

STATUS UPDATE: 2025 New England Fishery Management Council Priority List (September 2025)

Ref #	Plan/Topic	Category	Priority/Task	Estimated Timing	Status - Sept 2025
G1	Groundfish	Required	Complete and submit FW69	Complete early 2025	Completed; Not Implemented by NOAA
G2	Groundfish	Required	Set ABCs/ACLs necessary for groundfish stocks for FY2026-FY2028 and US/CA stocks for FY2026	2025	In progress, part of FW 72, expected final action in December
G3	Groundfish	Required	Groundfish Management Track Assessments (Sept - redfish, wolffish, ocean pout, white hake, windowpane flounder (northern and southern), winter flounder (GB, GOM, SNE/MA), yellowtail flounder (GB, CC/GOM, SNE/MA))	2025	Completed; Data Updates for wolffish, ocean pout, windowpane
G4	Groundfish	Required	Domestic updates for transboundary management (TMGC; cod, haddock, yellowtail flounder)	2025	In progress, TMGC meeting in October, part of FW72
G5	Groundfish	PAUSED	Review redfish sector exemption program	2025	Paused; consideration for 2026 priority
G6	Groundfish	Required	FW to set management measures for FY2026-FY2028	2025	In progress, part of FW 72, expected final action in December
G7	Groundfish	PAUSED	Complete development of metrics to be used in the review process that will evaluate the monitoring system, per Amendment 23	Multiyear, expected completion 2025	Paused; consideration for 2026 priority
G8	Groundfish	DELAYED	Amendment 23 monitoring system review	Multiyear, initiate 2025	Delayed; consideration for 2026 priority
G9	Groundfish	PAUSED	Winter Flounder Research Track WG	Multiyear, review 2026	Paused indefinitely by NRCC
G10	Groundfish	PAUSED	In consultation with the SSC, continue work to revise ABC control rules for Northeast Multispecies stocks	Multiyear, implementation 2026	Paused; consideration for 2026 priority coordinated with IRA
G11	Groundfish	PAUSED	Develop a Transition Plan for Atlantic cod management units, including addressing allocation issues and considering potential new measures to protect spawning cod	Multiyear, initiated 2024	Paused; consider for future priority
G12	Groundfish	New	Revise and resubmit A25 to add cod stocks and management measures to FMP	2025; Added by 2/3 vote on 6/25/25	In progress, expected final action in September
SC1	Scallop	Required	Complete and submit FW39	Complete early 2025	Completed
SC2	Scallop	Required	Set ABC/ACL for scallop stock with specifications for FY2026 (FY2027 default)	2025	In Progress, part of FW40, expected final action in December
SC3	Scallop	Required	FW to set management measures for FY2026	2025	In Progress, part of FW40, expected final action in December
SC4	Scallop	Required	Scallop Research Track Assessment WG and Peer Review (Apr 2025)	Complete Apr 2025	Completed
SC5	Scallop	Required	LAGC IFQ program review (2016-2023)	Multiyear, expected completion 2025	In progress, expected Council review in January
SC6	Scallop	Required	Develop long-term (3-5 years) strategic plan for managing the scallop fishery, considering range of management tools, enhancement opportunities, permit portfolios, rotational management performance	Multiyear, expected completion 2025	In progress, expected Council review with recommendations in December
SC7	Scallop	Ongoing	Scallop RSA Management (Share Day, Proposal Review)	Ongoing	Ongoing

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HE1	Herring	Required	Herring Research Track Assessment WG and Peer Review (Mar 2025)	Complete Apr 2025	Completed
HE2	Herring	New	Revisit ABC/ACL for herring stock with specifications for FY2025-2027 based on information from the Research Track	2025	Completed
HE2	Herring	PAUSED	Amendment 10 to minimize user conflicts, achieve OY, and support rebuilding of the herring resource; River Herring & Shad Management Measures (e.g., Catch Caps or Time/Area Closures; included in A10)	Multi-year; Paused April 2025	Paused; consideration for 2026 priority
HE3	Herring	Ongoing	Coordination with MAFMC/ASMFC for river herring/shad issues	Ongoing	Ongoing
M1	Monkfish	Required	Develop 2026-2028 monkfish fishery specifications	2025	In progress, part of FW17, expected final action in September
M2	Monkfish	CANCELLED	Support management track assessment	2025	Cancelled
M3	Monkfish	PAUSED	Support research track assessment	Multiyear, review 2027	Paused indefinitely
M4	Monkfish/Skate	New	Coordinate Committee and AP activities and review effectiveness of joint planning	Multiyear, initiate 2025	In progress, continued coordination with Skate FMP and IRA
SK1	Skate	Required	Develop 2026-2027 skate fishery specifications	2025	In progress, part of Specs package, expected final action in September
SK2	Skate	CANCELLED	Support management track assessment	2025	Cancelled
SK3	Monkfish/Skate	New	Coordinate Committee and AP activities and review effectiveness of joint planning	Multiyear, initiate 2025	In progress, continued coordination with Monkfish FMP and IRA
D1	Dogfish	Required	Update specifications for FY2026-2027 and revise Accountability Measures (MAFMC lead)	2025	In progress, part of Framework, expected final action in December
D2	Dogfish	New	Coordinate SSC activities and review effectiveness of joint planning	Multiyear, initiate 2025	No progress; coordinate with IRA
W1	Whiting	Required	Annual Monitoring Report	2025	In progress, expected completion in December
HA1	Habitat	Required	Habitat impacts of management actions (NEPA analyses)	Ongoing	Ongoing
HA2	Habitat	Required	Develop revised EFH designations for a subset of NEFMC-managed species through frameworks to one or more FMPs	Multiyear, initiated 2024	In progress, expected final action for several stocks in September; continue in 2026
HA3	Habitat	Ongoing	Develop habitat and fishery related comments on non-fishing activities, including offshore wind and aquaculture	Ongoing	Ongoing
HA4	Habitat	Ongoing	Foster and contribute to habitat science and management partnerships, though participation in the CCC Habitat WG, ASMFC Habitat Committee, and Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership	Ongoing	Ongoing

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HA5	Habitat	Ongoing	Collaborate on OSW science issues with ROSA, RODA, NMFS, BOEM, and others	Ongoing	Ongoing
OD1	On-Demand WG	New	Joint action with MAFMC and GARFO to revise gear marking regulations across FMPs	2025	In progress, expected action in September
OD2	On-Demand WG	Required	WG report on gear conflict solutions for lobster/Jonah crab, gillnet, and other trap pot fisheries	Multiyear, initiated 2024	In progress, expected completion in September
OD3	On-Demand WG	Required	Continue work addressing TORs and refine TORs as needed	Ongoing	in progress, expected completion in September
RP1	Risk Policy WG	Required	RPWG TOR #3: Communication strategies for revised Risk Policy	2025	In progress, coordinated with overall implementation strategy
RP2	Risk Policy WG	Required	Simulation testing of revised Risk Policy Concept for some FMPs/species/stocks with SSC review	Multiyear, initiated 2024	In progress, coordination with IRA
RP3	Risk Policy WG	Required	Implementation of revised Risk Policy Concept for some FMPs/species/stocks, integrated with ABC control rule revisions	Multiyear, initiate 2025	In progress, consideration for 2026 priority
SSC1	SSC	Required	Support Council activities including recommending OFLs and ABCs and review of scientific information	Ongoing	Ongoing
SSC2	SSC	New	Form and support SSC Social Science Sub-panel	Ongoing	Completed; Ongoing support
EN1	Enforcement	Required	Convene Enforcement Committee and Advisory Panel	2025	Need to reconstitute Committee and dissolve AP, expected October
EN2	Enforcement	Ongoing	Support ODWG by addressing enforcement concerns and ongoing hands-on workshops for LEOs	Multiyear, initiated 2024	Ongoing
NT1	NTAP	Ongoing	Continue the Survey Contingency Working Group; Industry-Based Survey Planning	Ongoing	Ongoing
CE1	Climate and Ecosystem	New	Spring and fall meetings of the Climate and Ecosystem Steering Committee; guidance for IRA initiatives, climate-resilient fisheries management, and ecosystem approaches	Ongoing	Ongoing
Flex	Flexibility	New	Develop an omnibus action to address management flexibility measures, including specification frequency, rollover provisions, and in-season adjustment authority	2025; Added by 2/3 vote on 4/17/25	In progress, expected final action in September
IA1	Inter-Agency	Required	CCC 2025 host and participation (Meetings and Committees: EEJ, Area-Based Management, SCS, Communications, Habitat, CMOD, NEPA)	Ongoing	In progress, expected completion in December
IA2	Inter-Agency	Required	NRCC participation	Ongoing	Ongoing
IA3	Inter-Agency	Required	East Coast Coordination Group and Climate Core Team	Ongoing	Ongoing
IA4	Inter-Agency	Required	CEFI Decision Support Team	Ongoing	Ongoing

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IA5	Inter-Agency	Required	NROC Ocean Policy	Ongoing	Ongoing
IA6	Inter-Agency	Required	Sanctuary Advisory Committees (Stellwagen, Hudson Canyon)	Ongoing	Ongoing
IA7	Inter-Agency	Required	International Fisheries Management (US/CA TMGC, Steering Committee, ICCAT, HMS, NAFO)	Ongoing	Ongoing
IA8	Inter-Agency	Required	Take Reduction Teams	Ongoing	Ongoing
IA9	Inter-Agency	Required	Protected species issues, including actions as necessary to implement Biological Opinion and implement NARW recovery plan	Ongoing	Ongoing
IA10	Inter-Agency	CANCELLED	EEJ strategies and implementation	Ongoing	CANCELLED
IRA1	IRA	Required	Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rules for Northeast Multispecies	Multiyear, expected completion 2025	Ongoing
IRA2	IRA	Required	Atlantic cod management transition	Multiyear, expected completion 2026	Ongoing
IRA3	IRA	Required	Operationalizing ecosystem approaches in NE fisheries management	Multiyear	Ongoing
IRA4	IRA	Required	Operationalizing the East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning Initiative	Multiyear	Ongoing
IRA5	IRA	Required	Holistic strategic plan for climate resilient NE fisheries management	Multiyear	Ongoing
IRA6	IRA	Required	Enhancing participatory processes for climate resilient fisheries	Multiyear	Ongoing
EO1	EO14276	New	Develop response to EO 14276	2025	In progress, expected completion in September