

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PROPOSED: 2026 New England Fishery Management Council Priority List							
Ref #	Plan/Topic	Category	Priority/Task	Estimated Timing	Coordination	Staff Months	
G1	Groundfish	Required	Complete and submit FW72	Complete early 2026		2	
G2	Groundfish	Required	Action to set ABC/ACL for groundfish stocks for FY2027-FY2031; US/CA stocks for FY2027; additional management measures	2026	IRA3, RP2/3, EO5	10	
G3	Groundfish	Required	Groundfish Management Track Assessments (June - Georges Bank haddock; Sept - Gulf of Maine haddock, American plaice) and data updates (halibut, witch flounder, pollock)	2026		1	
G4	Groundfish	Required	Updates for transboundary management (TMGC; cod, haddock, yellowtail flounder)	2026		2	
G5	Groundfish	Paused	Review redfish sector exemption program	2026		3	
G6	Groundfish	Paused	Amendment 23 monitoring system review including complete development of metrics	2026		6	
G7	Groundfish	Paused	Continue work to revise ABC control rules for Northeast Multispecies stocks	2026	IRA1, RP2/3	8	
G8	Groundfish	Paused	Transition Plan for cod management units, including allocation issues and new spawning protections	Multiyear, initiated 2024	IRA2/4	2	
SC1	Scallop	Required	Complete and submit FW40	Complete early 2026		3	
SC2	Scallop	Required	LAGC IFQ program review (2016-2023)	Complete early 2026		1	
SC3	Scallop	Required	Action to set ABC/ACL for scallop stock with specifications for FY2027 (FY2028 default); additional management measures	2026	IRA3, RP3, EO5	10	
SC4	Scallop	New	Develop new projection methods	2026		4	
SC5	Scallop	New	Scallop Strategic Plan Menu Items	Multiyear	IRA5	0.5	
SC6	Scallop	Ongoing	Scallop RSA Management (Share Day, Proposal Review)	Ongoing		1	
SC7	Scallop	CTE Proposal	Modification to the in-shell scallop possession limits in NGOM	Single year		0.5	
SC8 (lack of consensus)	Scallop	CTE Proposal	Develop sub-management units in NGOM (combine with SC3)	Single year		1	
SC9	Scallop	CTE Proposal	Develop regional allocations of Limited Access DAS and analyze carryover DAS provisions (combine with SC3)	Single year		2	
SC10	Scallop	CTE Proposal	Resume development of a scallop rotational area on the Northern Edge	Multiyear		10	
SC11	Scallop	CTE Proposal	Measures to address efficiency and over capitalization, including but not limited to stacking and leasing	Multiyear		10	
HE1	Herring	Required	Action to set ABC/ACL for herring stock for FY2027-FY2031; additional management measures (combine with HE3)	2026	IRA3, RP3, EO2	10	
HE2	Herring	Required	Herring Management Track Assessment (June)	2026		1	
HE3 (lack of consensus)	Herring	Paused	Amendment 10: minimize user conflicts, achieve OY, and support rebuilding of the herring resource; River Herring & Shad Management Measures (combine with HE1)	Multi-year, initiated in 2022		8	
HE4	Herring	Ongoing	Coordination with MAFMC/ASMFC for river herring/shad issues	Ongoing	IRA4	1	

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M/SK1	Monkfish/Skate	CTE Proposal	Peer review of the monkfish Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) RSA project work with TORs to evaluate use of CPUE indices in monkfish assessment and management	2026		0.5
M/SK2	Monkfish/Skate	CTE Proposal	Explore options for skate possession limits based on DAS charged to replace trip-based limits	Single year	EO5	3
M/SK3	Monkfish/Skate	CTE Proposal	Create a skate wing RSA program	Multiyear		4
M/SK4	Monkfish/Skate	CTE Proposal	Develop a 3-season approach for the skate wing fishery	Single year		2
M/SK5	Monkfish/Skate	CTE Proposal	Explore options to reduce latent effort in the monkfish fishery	Multiyear	EO5	6
M/SK6	Monkfish/Skate	CTE Proposal	Revise the Southern New England Skate Bait Trawl Exemption Area	Multiyear		4
M/SK7	Monkfish/Skate	CTE Proposal	Create skate wing DAS to replace groundfish DAS	Multiyear		8
M/SK8	Monkfish/Skate	CTE Proposal	Create a DAS leasing program for monkfish and skate wing fisheries	Multiyear	IRA4, EO5	8
M/SK9	Monkfish/Skate	CTE Proposal	Create an IFQ/sector management program for monkfish and skate wing fisheries	Multiyear	IRA4, EO5	8
W1	Whiting	Required	Action to set ABC/ACL for small-mesh stocks for FY2027-2031; additional management measures	2026	IRA3, RP3, EO5	6
HA1	Habitat	Required	Develop revised EFH designations for groundfish, small mesh, and scallops	2026		4
HA2	Habitat	Required	Habitat impacts of management actions (NEPA analyses)	Ongoing		1
HA3	Habitat	Ongoing	Develop habitat and fishery related comments on non-fishing activities, including offshore energy	Ongoing		1
HA4	Habitat	Ongoing	Contribute to habitat and ocean planning science and management partnerships, though the CCC Habitat WG, ASMFC Habitat Committee, Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership, and RODA	Ongoing	IRA3/4	0.5
HA5	Habitat	Ongoing	Continue to advance Fishing Effects Model analyses, integrate habitat information into Council initiatives, maintain expertise, and share habitat products with regional partners.	Ongoing	IRA3/4	1
HA6	Habitat	CTE Proposal	Evaluation of the Great South Channel Habitat Management Area surfclam exemption areas	2026		3
OD1	On-Demand Gear	Postponed	Joint action with MAFMC and GARFO to revise gear marking regulations across FMPs	Multiyear, initiated 2025		3
RP1	Risk Policy WG	Required	RPWG TOR #3: Communication strategies for revised Risk Policy	2026	IRA6	2
RP2	Risk Policy WG	Required	Simulation testing of revised Risk Policy Concept for some FMPs/species/stocks with SSC review	Multiyear, initiated 2025	IRA1/3, G2/7	2
RP3	Risk Policy WG	Required	Implementation of revised Risk Policy Concept for some FMPs/species/stocks, integrated with ABC control rule revisions	Multiyear, initiated 2025	IRA1/3, G2/7, SC3, HE1, W1	6
SSC1	SSC	Required	Support Council activities including recommending OFLs and ABCs and review of scientific information	Ongoing		5
SSC2	SSC	New	Support SSC Social Science Sub-panel	Ongoing		1

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EN1	Enforcement	Required	Reengage Committee; Q1 Committee meeting	2026		0.25
EN2	Enforcement	Ongoing	Address issues related to development and implementation of ropeless/on-demand gear	Multiyear, initiated 2024		0.25
NT1	NTAP	Ongoing	Continue the Survey Contingency Working Group; Industry-Based Survey implementation	Ongoing		0.25
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	IRA1-6, RP1-3	3
IA1	Inter-Agency	Required	CCC participation	Ongoing		3
IA2	Inter-Agency	Required	NRCC participation	Ongoing		3
IA3	Inter-Agency	Required	East Coast Coordination Group and Climate Core Team; CEFI Decision Support Team	Ongoing		2
IA4	Inter-Agency	Required	NROC Ocean Policy	Ongoing		0.25
IA5	Inter-Agency	Required	Sanctuary Advisory Committees (Stellwagen, Hudson Canyon)	Ongoing		0.25
IA6	Inter-Agency	Required	International Fisheries Management (US/CA TMGC, Steering Committee, ICCAT, HMS, NAFO)	Ongoing		1
IA7	Inter-Agency	Required	Take Reduction Teams; Protected Species Issues	Ongoing		1.5
IRA1	IRA	Required	Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rules for Northeast Multispecies	Multiyear, completion 2027	G7, RP2/3	3
IRA2	IRA	Required	Atlantic cod management transition (pending implementation of A25)	Multiyear, completion 2027	G8	0.5
IRA3	IRA	Required	Operationalizing ecosystem approaches in NE fisheries management	Multiyear, completion 2027	G2, SC3, HE1, W1, HA4/5, RP2/3	4
IRA4	IRA	Required	Operationalizing the East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning Initiative	Multiyear, completion 2027	G8, HE4, M/SK8/9, HA4/5	6
IRA5	IRA	Required	Holistic strategic plan for climate resilient NE fisheries management	Multiyear, completion 2027	SC5	3
IRA6	IRA	Required	Enhancing participatory processes for climate resilient fisheries	Multiyear, completion 2027	RP1	3
EO1	EO14276	New	Modifications to Vessel Baseline Restrictions	Multiyear		4
EO2	EO14276	New	Atlantic herring slippage measures	Multiyear		2
EO3	EO14276	New	Monkfish management modifications	Multiyear	M/SK2/4	
EO4	EO14276	New	Revisions to Accountability Measures	Multiyear		8
EO5	EO14276	New	Fishery Management Plan Revisions	Multiyear		4
EO6	EO14276	New	Revisions to the Southern New England Spiny Dogfish Gillnet Exemption Area	Multiyear		4