

Council Planning Update

December 2025

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New England Fishery Management Council
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Newport, RI



Priority and Task Updates

- 2025 has been a challenging year!
 - Shifting timelines, reduced support, changes in methods
 - Budget uncertainty, staff transitions, lack of information
 - Disapproved and delayed actions
 - 43-day Federal shutdown
- HOWEVER,
 - Council developed and approved 8 actions – much more than “normal”
 - Plus: IRA initiatives, Executive Order response, CCC host
 - Staff: new Administrative Officer, new Public Affairs Officer, new Coordinator roles
- Majority of 2025 work priorities completed!
 - Thank you to Council members and HUGE KUDOS to Council staff

Council Action Updates

- Complete and Submit Council Actions
 - Management Flexibility Omnibus
 - Preliminary submission Nov. 6th – next step regulation deeming
 - Groundfish A25
 - Preliminary submission Nov. 14th – regulation deeming to be completed by Friday
 - Skate 2026-2028 Specifications
 - Preliminary submission Nov. 17th – next step regulation deeming
 - Monkfish Framework 17
 - Preliminary submission Nov. 24th – next step regulation deeming
 - EFH Designation
 - To be submitted in December
 - Scallop Framework 40
 - Target submission late January
 - Groundfish Framework 72
 - Target submission mid-February

Planned Activities/Meetings

- IRA Initiatives

- Workshop planning
 - Holistic Strategic Plan – Jan 6-7
 - Governance Staff-to-Staff – Feb 24-26
 - Dynamic Reference points – May
 - Governance Regional – June
- Contractor deliverables
 - Strategic Plan updates
 - Risk Policy Simulation updates
 - Portfolio Project updates
 - Ecosystem Components updates

- Meeting Planning

- SSC, NRCC, CCC
- January Council meeting - virtual

- Staff Activities

- NEPA training – Dec. 8th
- Grant management training – Dec. 4th
- Process mapping – Dec. 10th
 - Synthesis of new reporting elements
- Staff offsite – mid-Feb.
 - 2026 work plan and coordination
- ME Fishermen's Forum – Mar. 5-7

- Grant Activities

- Final report 2020-2025 award
 - January 30th
- NCE request for IRA award
- Budget planning for 2025-2029

Happy Holidays!

