

Executive Director's Report April 2026

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New England Fishery Management Council

April 14, 2026

Portland, ME



**New England Fishery
Management Council**

Financial Update

- 2025 – 2029 Award
 - Received ~25% of CY2026 funds
 - Expect remaining funds in coming weeks
 - Initiated IT projects that were paused in 2025
 - Processing state contracts
 - Updated spending plan after Q1

- Inflation Reduction Act
 - No Cost Extension through December 31, 2027

Grant	Proposed Budget	Received Funds	Available Balance
NA25 – Cooperative Award			
• Operating budget	\$21,690,804	\$5,915,376	\$1,710,230
• Salary/benefits			
• Stipends			
• Travel			
• Contracts			
NA24 - IRA			
• Initiatives - contracts	\$2,494,982	\$2,494,982	\$1,080,671
• % Salary - select staff			
• Hardware/Software			



Executive Committee Meeting – Mar 25, 2026















- Council Stipend Policy
 - Review of half-day stipend and virtual meeting cost savings
 - Ex Com recommendations (Memo – 3/30/26)
 - Revert to full day stipends for all eligible Council members, effective April 1, 2026 (no retro)
 - Consider future opportunities for virtual Council meetings
- Management Timelines – New Documentation
 - Responsive to feedback for more user-friendly documents
 - Focus on status of recent/ongoing actions
 - Clear information about current Council meeting tasks and upcoming Council activities



Status of Recent Council Actions

















FMP	Action Name / Focus	Final Action	NEPA	Preliminary Submission	Final Submission	Proposed Rule	Final Rule	Effective
Omnibus	Management Flexibility Action	23-Sep-25	CE	6-Nov-25	4-Feb-26			
Groundfish	Framework 69	4-Dec-25	EA	7-Jan-25	11-Mar-25	7-Jan-26	8-Mar-26	9-Mar-26
Groundfish	Amendment 25 Revised	24-Sep-25	EA	12-Dec-25	5-Mar-26	18-Mar-26		
Groundfish	Framework 72	3-Dec-25	SIR	3-Mar-26				
Scallops	Framework 40	3-Dec-25	SIR	5-Jan-26	4-Feb-26		27-Mar-26	1-Apr-26
Skate	Specifications	23-Sep-25	SIR	17-Nov-26	11-Feb-26	26-Mar-26		
Monkfish	Framework 17	23-Sep-25	SIR	24-Nov-25	20-Jan-26			
Habitat	EFH Designation Framework	24-Sep-25	CE					
Dogfish	Specifications and AM Framework	2-Dec-26	EA					
Herring	2025-2027 Specifications	26-Sep-24	SIR	8-Oct-24	6-May-25	25-Jun-25	11-Dec-25	11-Dec-25

2026 Priorities and Outlook – Management Topics

Topic	April	June	September	December	January	NEPA
Risk Policy						
Revised Concept & Weightings						FMP Specific
Holistic Strategic Plan						
Draft Plan and Report – Parnin Group	 					N/A
Final Plan, Implementation Plan, Outreach						N/A
Other Updates						
Risk Value Matrix						N/A
EO 14276						FMP Specific
Vessel Baseline Evaluation						TBD
Inflation Reduction Act Initiatives						TBD


















UPDATES	DECISION / REVIEW	REPORT	INITIATE ACTION	FINAL ACTION
				

2026 Priorities and Outlook – Fishery Management Plans

FMP / Priority	April	June	September	December	January	NEPA
Groundfish 						
Redfish Sector Exemption Review						N/A
Amendment 23 Review						N/A
FW68 - ABC Control Rule						CE
FW7X – FY27-31 Specs and other measures						EA
Recreational Measures						NMFS
Scallops 						
FW42 – FY27-28 Specs and other measures						EA
Develop new projection methods						N/A






UPDATES	DECISION / REVIEW	REPORT	INITIATE ACTION	FINAL ACTION
				

2026 Priorities and Outlook – Fishery Management Plans

FMP / Priority	April	June	September	December	January	NEPA
Monkfish & Skates 						
Monkfish CPUE Review						
Monkfish/Skate Wing IFQ Scoping						
White Paper on 2025 Joint Management						
Herring 						
FY27-31 Specs and river herring/shad measures						EA
Small-Mesh 						
FY27-31 Specs and other measures						EA or SIR
Habitat 						
EFH Framework 2						CE

UPDATES 	DECISION / REVIEW 	REPORT 	INITIATE ACTION 	FINAL ACTION 
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April Meeting Overview

UPDATES 	DECISION / REVIEW 	REPORTS 	INITIATE ACTION 	FINAL ACTION 
Risk Policy Concept - Revisions	Monkfish / Skate IFQ Scoping Doc	Redfish Sector Exemption Review		
Risk / Value Matrix – National and Regional Activities	E.O. 14276 – Review comments and Council workplan	Monkfish / Skate White Paper on Joint Management		
Herring Action – Specifications and Other Measures	Review Draft Holistic Strategic Plan	Monkfish CPUE Review		
2026 State of the Ecosystem Report				



Recent Events and Correspondence

- Events
 - Maine Fishermen's Forum – Mar 5-7
 - NGOM Scallop Fishery Upcoming Changes and Resource Outlook
 - Federal Fisheries Leadership Panel
 - Boston Seafood Show
 - Meeting to reorganize Transboundary Management Guidance Committee
- Correspondence
 - 3/10/26 – Comments on USACE application for a mussel farm
 - 3/27/26 – Comments on EFP re Targeted Inshore Cod Closure
 - 3/31/26 – Comments on USFWS Proposed Rule for adding cephalopods to definition of “shellfish”

