

## New England Fishery Management Council Timelines

### January 19, 2023

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# Scallops

## 1. Framework 38 – Fishing Years 2024 specifications, 2025 default specifications

**Scope:** 2024 specifications, 2025 default specifications

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Jonathon Peros

2023	
<b>JUN</b>	<b>NEFMC – Initiate</b>
<b>SEP</b>	<b>NEFMC – Council receives update on the development</b>
OCT	SSC recommends ABC for FY2023 and FY2024
OCT-NOV	Committee and PDT complete documents
<b>DEC</b>	<b>NEFMC – Council takes final action</b>
DEC ✓	Council staff complete decision draft
2024	
FEB	Council staff completes preliminary submission
FEB	NMFS publishes proposed rule
FEB	NMFS complete review of preliminary submission
MAR	Staff completes final submission for NMFS review and approval
APR 1	NMFS publishes final rule, Implementation

## 2. Framework 39 – Fishing Years 2025 specifications, 2026 default specifications

**Scope:** 2025 specifications, 2026 default specifications, measures to address the management of Georges Bank yellowtail flounder and northern windowpane flounder.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Connor Buckley and Jonathon Peros

2024	
<b>JUN</b>	<b>NEFMC – Initiate</b>
<b>SEP</b>	<b>NEFMC – Council receives update on the development</b>
OCT	SSC recommends ABC for FY2023 and FY2024
OCT-NOV	Committee and PDT complete documents
<b>DEC</b>	<b>NEFMC – Council takes final action</b>
DEC	Council staff complete decision draft
2025	
FEB	Council staff completes preliminary submission
FEB	NMFS publishes proposed rule
FEB	NMFS complete review of preliminary submission
MAR	Staff completes final submission for NMFS review and approval
APR 1	NMFS publishes final rule, Implementation

## Groundfish

### 3. Framework 66 – Fishing Years 2024-2026 Specifications/Management Measures

#### Scope:

- Set FY2024-FY2025 total allowable catches for US/Canada management units of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod and Eastern GB haddock, and the GB yellowtail flounder stock,
- Set FY2024-FY2025 specifications for Gulf of Maine (GOM) haddock, GB yellowtail flounder, and white hake,
- Set FY2024-FY2026 specifications for Acadian redfish, Northern windowpane flounder, and Southern windowpane flounder
- Removal of the management uncertainty buffer for sectors for white hake and GOM haddock until the next specifications cycle if the at-sea monitoring (ASM) target coverage rate is set at 90% or greater.
- Modify the trigger for implementing Accountability Measures (AMs) for Atlantic halibut for commercial fisheries, and
- Temporarily modify the AM implementation policy for Atlantic sea scallops for the GB yellowtail flounder stock

STAFF PROJECT MANAGERS: Robin Frede / Jamie Cournane / Angela Forristall

2023	
APR	Groundfish Advisory Panel and Groundfish Committee meet, receive update
<b>APR 18-20</b>	<b>Council receives an update</b>
MAY 22	Assessment Oversight Panel meets (redfish, northern windowpane flounder, southern windowpane flounder)
JUN	Groundfish and Recreational Advisory Panels and Groundfish Committee meet, receive update
<b>JUN 27-29</b>	<b>Council initiates action</b>
JUL 11-13	TRAC assesses US/CA management units of EGB cod and EGB haddock, and the GB yellowtail flounder stock
AUG 10	SSC discusses white hake recruitment contract work
SEP 8	SSC recommends OFLs/ABCs for FY2024-FY2025 for GB yellowtail flounder, white hake, and GOM haddock, discusses rebuilding plan for white hake
SEP 11-13	TMGC/SC meets to recommend TACs for US/CA management units/stock
SEP 18-20	Peer Review – Management Track Assessments for redfish and northern windowpane flounder
SEP 21-22	Groundfish and Recreational Advisory Panels and Groundfish Committee meet, continue to develop alternatives
<b>SEP 26-28</b>	<b>Council receives TMGC recommendations and reviews progress on developing draft alternatives</b>
OCT 27	SSC recommends OFLs/ABCS for FY2024-FY2026 for redfish, northern windowpane flounder, and southern windowpane flounder
<b>DEC 5-7</b>	<b>Council receives draft alternatives and takes final action</b>

<b>2024</b>	
JAN 4 ✓	Preliminary submission of framework document to NMFS
FEB	Final submission of framework document to NMFS
MAY	Target implementation

#### 4. Framework 68 – Acceptable Biological Control Rules

**Scope:** Modify/revise groundfish Acceptable Biological Control (ABC ) control rules

STAFF PROJECT MANAGERS: Jamie Cournane/Robin Frede/Angela Forristall

<b>2023</b>	
MAY 5	Scientific and Statistical Committee meets to discuss challenges /approaches
JUN 20	Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP) and Recreational Advisory Panel (RAP) meets
JUN 21	Groundfish Committee meets
<b>JUN 27-29</b>	<b>Council initiates action</b>
AUG 17	Facilitated Session and Groundfish Committee meets to discuss goals/objectives
SEP 21	Joint meeting – GAP and RAP
SEP 22	Groundfish Committee meets
<b>SEP 26-28</b>	<b>Council discusses goals and objectives, timeline and overlap with Risk Policy Working Group's work</b>
<b>DEC 5-7</b>	<b>Council receives update</b>
<b>2024</b>	
JAN-DEC	PDT, AP, and Committee develop plan
MAY-SEP	Focused public workshops
<b>DEC</b>	<b>Council approves transition plan</b>
<b>2025</b>	Final submission of framework document to NMFS
<b>2025</b>	Target implementation
MAY 1	Target implementation

## 5. Develop Atlantic Cod Management Transition Plan

STAFF PROJECT MANAGERS: Jamie Cournane / Angela Forristall / Robin Frede

2023	
<b>APR</b>	<b>Council provides feedback on work plan</b>
APR-NOV	RAP, GAP, Committee discuss topics at each meeting – spawning, data, allocation, etc.
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Council receives update</b>
<b>SEP</b>	<b>Council receives update</b>
<b>DEC</b>	<b>Council receives update</b>
2024	
JAN-DEC	PDT, AP, and Committee develop plan
MAY-SEP	Focused public workshops
<b>DEC</b>	<b>Council approves transition plan</b>
2025	
JAN-MAR	Final submission of framework document to NMFS
MAY 1	Target implementation

## 6. Develop Amendment 23 Review Metrics and Indicators

STAFF PROJECT MANAGERS: Robin Frede / Jamie Cournane  
/ Angela Forristall

2022	
MAY-JUN	Groundfish PDT develops initial list of possible review metrics and indicators, input from Groundfish AP and Groundfish Committee
<b>JUN 29</b>	<b>Council update</b>
JUL-OCT	Groundfish PDT continues developing possible metrics and indicators
2023	
JAN	Groundfish PDT continues developing possible metrics and indicators, input from Groundfish AP and Groundfish Committee
<b>JAN</b>	<b>Council update</b>
MAR 29	SSC input on list of possible metrics and indicators
<b>APR 19</b>	<b>Council update</b>
MAY-DEC	Groundfish PDT continues developing metrics and indicators, conducts preliminary analyses
2024	
<b>JAN</b>	<b>Council update</b>
JAN-DEC	Groundfish PDT continues developing metrics and indicators, additional input from Groundfish AP and Groundfish Committee

## Herring

### 1. Revisit Amendment 10 - action to minimize user conflicts related to the Atlantic herring fishery

**Scope:** To address spatial and temporal allocation and management of Atlantic herring at the management unit level to minimize user conflicts, contribute to optimum yield, support rebuilding of the resource, and to consider river herring and shad management measures (e.g., catch caps or time/area closures)

STAFF PROJECT MANAGERS:

Jamie Cournane / Emily Bodell

2023	
APR 11	Advisory Panel (AP) meets
APR 12	Committee (CMTE) meets
<b>APR</b>	<b>Council receives update</b>
JUN 14	AP meets
JUN 21	Committee meets
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Council develops problem statement</b>
AUG 31	AP and Committee meet
<b>SEP</b>	<b>Council receives update and begins Amendment 10</b>
2024	
JAN 12	AP and Committee meet
<b>JAN</b>	<b>Council reviews draft scoping document and draft public hearing schedule</b>
FEB-APR	Public Scoping Comment Period ( <i>exact dates TBD</i> )
<b>APR</b>	<b>Council receives update</b>
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Council receives summary of public scoping comments</b>
JUL-DEC*	Herring PDT, AP Committee develops alternatives
<b>SEP*</b>	<b>Council receives update</b>
<b>DEC/JAN*</b>	<b>Council approves draft alternatives for consideration</b>
*Draft and subject to change.	



## 2. Herring Specifications for 2025-2027

**Scope:** Adjust specifications, including the ACL, based on updated assessment information

STAFF PROJECT MANAGERS:

Jamie Cournane / Emily Bodell

2024	
FEB 28	Assessment Oversight Panel Meets
JUN	Management Track Stock Assessment Peer Review
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Council receives update</b>
JUL/AUG	Develop action
TBD	SSC recommends OFLs and ABCs
TBD	AP & Committee meet
<b>SEP</b>	<b>Council takes final action</b>
OCT	Preliminary submission to NMFS
NOV	Final submission to NMFS
2025	
TBD	NMFS publishes rule
JAN 1	Target implementation date

# Monkfish

## 1. Framework 15 – Joint Framework with MAFMC to Reduce Sturgeon Bycatch in Monkfish and Spiny Dogfish Gillnet Fisheries

**Scope:** Measures to reduce bycatch of Atlantic sturgeon in the monkfish and spiny dogfish gillnet fisheries and to address recommendations of NOAA’s Action Plan to Reduce Atlantic Sturgeon Bycatch in Federal Large-Mesh Gillnet Fisheries by 2024.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGERS:

Robin Frede/Jenny Couture – NEFMC  
Karson Cisneros - MAFMC

2023	
MAR	Formation of FMAT/PDT
APR	NEFMC - initiates Framework
APR-JUN	FMAT/PDT and Joint Dogfish and Monkfish Committee develop range of alternatives; Joint Dogfish and Monkfish AP input
JUN	MAFMC
JUN	NEFMC - approved range of alternatives for monkfish only
SEP	Joint Monkfish/Dogfish Committee with OLE/Coast Guard to refine alternatives
SEP	NEFMC – progress report
OCT	MAFMC – approve range of alternatives for dogfish & monkfish
AUG-NOV	FMAT/PDT continue to refine alternatives and begin analyzing alternatives
Fall	ASMFC meeting on alternatives
DEC	NEFMC - approves range of alternatives for dogfish
DEC	MAFMC – progress report
2024	
Winter	Joint AP meeting and joint Committee meeting to select preferred alternatives
APR	MAFMC – final action
APR	NEFMC – final action
TBD	Staff submits framework to NMFS
TBD	NMFS publishes proposed rule
TBD	NMFS publishes final rule/Implementation

## 2. Monkfish RSA Program Review

**Scope:** Measures to improve the Monkfish RSA program's effectiveness, etc. –  
Monkfish RSA Working Group

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Jenny Couture

<b>2023</b>	
MAR - APR	Staff draft work plan
<b>APR</b>	<b>Update provided to NEFMC, MAFMC</b>
APR - MAY	Establish work group
JUN - AUG	Work group meetings to discuss priority, potential improvements to RSA program
<b>SEP / OCT</b>	<b>Present recommendations to NEFMC, MAFMC</b>
OCT - NOV	Determine if any findings are appropriate for a 2024 priority
<b>2024</b>	
MAY -JUN	Staff draft work plan for action

## Whiting (Small-mesh Multispecies)

### 1. Specifications for Fishing Years 2024-2026

**Scope:** Adjustments to catch limits and potentially some measures for the 2024-2026 fishing years.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Andrew Applegate

2023	
AUG-SEP	PDT begins analysis and drafting of SAFE Report for fishing year 2022
SEP	Management track assessment
SEP	Council receives preliminary SAFE report (and initiates FW action if required)
SEP-OCT	PDT receives assessment data and updates SAFE Report; develops recommendations for 2024-2026 specifications
OCT 27	SSC receives draft SAFE Report, annual catch limit recommendations, and approves annual catch limit
NOV-DEC	Committee and Advisors meet to develop management alternatives; Staff and PDT begin development of specifications document
NOV	Committee identifies preferred alternatives
DEC	Council approves final specifications and management alternatives
2024	
JAN	Staff submits preliminary document to NMFS
FEB	NOAA Fisheries returns comments to Council
FEB-MAR	Staff submits final document to NMFS
MAR	NMFS publishes proposed rule
TBD	FINAL rule published
MAY 1	Target Implementation

# Skates

## 1. Framework Adjustment 12 - Specifications for Fishing Years 2024-2025

**Scope:** Adjustments to annual catch limits and possession limits for fishing years 2024 and 2025; consider revising barndoor and smooth skate possession restrictions

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Rachel Feeney

<b>2023</b>	
FEB	PDT preliminary work to support alternatives development
MAR	Committee and AP receive brief update
APR -SEP	Council meeting – updates; PDT and Committee continue work on action
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Council initiates framework</b>
SEP	Management track assessment for skates
OCT	SSC meeting to recommend ABC
NOV	PDT prepares action document; Final AP and Committee meetings to consider impact analysis and recommend preferred alternatives
<b>DEC</b>	<b>Council takes final action</b>
DEC ✓	Preliminary submission of document to NMFS
<b>2024</b>	
JAN/FEB	NOAA Fisheries provides comments to Council
FEB-MAR	Staff submits final document to NMFS
MAY 1	Target Implementation

# Deep-sea Red Crab

## 1. Fishing Years 2024-2027 Specifications

**Scope:** Set specifications for the Red Crab FMP for fishing years 2024-2027

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Chris Kellogg

2023	
JUN - JUL	PDT reviews data from the red crab fishery
JUN	Management track assessment reviewed
AUG	SSC develops ABC recommendation for FY 2020-2023
<b>SEP</b>	<b>Council takes final action on specifications</b>
OCT	Preliminary submission of document with supplemental information report
NOV	NMFS comments on preliminary submission
NOV 3	Final submission of specifications to NMFS
DEC ✓	Council deems proposed rule
2024	
MAR	Target implementation

# Habitat

## 2. Southern New England HAPC Framework

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Michelle Bachman

<b>2022</b>	
<b>FEB</b>	<b>Council initiates Framework</b>
FEB –APR	Committee and PDT develop range of HAPC designation alternatives including supporting information
<b>APR</b>	<b>Council reviews draft alternatives</b>
APR-JUN	Committee and PDT continue to refine range of HAPC designation alternatives including supporting information; AP review and input
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Council final action</b>
AUG	Staff submits framework to NOAA GARFO
<b>2023</b>	
MAR-APR	NOAA review and development of public notice
SEP-OCT	Public comment period (15 days)
<b>2024</b>	
TBD NOV-DEC	NOAA approval and implementation

## 3. Atlantic Salmon Aquaculture Framework

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Michelle Bachman

<b>2022</b>	
AUG	Committee discusses possibility of initiating Atlantic salmon framework action to authorize salmon aquaculture
SEP	PDT begins background work
<b>SEP</b>	<b>NEFMC initiates Atlantic salmon framework action</b>
OCT	PDT discusses scope of framework including background information and type of impact analyses required for action
NOV	Advisory Panel, Committee meet to discuss development of alternatives
DEC	Council update, PDT continues development
<b>2023</b>	
JAN	PDT meets to continue development, Council update
MAR	PDT finishes drafting framework, Committee recommends preferred alternatives
<b>APR</b>	<b>NEFMC final action</b>
MAY	Preliminary submission to NOAA GARFO
<b>2024</b>	
JAN	Comments expected from NOAA GARFO
FEB	Final submission to NOAA GARFO
TBD	Target implementation

#### 4. Northern Edge Habitat-Scallop Framework

**Scope:** Develop a scallop rotational harvest program within and/or around the Closed Area II Habitat Closure Area (i.e., “habitat management area” or “HMA”) that avoids habitats important to juvenile cod, minimizes adverse effects to essential fish habitats, minimizes adverse biological and economic impacts to other managed fisheries, and contributes to optimum yield for the scallop fishery.

**Note:** The timeline for this action is intended to support preparation of scallop fishery specifications for FY2025. Final Council action in April 2024 with submission soon thereafter should allow the Council to develop FY2025 specifications with minimal need for contingencies.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGERS:

Michelle Bachman / Jonathon Peros

2022	
DEC	Council prioritizes action
2023	
FEB/MAR	Kickoff meeting with PDTs, staff, as appropriate to define scope/goal and objectives
MAR	CTEs, Aps review draft goal and objectives
APR	Council approves goal and objectives, initiates action
MAY-JUN	Assemble spatial and other data and information
JUN-AUG	PDTs draft range of alternatives
AUG-SEP	CTEs, APs review range of alternatives
SEP	Council update and revision of action timeline
OCT-DEC	PDTs evaluate spatial concepts; begin to develop alternatives
NOV	Habitat AP, CTE input
DEC	Council update
2024	
JAN	Council update
JAN-MAR	PDTs continue to develop alternatives and preliminary impacts analysis; Habitat and Scallop CTE and AP meetings
APR	Council reviews analysis of spatial concepts and other alternatives
MAY – SEP (SEP final action) or MAY-NOV (DEC final action)	PDTs, APs, and CTEs finalize range of alternatives and impacts analysis; APs and CTEs recommend preferred alternatives; staff complete impact analyses
APR SEP or DEC	Council final action



OCT-DEC (if <u>SEP</u> <u>final action</u> )	Staff completes and submits action to NOAA Fisheries
<b>2025</b>	
JAN – FEB 2025 (if <u>DEC final</u> <u>action</u> )	Staff completes and submits action to NOAA Fisheries
TBD	NOAA Fisheries Review
TBD	Implementation

## 5. Essential Fish Habitat Review

**Scope:** Review description and identification of EFH. Evaluate new scientific literature and information from other relevant sources including the Northeast Regional Habitat Assessment to see whether species-specific EFH description and identification, as written in the FMP as text and provided as maps, is appropriate and reflects best available information and methods. Suggest changes to EFH text or map designations as appropriate.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Michelle Bachman

<b>2022</b>	
<b>DEC</b>	<b>Council prioritizes action</b>
<b>2023</b>	
MAY	MAFMC EFH Fishery Management Action Team methods meeting, with participation by Habitat PDT members
JUN-AUG	Staff/PDT/FMAT work on designation methods; AP and Committee discuss action format/phasing
<b>SEP</b>	<b>Council update</b>
SEP	Joint NEFMC-MAFMC SSC sub-panel meeting to discuss EFH designation methods
OCT-NOV	Committee reviews sub-panel findings; discusses action format/phasing
<b>2024</b>	
<b>APR</b>	<b>Council initiates framework</b>
<i>Remainder of timeline to be developed</i>	

# Spiny Dogfish

## 6. Specifications for Fishing Years 2024-2026

STAFF PROJECT MANAGERS: Jason Didden – MAFMC  
David McCarron – NEFMC

2023	
FEB	Assessment Oversight Panel Meeting for June Management Track Stock Assessments
MAY	Joint Spiny Dogfish and Monkfish Committee Meeting
SEP	Joint Monkfish/Dogfish Committee with OLE/Coast Guard to refine Sturgeon alternatives
SEP	Management Track Assessments Peer Review Meeting
SEP	Spiny Dogfish Advisory Panel Meeting
OCT	MAFMC SSC Meeting
NOV	Spiny Dogfish Committee Meeting to recommend annual specifications
DEC	MAFMC Council Meeting – 2024-2026 annual specifications
2024	
<b>JAN</b>	<b>NEFMC final action on 2024-2026 annual specifications</b>
SEP	MAFMC SSC Meeting
MAY 1	Target implementation

***Framework 15 – Joint Framework with MAFMC to Reduce Sturgeon Bycatch in Monkfish and Spiny Dogfish Gillnet Fisheries***

***See timeline under Monkfish***

# Ecosystems Based Fishery Management

Scope: Phase III – Public engagement and Management Strategy Evaluation

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Andrew Applegate

2019	
SEP	Council receives complete eFEP framework; MSE Steering Committee progress report
DEC	MSE Steering Committee makes recommendations for an MSE process to evaluate Georges Bank Ecosystem Production Unit management procedures, including stakeholder engagement.
2020	
JAN-FEB	Staff develops RFP for EBFM science communicator and communicator begins contract
MAR– JUN	EBFM, staff, and the EBFM Committee work with GreenFinStudio to produce public information materials. Plan public meetings and contract with facilitators.
JUN	Council receives final draft outreach materials from GreenFinStudio
JUN-JUL	Council receives final outreach deliverables from GreenFinStudio
JUL-AUG	Committee develops recommendations for workshop format and framework, based on public outreach materials
AUG-SEP	Council staff solicits applications for facilitators and negotiates statement of work; organizes meetings
SEP	Council receives planning update on public outreach workshops
OCT	Council discussion of path for EBFM
DEC	Council discussion of path for EBFM continued
2021	
FEB	Council adds five stakeholder members to the MSE Steering Committee
MAR-MAY	MSE Steering Committee develops and recommends workshop plan
JUN	Council approves workshop plan
NOV-JAN	Hire needed contractors and schedule workshops
2022	
MAR-APR	Staff works with facilitator to develop engagement strategy and plan workshops; seek invited experts to give presentations and answer public questions
MAR-APR	Staff and PDT develop draft Prototype MSE plan
APR	Council approves Prototype MSE plan
APR-MAY	Council issues request for proposals for a contractor to conduct Prototype MSE and evaluates applicants
APR-JUN	Council conducts first phase of public outreach meetings and analysis (Facilitator)
MAY-JUN	Analyze and summarize workshops (Facilitator)
JUN	Advertises for contractor to develop and conduct Prototype MSE based on plan
JUN	Council receives outreach reports and continues preparing for public information workshops
JUL	Council hires contractor to develop and conduct Prototype MSE
OCT-NOV	Conduct six initial outreach workshops using the facilitator
OCT- FEB	Analyze Management Strategies (Contractor) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present initial strategies at workshops</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify most viable strategies (MSE)</li> </ul> Present results to SSC
OCT-NOV	EBFM Committee and Advisory Panel chairs (“stakeholders”) and EBFM PDT meet to develop management objectives, operating models, and candidate management procedures (Contractor)
NOV	SSC review of operating models and proposed Prototype MSE
DEC	Report: Summary of the initial outreach workshops Progress report: Prototype MSE development
<b>2023</b>	
JAN-MAR	MSE meetings reporting results to EBFM Committee and Advisory Panel chairs (“stakeholders”), EBFM PDT, and SSC
JAN	Council receives pMSE progress report
FEB	Contractor presents pMSE plan to the Scientific and Statistical Committee
FEB-MAR	pMSE contractor develops models and evaluates candidate management procedures and presents preliminary results to the stakeholders; staff develops and advertises request for proposals for deep-dive public information workshops
MAR-APR	Council publishes request for proposals for deep-dive workshop development and facilitation
APR	Council receives pMSE progress report (Contractor)
MAY	Staff reviews facilitator proposals and negotiates a contract to conduct workshops
JUN	Contractor completes Prototype MSE analysis and presents results to the EBFM Committee and SSC
JUN	Final report: Prototype MSE development (Contractor)
JUL	Council receives final Prototype MSE report (Contractor)
SEP	Committee considers how to digest pMSE results and engage stakeholders at deep-dive workshops; develops recommendations on how to proceed with EBFM in 2024.
SEP	Council considers EBFM Committee recommendations
OCT-DEC	Recruit and prepare presenters and panelists for deep-dive workshops
DEC	Council votes to discontinue EBFM program and cancel workshops
<b>2024</b>	
JAN-MAR	<del>Conduct and facilitate deep-dive workshops (Contractor)</del>
APR	<del>Presentation: Summary of deep-dive workshops (Contractor)</del>
APR	<del>Council receives deep-dive workshop final report</del>