

Executive Director's Report September 2026

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New England Fishery Management Council

September 15, 2026

Plymouth, MA



**New England Fishery
Management Council**

Financial Update

- 2025 – 2028 Award
 - State contracts completed
 - IT projects underway
 - Fully funded for CY2026
 - Congress CR through 12/11/26
- Inflation Reduction Act
 - Spending and project work on track for completion by Dec 2027
 - Several ongoing contracts with deliverables in mid-2027
 - Near completion of
 - Holistic Strategic Plan
 - Website revisions

Grants (as of August 31, 2026)	Proposed Budget	Received Funds	Available Balance
NA25 – Cooperative Award	\$21,690,804	\$10,128,534	\$4,124,622
• Operating budget			
• Salary/benefits			
• Stipends			
• Travel			
• Contracts			
NA24 - IRA	\$2,494,982	\$2,494,982	\$482,810
• Initiatives - contracts			
• % Salary - select staff			
• Hardware/Software			



Interagency Updates/Meetings

- US/Canada – Technical Science Coordination / Industry Advisory Group
 - Technical Science Coordination meeting – July 13th, virtual
 - US/Canada TMGC members allowed to listen and follow-up with questions
 - Integrated Science Advice for Transboundary Stocks (ISATS) Report delivered August 5th
 - US Industry Advisory Group/Pre-TMGC meeting – August 28th, New Bedford
 - Industry input to develop US negotiating positions
- NRCC Intersessional – August 27th, virtual
 - Approved methods and results from the 2026 Regional Stock Prioritization Working Group
 - Recommendations for possible Council, regional, national applications
- Executive Director's meeting – September 1st, virtual
 - Planning for the October 2026 CCC meeting; solicitation for new Legislative Liaison



Correspondence

- EFP Comments
 - 7/28/26 – Comment letter on Scallop Shack Farms retention of tilefish on LAGC scallop trips
 - 8/12/26 – Comment letter w/MAFMC on MADMF exceedance of spiny dogfish trip limits
 - 5/11/26 – No objection to Atlantic Capes Fisheries allowance of mixed clam/quahog trips
 - 5/21/26 – No objection to MEDMR testing of dynamic management for lobster fishery
- Agency Comments
 - 7/10/26 – Request w/MAFMC to GARFO for additional information on Harbor Porpoise TRP
 - 7/21/26 – Comment letter w/MAFMC to BOEM on RFI for OCS commercial leasing for minerals
 - 8/3/26 – Comment letter w/MAFMC to BOEM on RFI for OCS space launch-related activities



STATUS OF RECENT COUNCIL ACTIONS – September 2026

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	Resubmission 6-Apr-26	<i>NOAA approval letter on August 4 Proposed rule comment ended August 7</i>		
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	30-June-26	30-Jun-26
Groundfish	Framework 72	3-Dec-25	SIR	3-Mar-26	23-Apr-26	<i>Interim Final Rule Effective August 4 Public comment ended September 3</i>		
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	27-Aug-26	28-Sep-26
Habitat	EFH Designation Framework	24-Sep-25	CE	10-Apr-26	7-Jul-26			
Dogfish	Specifications and AM Framework	2-Dec-26	EA	30-Apr-26		<i>Rollover Provisions In Place until Replaced by Framework</i>		

**Status of recent Council Actions as of September 9, 2026*

Outlook of Management Timelines by Council Meeting

	2026			2027		
FMP / Priority	June	September	December	February	April	June
Groundfish 						
Redfish Sector Exemption Review			 2027+ Priorities			
Amendment 23 Review			 2027+ Priorities			
FW68 - ABC Control Rule						
FW74 – FY27-31 Specifications, other measures						
Recreational Measures						
Scallops 						
FY27-28 Specifications						
FW 42 – NGOM and DAS area management						
Develop new projection methods						

Outlook of Management Timelines by Council Meeting

	2026			2027		
Topic	June	September	December	February	April	June
Small Mesh 						
FY27-31 Specifications				SUBMISSION TO  NOAA FISHERIES 		
Habitat 						
EFH Framework 2			SUBMISSION TO  NOAA FISHERIES 			
GSC Clam Exemption Area Review		REPORT 	 2027+ Priorities			
Other Updates						
Holistic Strategic Plan & Implementation						
Regional Stock Prioritization		REPORT 				
Ecosystem Component Species			 2027+ Priorities			
Vessel Baseline Evaluation		REPORT 	 2027+ Priorities			
Inflation Reduction Act Initiatives						

Outlook of Management Timelines by Council Meeting

	2026			2027		
FMP / Priority	June	September	December	February	April	June
Monkfish & Skates 						
Monkfish/Skate Listening Sessions						
Herring 						
FY27-31 Specifications			SUBMISSION TO  NOAA FISHERIES 			
River Herring and Shad, other measures						SUBMISSION TO  NOAA FISHERIES 
Risk Policy						
Revised Concept & Weightings						

Management Timelines will be updated after the 2027 Priorities Discussion in December.
There are several cross-FMP priorities that may be taken up, including:
Revisions to Exemption Areas (EO11), Revisions to Accountability Measures (EO9)

Outlook – September Meeting Overview

UPDATES 	DECISION / REVIEW 	REPORTS 	INITIATE ACTION 	FINAL ACTION 
Scallop FY27-28 Specifications		GSC Clam Exemption Area Review		Herring – FY27-31 Specifications
Scallop FW42 DAS Measures and NGOM		Regional Stock Prioritization		EFH Framework 2
		Vessel Baseline Evaluation		Holistic Strategic Plan & Implementation

Council will discuss Executive Order 14276 and 2027 Work Priorities on Wednesday, September 16, 2026