

2026 Council Priorities Initial Discussion

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Executive Director

NEFMC Meeting
September 25, 2025
Gloucester, MA



New England
Fishery Management
Council

Priorities Process - 2025

- Proposed process in 2025 to set priorities for 2026 (new list)
 - Executive Director and staff identified “required” items
 - Scheduled specifications, annual required tasks, approved multi-year tasks
 - Addition of IRA and EO 14276 initiatives
 - IRA began in 2025; EO 14276 anticipated to begin in 2026
 - **Minimal solicitation for “new” items**
 - Executive Director announcement at June Council meeting
 - Council discussion at June and September meetings
- Council discussion of proposed items, consider changes (add/remove)
 - No ranking for requirements

Priorities Status – 2025

- Completed Tasks:
 - Several 2025 “single year” items are completed or anticipated to be done by December
 - Some 2025 items paused (Herring and Groundfish)
- Multiyear Tasks:
 - Most tasks on track with estimated timing
 - Paused work for groundfish and herring, substituted with additional 2025 work items
- Ongoing Tasks:
 - List continues to grow, and tasks are increasing
 - IRA projects, Executive Order 14276, reduced NOAA staffing with new Council responsibilities

Priorities Proposal – 2026

- Required Tasks
 - Specifications, stock assessment support, regulatory tasks
 - Approved multi-year items, scheduled program reviews
 - SSC, NTAP, RPWG, inter-agency tasks
- IRA Initiatives and EO 14276 Response
 - Continued heavy workload anticipated for 2026-2027

Council Input for Today

- Feedback on 2025 Priority Status
 - Questions, comments, concerns
- Discussion on 2026 Priority Proposal
 - Questions, comments, concerns
 - Council losing ability to set priorities due to mandated tasks (IRA, EO)
 - Add/remove topics
 - Tasking for December meeting final action on priorities

Next Steps

- Committee discussions on 2026 Priority Proposal
 - Questions, comments, concerns
 - Add/remove topics
 - Tasking for December meeting final action on priorities
- Executive Committee review of 2026 Priority Proposal
 - Meeting November 13th
 - Discussion of capacity, expectations, tradeoffs
 - Recommendations for December Council meeting

Questions



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