

2026 Council Priorities

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New England Fishery Management Council

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Newport, RI



Information and Action

- Executive Committee Memo – Tab 1
 - Recommendations
 - Descriptions of rationale for each item
 - Followed Executive Director recommendations as presented in the Nov. 7, 2025 memo
 - Table
 - List of all proposed items with Executive Committee recommendations in bold red text (attachment)
- FOR TODAY
 - Council selects 2026 priorities

Priorities Table Overview

- Ref #
 - Reference number for each listed task
- Plan/Topic
 - Overarching FMP or topic for range of proposed priorities
- Category
 - Description of type of task listed
- Priority/Task
 - Description of priorities under consideration
- Estimated Timing
 - Estimate of when task may be completed, including single and multiyear tasks
- Coordination
 - Indicates overlapping efforts between FMPs and other activities
- Staff Months
 - Estimate of total staff months required to complete tasks

Categories

- Required/Ongoing Tasks
 - Specifications, stock assessment support, regulatory tasks
 - Approved multi-year items, scheduled program reviews
 - Inter-agency tasks, SSC, NTAP, Risk Policy, Enforcement, etc.
- Paused Tasks
 - Paused 2025 priorities to address emergent issues
- New Tasks
 - Identified in response to 2025 Council actions and issues
- Committee Proposals
 - New ideas recommended by FMP Committees

Executive Committee Recommendations

- Executive Committee reviewed Executive Director recommendations and full priority list on November 13, 2025
- Consensus on most recommendations, lack of consensus noted in memo and table
- Concern about workload and available staff resources
- Overarching comments about potential uncertainties
 - Government shutdown – past and future
 - Reduced NOAA support capacity – current and ongoing
 - Lack of guidance on EO 14276
 - IRA funding deadline – March 2027

Council Action for Today

- Recommend final action on 2026 Priority Work Items
- Motions to amend priorities:
 - To amend the Council's 2026 priority work item for:
 - [FMP or topic]
 - By adding
 - [Ref #]
 - By deleting
 - [Ref #]
 - By revising
 - [Ref #, additional text]

Questions