review and approval
2025	
FEB	NMFS publishes proposed rule
MAY 1	Target implementation

3. Framework 69 – Fishing Years 2025-2027 Specifications/Measures

Scope: Update status determination criteria for cod stocks; set FY2025 total allowable catches (TACs) for Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod and haddock, and GB yellowtail; set FY2025 specifications for GB cod and GB haddock; set FY2025-26 specifications for GB yellowtail flounder; set FY2025-27 specifications for Eastern Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod, Western GOM cod, Southern New England (SNE) cod, GOM haddock, American plaice, witch flounder, pollock, and Atlantic halibut; revise accountability measures triggers for GB yellowtail and northern windowpane flounder in the scallop fishery; modify sector reporting requirements; and address measures for cod management transition for Phase 1.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGERS:

Robin Frede / Angelia Miller

2024	
MAR-MAY	Committee/PDT preliminary discussion
JUN	Peer review – Management Track Assessments for cod stocks
JUN	Council initiates action
JUL	SSC recommends OFLs/ABCs for cod stocks and GB yellowtail, review apportionment approach for EGB cod and haddock management units
JUL-SEP	Committee/PDT develop draft alternatives
SEP	Peer review – Management Track Assessments for other groundfish
SEP	Council receives update
OCT	TMGC/SC recommend TACs for EGB cod and haddock and GB yellowtail
OCT	SSC recommends OFLs/ABCs for GB haddock, GOM haddock, American plaice, pollock, witch flounder, and Atlantic halibut
OCT-NOV	Committee/PDT develop draft alternatives and complete impact analysis
DEC	Council takes final action
2025	
JAN	Council staff completes preliminary submission
FEB	Council staff completes final submission for NMFS review and approval
MAR	NMFS publishes proposed rule
MAY 1	Target implementation

4. Framework 68 – Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rules

Scope: Modify/revise groundfish Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) control rules

STAFF PROJECT MANAGERS:

Robin Frede / Angelia Miller

2023	
JUN	Council initiates action
AUG	Facilitated Session and Groundfish Committee meets to discuss goals/objectives
SEP	Council discusses goals and objectives, timeline and overlap with Risk Policy
DEC	Council receives update
2024	
JAN-DEC	PDT, Committee tracking Risk Policy development
SEP	Council action on Risk Policy
2025	
JAN-DEC	Develop plan for integration of Risk Policy and implementation

5. Develop Amendment 23 Review Metrics and Indicators

Scope: Develop metrics and indicators to be used in the review of A23 monitoring measures

STAFF PROJECT MANAGERS:

Robin Frede

2022	
MAY-OCT	Initial list of potential review metrics and indicators
JUN	Council receives update
2023	
JAN	Council receives update
MAR	SSC input on list of potential metrics and indicators
APR	Council receives update
MAY-DEC	Continue developing metrics and indicators, preliminary analyses
2024	
JAN	Council receives update
JAN-DEC	Continue developing metrics and indicators
2025	
JAN-DEC	Complete development of metrics and conduct review

Herring

1. Herring Specifications for 2025-2027

Scope: Set specifications for 2025 through 2027 based on the 2024 management track stock assessment for Atlantic herring, including the overfishing limit (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) using the ABC control rule and rebuilding plan, management uncertainty, annual catch limit (ACL), management area sub-ACLs, river herring and shad catch caps (status quo values), and other components

STAFF PROJECT MANAGERS:

Jamie Cournane / Emily Bodell

2024	
JUN	Council initiates action
JUL	SSC recommends OFLs and ABCs
JUL-SEP	PDT/ASMFC's Technical Committee prepare draft action
AUG-SEP	Advisory Panel and Committee meet
SEP	Council takes final action
OCT	Council staff sends preliminary submission to NMFS for review
NOV	Council staff completes final submission for NMFS review and approval
2025	
TBD	NMFS publishes final rule
JAN 1	Target implementation date

2. Amendment 10

Scope: To address spatial and temporal allocation and management of Atlantic herring at the management unit level to minimize user conflicts, contribute to optimum yield, and support rebuilding of the resource; and to enhance river herring and shad avoidance and other catch reduction measures to better support ongoing coastwide restoration efforts for those species.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGERS:

Jamie Cournane / Emily Bodell

2023	
APR	Council receives update
JUN	Council develops problem statement
SEP	Council initiates action
2024	
JAN	Advisory Panel and Committee meet
JAN	Council reviews draft scoping document and meeting schedule
MAR-APR	Public scoping comment period including six public scoping meetings
APR	Council receives update
JUN	Advisory Panel and Committee meet
JUN	Council receives summary of public scoping and provides direction for the development of draft alternatives
JUL-DEC	Plan Development Team, Advisory Panel, and Committee develop alternatives
2025	
JAN	Council receives update

Monkfish

1. Framework 15 – Joint NEFMC/MAFMC to Reduce Sturgeon Bycatch in Monkfish and Spiny Dogfish Gillnet Fisheries

Scope: Measures to reduce bycatch of Atlantic sturgeon in the monkfish and spiny dogfish gillnet fisheries and to address recommendations of NOAA’s Action Plan to Reduce Atlantic Sturgeon Bycatch in Federal Large-Mesh Gillnet Fisheries by 2024.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGERS: Jenny Couture / Robin Frede – NEFMC
Jason Didden – MAFMC

2023	
MAR	Formation of FMAT/PDT
APR	Council initiates action
APR-JUN	FMAT/PDT and Joint Dogfish and Monkfish Committee develop range of alternatives; Joint Dogfish and Monkfish AP input
JUN	Council approves range of alternatives for monkfish only
SEP	Joint Monkfish/Dogfish Committee with OLE/USCG to refine alternatives
SEP	Council receives update
OCT	MAFMC – approve range of alternatives for dogfish & monkfish
AUG-NOV	FMAT/PDT continue to refine alternatives and begin analyzing alternatives
FALL	ASMFC meeting on alternatives
2024	
JAN	Council receives update
FEB	MAFMC – progress report
MAR	Joint AP meeting and Committee meeting to select preferred alternatives
APR	MAFMC – final action
APR	Council takes final action
May	Council staff completes preliminary submission
AUG	NMFS publishes proposed rule
OCT	Council staff completes final submission for NMFS review and approval
TBD	NMFS publishes final rule, Implementation

2. Monkfish RSA Program Update

Scope: Measures to improve the Monkfish RSA program’s effectiveness based on recommendations from the Monkfish RSA Working Group

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Jenny Couture

2023	
MAR-APR	Staff draft work plan
APR	MAFMC receives update
APR	Council receives update
APR-MAY	Establish work group
JUN-AUG	Work group meetings to discuss priority, potential improvements
SEP	Council receives presentation of recommendations
OCT	MAFMC receives presentation of recommendations
OCT-NOV	Determine if any findings are appropriate for a 2024 priority
DEC	Council prioritizes action for 2024
2024	
MAR-JUN	Staff draft work plan for priority
JUN-AUG	Council and NMFS staff work on non-regulatory changes and improvements to the Monkfish RSA program
AUG-SEP	Committee meeting to discuss changes to the Monkfish RSA program
SEP	Council receives update on non-regulatory changes to the Monkfish RSA program
OCT	MAFMC receives update on non-regulatory changes to the Monkfish RSA program
OCT	Council submits joint letter with MAFMC requesting suspension of Monkfish RSA Request for Proposals pending program improvements

Habitat

1. Atlantic Salmon Aquaculture Framework

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Michelle Bachman / Jenny Couture

2022	
SEP	Council initiates Atlantic salmon framework action
2023	
APR	Council final action
MAY	Council staff completes preliminary submission
2024	
JAN	NMFS completes review of preliminary submission
JAN	Council staff completes final submission for review and approval
TBD	NMFS publishes proposed rule, final rule expected by early 2025

2. Essential Fish Habitat Review

Scope: Review description and identification of EFH and other habitat components of FMPs. Evaluate scientific information including from the Northeast Regional Habitat Assessment to support updates to species-specific EFH text and map designations. Specific EFH designation changes will be implemented via a series of trailing actions, with work beginning in 2025.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Michelle Bachman / Jenny Couture

2022	
DEC	Council prioritizes action
2023	
MAY	MAFMC EFH FMAT methods meeting, participation by Habitat PDT
JUN-AUG	Staff/PDT/FMAT designation methods; AP and Committee meetings
SEP	Council receives update
SEP	Joint NEFMC-MAFMC SSC sub-panel on EFH designation methods
OCT-NOV	Committee reviews sub-panel findings; discusses format/phasing
2024	
JAN-OCT	PDT and FMAT technical reports on EFH review components 1-4, 7, 8
APR	Council receives update
SEP-DEC	PDT and FMAT technical reports on EFH review components 5, 6, 9, 10; PDT compiles NEFMC EFH Review Report
DEC-JAN	CTE/AP discuss EFH Review Report
2025	
JAN	Council reviews EFH Review Report, provides direction on EFH designation frameworks and other future actions

Risk Policy

1. Revisions to Council's Risk Policy

Scope: Risk Policy Working Group formed to address Terms of Reference (TORs) to guide the review, and potential revisions to the current Risk Policy.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Jonathon Peros

2022	
DEC	Council prioritizes action
2023	
JAN	Council receives overview of current Risk Policy
MAR-APR	Draft TORs, SOPPs, solicit for the Risk Policy Working Group
APR	Council approves work group Terms of Reference (TORs)
APR-MAY	Establish work group
JUN-AUG	Work group meetings to discuss priority, potential improvements
SEP	Council receives update
NOV	RPWG Meeting
DEC	Council receives update
2024	
JAN	RPWG Meeting, presentations on proposed approaches
JAN	Council receives update on progress and revised concept
FEB-APR	RPWG develops revised risk policy concept
APR	Council receives update
MAY-JUN	RPWG Meetings and presentation of risk policy to SSC
JUN	Council receives update
JUL-SEP	RPWG Meeting(s)
SEP	Informational Session for NEFMC AP members
SEP	Council Approves Revised Risk Policy Statement and Concept
2025	
JAN	Transition to new Risk Policy, RPWG meeting
JAN	Council receives update
FEB-APR	Simulation testing of Risk Policy with Groundfish Stocks, RPWG meeting
APR	Dedicated session for Council factor weighting
MAY	RPWG and SSC review results of simulation testing

On-Demand Fishing Gear Conflict Working Group

1. Addressing on-demand gear conflict with Council-managed fisheries.

Scope: On-Demand Fishing Gear Conflict Working Group formed to address Terms of Reference (TORs) to identify strategies for reducing gear interactions between on-demand gear and other fisheries and consider interactions resulting from measures adopted for sink gillnet and other trap/pot fisheries.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Emily Bodell/ David McCarron/ Robin Frede

2023	
JAN	Initial Council discussion of working group
APR	Council approves work plan
JUL	ODWG meets, refines objectives/terms of reference
SEPT	Council approves terms of reference
DEC	ODWG meets, continues working to address TORs
2024	
JAN	Council receives update
JUN	Council receives update
JUL	ODWG meets, continues working to address TORs (3a & 6)
SEPT	ODWG meets to discuss draft gear marking strawman and TOR 3a report on reducing gear conflict with gillnet/OTP fisheries
SEPT	Council receives TOR 3a report, discusses actions/management measures
DEC	Council prioritizes development of joint action with MAFMC and GARFO in 2025
2025	
JAN – APR	ODWG meets and continues working to address TORs
APR	Council receives update
MAY-DEC	Development of joint action on gear marking regulations with MAFMC and GARFO

Whiting (Small-mesh Multispecies)

1. No ongoing Actions.

Skates

1. No ongoing actions.