

Council Planning Update

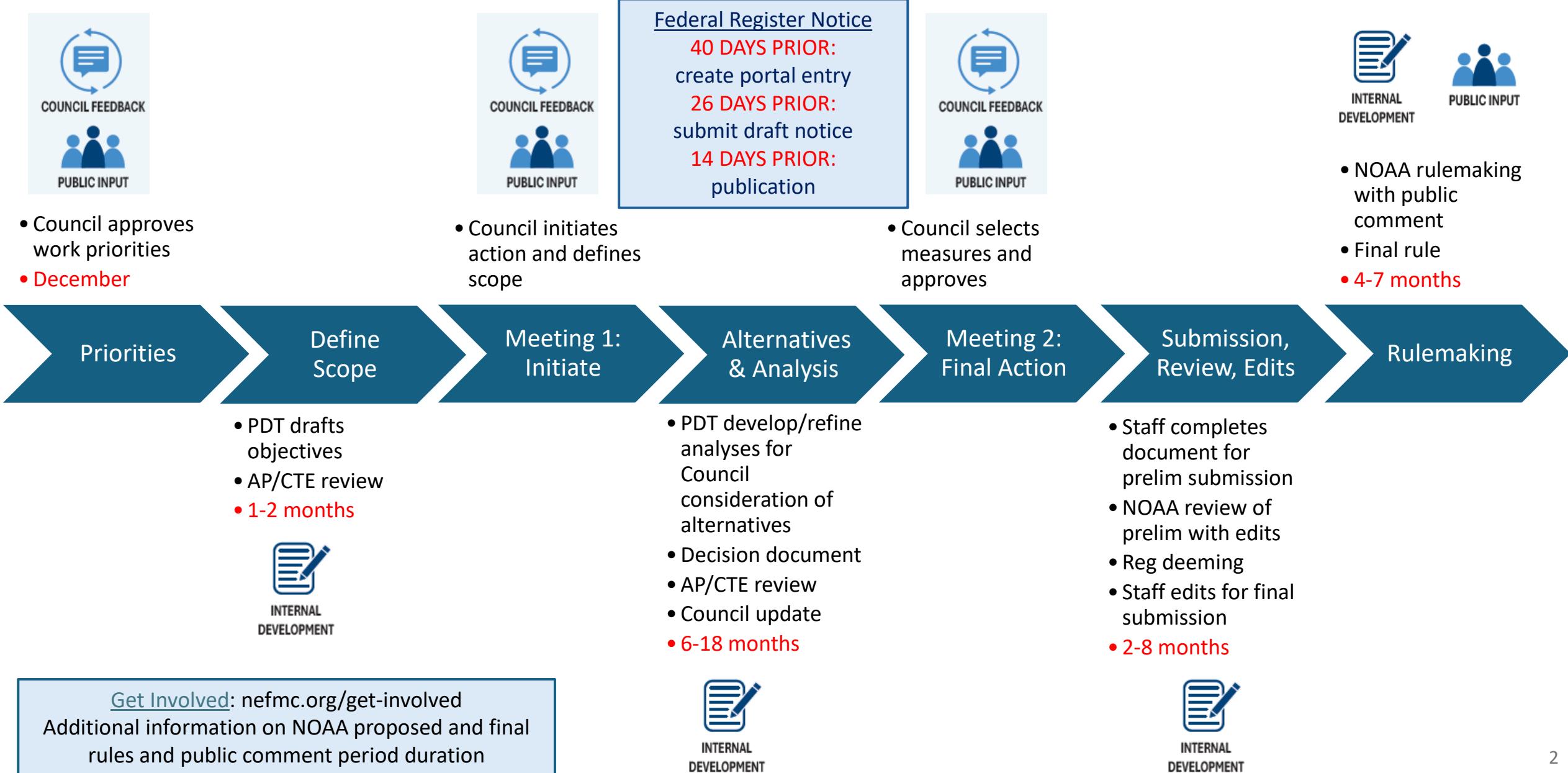
January 2026

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New England Fishery Management Council
January 29, 2026



Council/NOAA Action Process-Timeline



Priorities and Work Plans

- 2026 Council Priorities
 - Fishery Management Plan (FMP) actions and required tasks
 - Committees and Interagency efforts
 - SSC, Climate & Ecosystem Steering Committee, Enforcement
 - CCC, NRCC, ECCG/Core Team, International, Protected Species (TRT), NROC, Sanctuaries, etc.
 - Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) initiatives
 - Executive Order 14276 topics
- NOAA Additions
 - Regional “Risk/Value” prioritization to narrow the scope of NMFS management and science
 - Evaluation of additional EO14276 public comments and revisions to Council response
 - Continued evolution of NEPA requirements
- Overview of work plans with staff input

Staff activity

NMFS activity with Staff
and/or PDT involvement

External activity with Staff
and/or PDT involvement

Groundfish

Council Priority	Jan – Mar	Apr - Jun	July - Sept	Oct - Dec
Amendment 25	Final Submission	GARFO implement		
Framework 72	Final Submission	GARFO implement		
Amendment 23 Review	Conduct review analyses	Complete review, consider future actions		
Redfish Program Review	Conduct review analyses	Complete review, consider future actions		
ABC Control Rule Framework 68	Evaluate integration of revised Risk Policy with ABC CRs (contract)	Develop ABC CRs, conduct analysis	Final action	Implement ABC CRs for specs
Framework 7X		Develop scope	Initiate action	Develop specifications and measures, conduct analyses
Atlantic Cod Management				Continue to develop transition plan; paused pending Amendment 25 decision
White Hake Rebuilding				Conduct rebuilding plan analyses and review biological reference points
Stock Assessments		GB haddock	Transboundary stocks	GOM haddock, plaice, pollock, witch fl, halibut

Scallop

Council Priority	Jan – Mar	Apr - Jun	July - Sept	Oct - Dec		
Framework 40	Final Submission					
FY 27/28 Specifications		2026 Field Season	Develop 2027/2028 (default) Specifications			
Framework 42		Analysis to develop measures for regional DAS, NGOM sub-areas		Final action		
Annual Scallop RSA Work		Share Day	NOFO	NOFO Closes	Proposal Reviews	Award Decisions
Develop New Projection Methods	RFP Solicitation	Contractor work				
LAGC IFQ Program Review	Final report					
Strategic Plan		Strategic Plan Implementation and Priority Development				

Herring

Council Priority	Jan – Mar	Apr - Jun	July - Sept	Oct - Dec
Herring specs 2027-2031, RH/S measures, other management measures	PDT completes Council tasking on RH/S	PDT develops specs, other measures, and conducts impacts analyses <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="background-color: #667788; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Council: initiate action</div> <div style="background-color: #667788; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Council: update</div> <div style="background-color: #667788; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Council: final action</div> </div>	Action submission <div style="background-color: #800080; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">NOAA review target Jan 1 implement</div>	
Stock Assessment		<div style="background-color: #800080; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Peer Review: June</div>	<div style="background-color: #667788; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">SSC: OFL/ABC</div>	

Monkfish and Skate

Council Priority	Jan – Mar	Apr - Jun	July - Sept	Oct - Dec
IFQ Scoping	Draft IFQ scoping document	Councils: approve scoping doc	Conduct Scoping	Councils: Discuss scoping and guide next steps
Monkfish CPUE Review	SSC subpanel review			
IRA: Joint Governance of Monkfish and Skate	Evaluate 2025 coordinated approach; Staff Governance Workshop			Evaluate opportunities and tradeoffs of combining the Monkfish and Skate FMPs; Regional Governance Workshop

Small Mesh Multispecies (Whiting)

Council Priority	Jan – Mar	Apr - Jun	July - Sept	Oct - Dec
Whiting specifications 2027-2031, other management measures		Develop scope	Develop specifications and alternatives, conduct analysis, prepare document	
Exemption areas review and evaluation	Review prior research; evaluate use of LOA; summarize existing measures	PDT/AP Data Workshop		
Risk Policy application	Risk Policy factor development	Risk Policy matrix and identification of data needs	Risk Policy factor scoring	

Habitat

Council Priority	Jan – Mar	Apr - Jun	July - Sept	Oct - Dec
2026 EFH Designation Framework	PDT/contractor complete species distribution models; develop alternatives	Council: final action	Action submission	
Evaluation of GSC HMA surfclam exemption areas	EFP Research Concludes	EFP Report drafting; final available in June	Staff/PDT review of existing information and new research	
Ocean Planning	Ongoing: follow ocean planning and marine user activities (e.g., offshore energy, aquaculture, marine carbon dioxide, etc.)			

Risk Policy

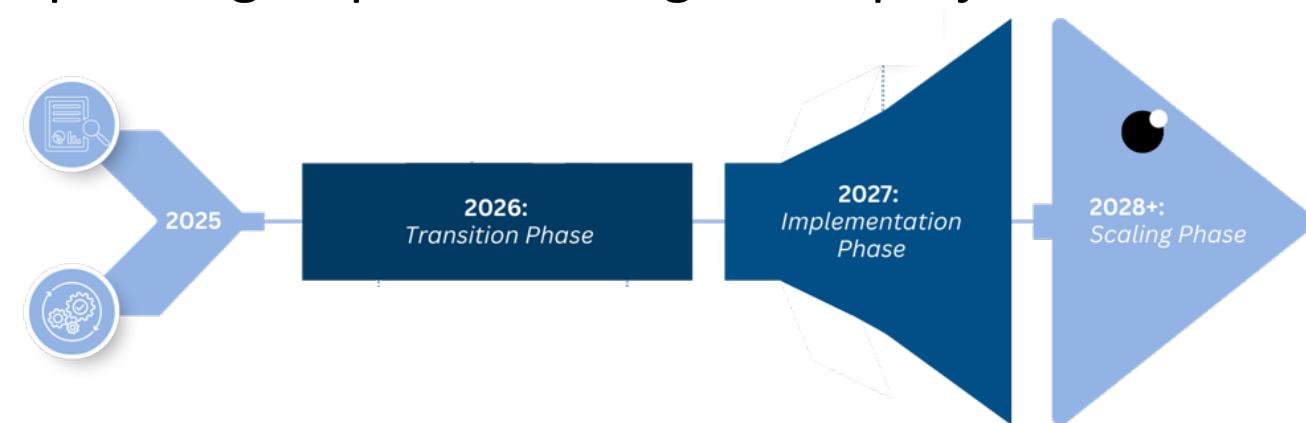
	January	February	March	April	May	June
Meetings – Input - Decisions						
RPWG: Confirm Factors w/ goal/intent						
NEFMC January	Update					
RPWG: Refining Concept						
SSC: Check-in						
NEFMC: Check-in, feedback						
RPWG: Refining Concept, Prepare June						
NEFMC June: Approval, weightings						Decision
Work – Refinement – Implementation						
Support Factor Development • Scoring and Data • Accessibility • Process		RPWG members and Implementation Team: Applegate, Miller, Garrison, Peros, O'Keefe				Approval of Concept document
Refine Risk Policy Mechanics • Shape of Curve • Range of Scores • Scaling		Risk Policy Mechanics sub-group: Kerr, McNamee, Lawson, Peros, Ware, Brothers				Approval of Concept document
Prepare for Weightings exercise						Weightings

IRA Initiatives

- IRA Update presentation on Jan 28
 - Large portfolio of interrelated work
 - Most contracts issued and underway
 - Continued planning needed for some initiatives
 - Multiple meetings to coordinate within and across organizations
 - Targeting outreach and presentations to specific groups and to align with project milestones

- Staff Effort

- Staff directed work is all in progress
 - Activities planned throughout 2026
 - Request an extension through Dec 31, 2027



Executive Order 14276

Ref #	Plan/Topic	Category	Priority/Task	Notes
EO1	EO14276	New	Modifications to Vessel Baseline Restrictions	Regional Coordination
EO2	EO14276	New	Atlantic Herring Slippage Measures	Multiyear
EO3	EO14276	New	Monkfish Management Modifications	Coordinate with Monkfish priorities
EO4	EO14276	New	Revisions to Accountability Measures	Multiyear
EO5	EO14276	New	Fishery Management Plan Revisions	Coordinate with FMP priorities
EO6	EO14276	New	Revisions to the Southern New England Spiny Dogfish Gillnet Exemption Area	Multiyear

Upcoming Events

- IRA Initiatives
 - Workshop planning
 - Governance Staff-to-Staff – Feb 24-26
 - SSC Dynamic Reference Points – Jun 1-2
 - Governance Regional – Oct/Nov
 - Project Oversight Teams
 - Risk Policy Simulation
 - Ecosystem Components
 - Dynamic Reference Points
 - Governance
 - Portfolio Analysis
 - Holistic Strategic Plan
 - MAFMC Initiatives
 - Ecosystem/Habitat Indicators
 - Evaluating Data Needs
 - River Herring Forecast
 - Stock Distribution/Governance
- Staff Activities
 - Staff Offsite Meeting – Feb 10
 - GIS Training – Feb 18
 - Cooperative Research Summit – Feb 26
 - ME Fishermen’s Forum – Mar 5-7
 - Boston Seafood Expo – Mar 15-17
 - Socioeconomic Workshop – Mar 23-24
 - NEFMC-GARFO Staff-to-Staff – Jun 4
- Grant Activities
 - Final report 2020-2025 award – Jan 30
 - NCE request for IRA award – Feb 3
 - Budget planning for 2026-2029 – Mar 30

Questions

