

2015 Council Priorities Task List
 Final Version 4
 August 12, 2015

8/12/2015	UNDERLINE: REGULATORY REQUIREMENT					Final Council Priorities for 2015				
FMP										
	Annual	Comm.	ExCom	Council	Rank	Multi-Year	Comm.	ExCom	Council	Rank
Groundfish										
	<u>Set specs for all groundfish stocks 2016-2018</u>	✓	✓	✓	1	Continue to coordinate action on the Habitat Omnibus Amendment to include possible modifications of the Groundfish closed areas.	✓	✓	✓	Not ranked
	<u>Set specs for US/CA stocks for 2016</u>	✓	✓	✓	3	Complete Amendment 18 to consider fleet diversity and accumulation caps.	✓	✓	✓	50
	Recreational measures management process	✓	✓	✓	15	Develop alternative strategies for setting catch advice for stability in ACLs	✓	✓	✓	11
	Management action to address ASM requirements			✓	Not Ranked	Process for review of groundfish catch in other fisheries	✓	✓		14
	Staff: Five year sector review	✓	✓	✓	53	Staff: Cod Stock Structure Workshop	✓	✓	✓	37
	Staff: TMGC/TRAC	✓	✓	✓	18	Consider trading of quota under US/CA Understanding/TMGC (measured progress)				60
	Staff: Operational/update assessments	✓	✓	✓	8	ACE Trading between scallop/groundfish fisheries				53
	Staff: discussion paper on management alternatives for windowpane flounder			✓	Not Ranked	Develop limited access program for the party/charter fishery	✓			44
	Staff: Coordinate with ASMFC Lobster TC on lobster trap bycatch of groundfish species			✓	Not Ranked	Consider changes to spawning closures				11
	Sector ACE carryover provisions				42	NEW: Amendment for windowpane flounder	✓			Not Ranked
	EM				28					
	Changes to trawl gear regs to improve enforceability				44					
	NEW: Sub-ACLs for fluke, squid, etc. for SNE Windowpane Flounder	✓			Not ranked					
Monkfish										
	Complete framework adjustment to address several issues taken out of Amendment 6	✓	✓	✓	28	Continue Monkfish Amendment 6 for modifications to DAS program (including leasing) and catch shares (sectors and IFQs).	✓	✓	✓	37
	Staff: Research Set Aside		✓	✓	44					

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Sea Scallops										
	Prepare a framework to set FY 2016 (2017 default) specifications (i.e. setting DAS, access area trips, Northern GOM TAC, limited access general category IFQ allocations, potential modification of scallop access area boundaries, etc.). May include measures deferred from FW 26 in fall 2014: reactive AMs for N WINP; changes to reactive AMs for YTF	✓	✓	✓	3	Amendment to streamline the scallop specifications process	✓	✓	✓	Not ranked
	Modify scallop access areas to be consistent with OA2 revised areas	✓	✓	✓	6	Consider measures to improve management of inshore areas: improve YPR for those areas and address how areas are fished by all permit categories				44
	Workshop and discussion paper to address localized depletion of inshore areas and mitigation of effects on LAGC fishery			✓						
	Staff: Research Set Aside		✓	✓	37					
	Staff and PDT participation on NEFSC peer review of sea scallop survey methods (Spring 2015)		✓	✓	23					
	Staff: Annual catch monitoring		✓	✓	18					
	Staff: Begin preparations for five year review of LAGC IFQ program		✓	✓	34					
	Consider consistent rules for all vessels fishing in the NGOM (all catch applied against the NGOM TAC; same gear and possession limits for all permit types)				37					
Herring										
	Herring Specs Action Herring ACL/Sub-ACLs 2016-2018 RSA etc. specs 2016-2018 RH/S catchcaps 2016-2018 Adjust RSA program	✓	✓	✓	7	MAFMC River Herring/Shad Management Coordination		✓	✓	28
	Adjust herring management area boundaries Address fishing effort east of Cape Cod Modify haddock catch cap AMs Measures to protect spawning Atlantic herring in the GB/Nantucket Shoals area				23	Prepare an amendment to consider new ABC control rules that account for herring's role as a forage species; coordinate with EBFM Committee/PDT			✓	Not ranked
						Catch share alternatives for the limited access herring fishery				53
SBRM										
	No Action Planned		✓		62					

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Red Crab	No Action Planned		✓	✓	63					
	<i>Consider allowing landing of female red crab and modify specs accordingly</i>				60					
Habitat	Complete Omnibus Habitat Amendment (expected implementation 2015)		✓	✓	3	Complete Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment with range of alternatives already approved as part of the Omnibus EFH Amendment 2 process (as time and resources permit)		✓	✓	31
	Staff: Habitat impacts of other management actions		✓	✓	Not ranked	Coordinate wind power issues with other agencies		✓	✓	34
	Staff: SBNMS Advisory Committee		✓	✓	Not ranked					
Research Steering	Continue to steer research to support NEFMC plans.		✓	✓	23					
	Collaborative Research Project		✓	✓	31					
SSC	Support SSC activities		✓	✓	8					
Enforcement, Safety, VMS	Continue to support enforcement, safety and VMS issues.		✓	✓	18					
Whiting	<u>Staff: PDT receives annual monitoring report from Regional Office and advise Council whether management adjustments are needed</u>		✓	✓	15	Prepare an Amendment for limited access/catch shares to the whiting fishery and other issues: groundfish AMs (after EBFM guidance to Herring ABC Control Rule)	✓	✓	✓	13
Skates	<u>Action for 2016-2017 skate specifications</u>	✓	✓	✓	1	Action to end overfishing on thorny, winter skates	✓	✓	✓	10
	<u>Staff: Annual monitoring report</u>		✓	✓	50	<i>Prepare an amendment to consider limited access in the skate fishery</i>	✓			48

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EBFM						Prepare Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Plan.		✓	✓	18
Hagfish						<i>Prepare new Hagfish FMP</i>				
Observer Committee	Complete Industry Funded Monitoring Amendment	✓	✓	✓	18	Develop Comprehensive Observer/Monitoring Policy			✓	
Risk Policy Working Group	Review FMP risk policies for consistency with overall policy	✓	✓	✓	23					
Other	EM Working Group	✓	✓	✓	34	Fishery dependent data (NERO lead)		✓	✓	37
	NRCC SAW Working Group Participation		✓	✓	31	<i>Omnibus Permit Splitting Amendment</i>				50
	International Fisheries Management TMGC/TRAC/Steering Committee <u>ICCAT</u> <u>HMS Advisory Panel/HMS FMP</u> NAFO Commissioner		✓	✓	15					
	Staff: Protected Species issues		✓	✓	53					
	Review/revise priority setting process		✓	✓	23					
	Trawl Survey Advisory Panel			✓	Unranked					
	<i>Omnibus Vesse Baseline Amendment Version 3</i>				48					
	<i>Modify sink gillnet regulations in the Northeast Multispecies, monkfish, and skate fisheries</i>				53					
	<i>Examine and improve Council process</i>				42					