

Executive Director's Report September 2025

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New England Fishery Management Council
September 23, 2025
Gloucester, MA



Advisory Panel Solicitation

- Advisory Panel Term January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2028
- Application deadline is October 3rd
 - <https://d23h0vhsm26o6d.cloudfront.net/Press-Release-Seeking-Advisors-2026-2028-Vacancies-FINAL.pdf>
- Seeking a range of expertise:
 - Commercial and recreational
 - Variety of gear types
 - Broad geographic range

Staff Updates

- Welcome aboard Mark Grant!
 - Senior Fishery Analyst: Groundfish, Climate-Ready Fisheries Planning
 - Starting on staff on October 14th
 - Thanks for all his work at GARFO over 20 years!

Financial Update

- **2025-2028 Cooperative Agreement**

- January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2028
- Funding contingent upon availability from Congress, discretion of Dept. of Commerce
- FY2025 Fund availability
 - 1st funds received – 12/30/24: \$857,145
 - 2nd funds received – 01/31/25: \$1,400,434
 - 3rd funds received – 06/02/25: \$998, 978
 - 4th funds received – 08/20/25: \$1,592,204
- FY2026 Fund uncertainty
 - Fiscal year starts Oct. 1, 2025
 - Budget proposals under review
 - Potential Continuing Resolution
 - Preparations for Federal shutdown

Grant	Proposed Budget	2025 Proposed Budget	Received Funds	Available Balance	Funds Owed
NA25 – Cooperative Award	\$21,690,804	\$4,874,672	\$4,848,761	\$2,687,530	\$25,911 (<1%)
• Operating budget					
• Salary/benefits					
• Stipends					
• Travel					
• Contracts					
NA20 - No Cost Extension	\$26,131,427	\$0	\$23,857,888	\$221,491	\$0
• Initiatives - contracts					
• % Salary - select staff					
NA24 - IRA	\$2,494,982	N/A	\$2,494,982	\$1,735,224	\$0
• Initiatives - contracts					
• % Salary - select staff					
• Hardware/Software					

- **2020-2024 No-Cost Extension**

- Completion by December 31, 2025

- **Inflation Reduction Act**

- Completion by March 31, 2027

Travel/Stipend Policy Updates

- **Reminders:**

- Travel is limited to the least expensive means of transportation appropriate
- If travel arrangements are not made by the requested deadline, travelers need to make their own arrangements and may be responsible for any additional late costs incurred
- Overnight lodging requests will be reviewed based on mileage (50-mile radius) as well as timing of availability (not before 6am or after 8pm)
- Meals are reimbursed for actual expenses; alcoholic beverages are not reimbursable

- **Stipends:**

- Council members may only claim a single daily stipend within a 24-hour period
- Half-day stipends will be provided for travel days
- Half-day stipends are being introduced for meetings when business/travel is completed in less than 5 hours (e.g., webinars, public hearings, etc.)

Past - Interagency Updates/Meetings

- US/Canada Steering Committee Intersessional – July 21
- Transboundary Management Guidance Committee Informational Session – July 23
- Council Coordination Committee Executive Director's Meeting – August 6
- Council Staff Stock Assessment Training Course – August 11-15
- Northeast Region Coordinating Council Intersessional Meeting – August 20
- Fall Management Track Assessment Peer Review – September 15-19

NRCC Interseasonal Meeting

- [Northeast Region Coordinating Council](#)
- August 20, 2025 - webinar
- 2026 Stock Assessment Schedule
- Initial discussion of plans for 2027 and beyond
 - Assessment processes
 - Assessment schedules
 - Regional capacity

	Stock	Management Organization
March Research Track	Longfin inshore squid	MAFMC
June Management Track	Atlantic herring	NEFMC
	Haddock (Georges Bank)	NEFMC
	Longfin inshore squid	MAFMC
September Management Track	American plaice	NEFMC
	Haddock (Gulf of Maine)	NEFMC

Additional 2026 Assessment Related Work

NEFSC will provide **data updates** for:

- Atlantic halibut
- Red hake (northern, southern)
- Silver hake (northern, southern/offshore)
- Witch flounder

NEFSC will provide **data updates** and **projections updates** for:

- Butterfish
- Ocean quahog
- Pollock

ASMFC will continue the research track assessment work for:

- Striped bass (peer review in spring 2027)

Upcoming - Interagency Updates/Meetings

- US Pre-Transboundary Management Listening Session – September 26
- Transboundary Management Guidance Committee – October 1-2
- US/Canada Steering Committee – October 14
- Council Coordination Committee Meeting – October 15-16
- Northeast Region Coordinating Council Intersessional Meeting – November 5-6
- East Coast Coordination Group - November

Council Actions/Correspondence

- Council Actions
 - Groundfish Framework 69 – submitted March 11th
 - Herring 2025-2027 Specifications – submitted May 6th
- Comments
 - EFP Sentinel Jig Survey in Eastern Gulf of Maine – submitted 7/1
 - EFP Great South Channel Habitat Management Area for Clam – submitted 7/1

Questions