

Executive Director's Report

June 2026



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New England Fishery Management Council

June 23, 2026

Mystic, CT



**New England Fishery
Management Council**

Staff Update

Farewell to Ms. Chandler Nelson!

- Fishery Specialist: Scallops
- Departed staff on June 18th

Thanks for all the work, positive attitude,
and friendship!



Financial Update

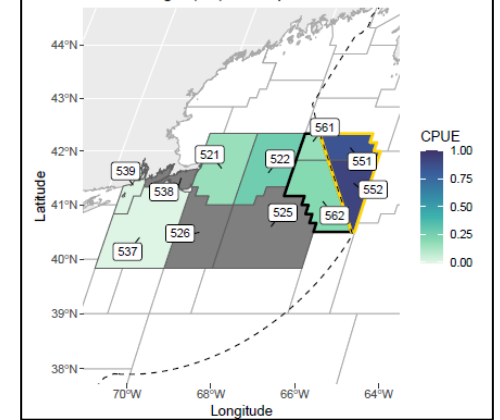
- 2025 – 2028 Award
 - Thanks to NOAA Fisheries leadership for supporting the Council!
 - Received full remaining CY2026 funds on May 20
 - Initiated IT projects that were paused in 2025
 - Processing state contracts
 - Shifting staff effort off completed IRA initiatives
- Inflation Reduction Act
 - Spending and project work on track

Grants (as of May 31, 2026)	Proposed Budget	Received Funds	Available Balance
NA25 – Cooperative Award	\$21,690,804	\$10,128,530	\$5,242,415
• Operating budget			
• Salary/benefits			
• Stipends			
• Travel			
• Contracts			
NA24 - IRA	\$2,494,982	\$2,494,982	\$923,028
• Initiatives - contracts			
• % Salary - select staff			
• Hardware/Software			



Interagency Updates/Meetings

- US/Canada – [TMGC](#) / [Steering Committee](#) / US Team
 - Council is now the US organizational lead for US/Canada process
 - Key outcomes from recent meetings
 - Revised US/Canada science coordination to allow TMGC members to listen to Technical Science Coordination meeting – July 13th
 - Approval for a TMGC process review in 2027, planning initiated this summer/fall
 - US Team consensus on scientific methods, results, and uncertainty for:
 - Resource sharing allocation
 - Survey-based biomass distribution for Georges Bank cod and haddock
 - Industry-based CPUE distribution for Georges Bank cod and haddock
 - Established the US Industry Advisory Group
 - Goal: provide a structured format for gathering informed industry perspectives to support US TMGC in transboundary stock negotiations
 - Process: invited industry members (minimum of 6), in-person meeting in August



Interagency Updates/Meetings

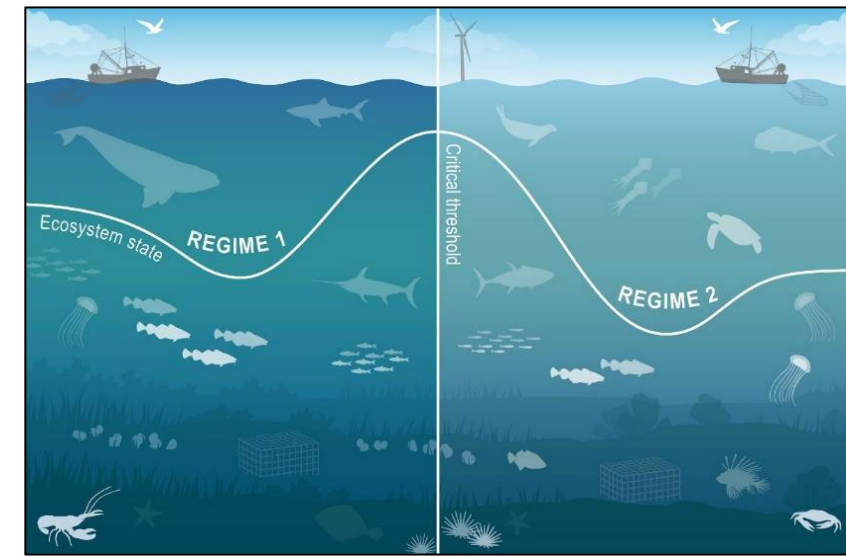


- [CCC Meeting](#) – May 19-21, Homer, AK
 - Round Robin updates from all Councils – EO14276; regional priorities
 - NOAA Fisheries updates on budgets, science, priorities
 - Key outcomes
 - Suspended national Risk/Value Matrix – ongoing regional prioritization
 - Improved understanding of regulatory review – “clean specifications” for timely implementation
 - Evolving NEPA processes and procedures – regional development of guidance
- [NRCC Meeting](#) – May 27-28, Providence, RI
 - Key outcomes
 - Regional Prioritization (formerly Risk/Value) initiative continuing – summer NRCC intersessional
 - Draft 5-year stock assessment schedule – review at fall 2026 NRCC meeting
 - Consider process changes for timing, Data Update utility, and application of Risk Policy



Interagency Updates/Meetings

- [SSC Dynamic Reference Points](#) – June 1-2, Boston, MA
 - Establish understanding of current approaches
 - Identify methods for NE Council-managed stocks
 - Report due July 31st, SSC discussion in August
- Council/GARFO Staff-to-Staff Meeting – June 4, Gloucester, MA
 - Ongoing management topics – NEPA, Risk Policy, Management Flexibility Omnibus implementation
 - Thanks to GARFO for hosting! Thanks to all staff participants – recommend continuing in future
- [East Coast Coordination Group Meeting](#) – June 5, virtual
 - Updates on IRA initiatives and Climate Change Scenario Planning Action Item Menu
 - Planning for East Coast Governance Workshop – February 2027, Boston, MA



Status of Recent Council Actions

FMP	Action Name / Focus	Final Action	NEPA	Preliminary Submission	Final Submission	Proposed Rule	Final Rule	Effective	
Omnibus	Management Flexibility Action	23-Sep-25	CE	6-Nov-25	4-Feb-26	Notice of Availability Published May 14, 2026 Comment deadline closes July 13, 2026			
Groundfish	Framework 69	4-Dec-25	EA	7-Jan-25	11-Mar-25	7-Jan-26	8-Mar-26	9-Mar-26	
Groundfish	Amendment 25 Revised	24-Sep-25	EA	12-Dec-25	5-Mar-26	18-Mar-26	Comment deadline closed April 17, 2026		
Groundfish	Framework 72	3-Dec-25	SIR	3-Mar-26	23-Apr-26	Default Measures in Place until Replaced by Framework			
Scallops	Framework 40	3-Dec-25	SIR	5-Jan-26	4-Feb-26	N/A	27-Mar-26	1-Apr-26	
Skate	Specifications	23-Sep-25	SIR	17-Nov-26	11-Feb-26	26-Mar-26	15-Jun-26	15-Jun-26	
Monkfish	Framework 17	23-Sep-25	SIR	24-Nov-25	20-Jan-26	23-Apr-26	Rollover Provisions in Place until Replaced by Framework		
Habitat	EFH Designation Framework	24-Sep-25	CE	10-Apr-26	30-Jun-26				
Dogfish	Specifications and AM Framework	2-Dec-26	EA	30-Apr-26				Rollover Provisions In Place until Replaced by Framework	
Herring	2025-2027 Specifications	26-Sep-24	SIR	8-Oct-24	6-May-25	25-Jun-25	11-Dec-25	11-Dec-25	

2026 Priorities and Outlook – Management Topics

Topic	April	June	September	December	January	NEPA
Risk Policy						
Revised Concept & Weightings						FMP Specific
Holistic Strategic Plan						
Draft Plan and Report – Parnin Group	 					N/A
Final Plan, Implementation Plan, Outreach						N/A
Other Updates						
Risk Value Matrix						N/A
EO 14276						FMP Specific
Vessel Baseline Evaluation						TBD
Inflation Reduction Act Initiatives						TBD

UPDATES



DECISION / REVIEW



REPORT



INITIATE ACTION



FINAL ACTION



2026 Priorities and Outlook – Fishery Management Plans

FMP / Priority	April	June	September	December	January	NEPA
Groundfish 						
Redfish Sector Exemption Review						N/A
Amendment 23 Review						N/A
FW68 - ABC Control Rule						CE
FW74 – FY27-31 Specs and other measures						EA
Recreational Measures						NMFS
Scallops 						
FW 42 – FY27-28 Specs and other measures						EA
Develop new projection methods						N/A

UPDATES



DECISION / REVIEW



REPORT



INITIATE ACTION



FINAL ACTION



2026 Priorities and Outlook – Fishery Management Plans

FMP / Priority	April	June	September	December	January	NEPA
Monkfish & Skates 						
Monkfish CPUE Review	REPORT 					
Monkfish/Skate Listening Sessions						
White Paper on 2025 Joint Management	REPORT 					
Herring 						
FY27-31 Specs and river herring/shad measures			 			EA
Small-Mesh 						
FY27-31 Specs and other measures						EA or SIR
Habitat 						
EFH Framework 2						CE

UPDATES 	DECISION / REVIEW 	REPORT 	INITIATE ACTION 	FINAL ACTION 
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Outlook – June Meeting Overview

UPDATES 	DECISION / REVIEW 	REPORTS 	INITIATE ACTION 	FINAL ACTION 
EO14276: Vessel Baseline Evaluation / Herring IFM			Herring Action: Specifications and Other Measures	Risk Policy – Revisions & Council Weightings
Monkfish / Skate Listening Sessions			Small Mesh Action: Specifications and Other Measures	
Scallop Projection Methods			Scallop Action: Specifications and Other Measures (FW42)	
EFH Framework 2	Designated Habitat Research Area Recommendations			
Holistic Strategic Plan Implementation				
Groundfish FW68 ABC Control Rules		Groundfish Amendment 23 Review	Groundfish Action: Specifications and Other Measures (FW74)	
Ecosystem Component Process (IRA)				

Correspondence

- EFP Comments
 - 4/21/26 – No objection to MADMF fishery-dependent lobster and crab data collection
 - 4/21/26 – No objection to GMRI pollock cooperative research study
 - 5/11/26 – No objection to MADMF genomic evaluation of Atlantic herring population structure
 - 5/21/26 – [Comment letter on CFRF bait skate landings in LAGC scallop fishery](#)
 - 6/01/26 – [Comment letter on CFF extension of compensation fishing in clam exemption areas](#)
- Executive Order 14276
 - [4/23/26 – Council response to additional public comment and update on work plan](#)
- Action submissions and reviews



Questions



New England Fishery
Management Council