

New England Fishery Management Council Timelines
April 20, 2015

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SCALLOPS

1. Scallop Framework Adjustment 27

OBJECTIVE: 2016-2017 Scallop Specifications – fishery specifications only;

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Deirdre Boelke

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: JAN 2016

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: MAY 2016

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. PDT begins work on framework	APR 2015	✓
2. Council initiates framework	JUN 2015	
3. SSC develops ABC recommendations	SEP- OCT 2015	
4. Council approves framework	DEC 2015	
5. Final submission of framework to NMFS	JAN 2016	
6. Implementation	MAY 2016	

2. Scallop Amendment 19

OBJECTIVE: Implement measures to implement fishery specifications closer to the start of the scallop fishing year

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Deirdre Boelke

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: JAN 2016

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: JUN 2016

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. Staff begins work on amendment	MAR 2015	✓
2. Council initiates amendment	JUN 2015	
3. Council reviews draft amendment	SEP 2015	
4. Public hearings	OCT-NOV 2015	
5. Council approves amendment	DEC 2015	
6. Final submission of amendment to NMFS	JAN 2016	
7. Implementation	JUN 2016	

GROUND FISH

1. Amendment 18 – Accumulation Limits & Fleet Diversity (with EIS)

OBJECTIVE: Amendment to consider accumulation limits; measures to preserve fleet diversity, measures to enable US-Canada quota trading, measures for permit banks; other measures.

The Council is waiting for guidance from NMFS about whether an EIS will be required.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Rachel Feeney

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: APR 2015

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: MAY 1, 2015

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. Staff completes draft Fleet Diversity, Allocation, and Excessive Shares whitepaper	SEP 2010	✓
2. NMFS publishes control date for A18	APR 2011	✓
3. Accumulation Limits Workshop	JUN 2011	✓
4. Committee approves scoping document	AUG 2011	✓
5. Council approves scoping document	SEP 2011	✓
6. Scoping hearings	NOV-DEC 2011	✓JAN 2012 ¹⁻
7. Council reviews scoping comments	JAN 2012	✓JUN 2012 ²⁻
8. Council considers fishery performance data and sets goals & objectives for the amendment	MAR-JUN 2013 ³⁻	✓JUN 2013
9. Independent peer review of Compass-Lexecon report on excessive shares in the groundfish fishery	APR-MAY 2015	✓JUN 2015 ⁴⁻
10. Council <u>partially</u> approves range of alternatives for DEIS		✓JUN 2015 ⁵⁻
11. Council approves remaining range of alternatives for DEIS	JAN 2015	✓NOV 2014 ⁶⁻
12. Council approves DEIS & selects preferred alternatives	APR 2015	APR 2015
13. NMFS accepts DEIS	JUN 2015	JUN 2015
14. Public hearings - 45-day comment period	JUL – AUG	JUL-AUG 2015
15. Council votes on final action	SEP 2015	SEP 2015
16. Amendment & FEIS submitted to NMFS	NOV 2015	NOV-2015
17. Revisions, final submission of amendment & FEIS, review, and deeming of proposed regulations. NMFS publishes NOA. 60-day public comment period	NOV 2015 - FEB 2015	NOV-DEC 2015
18. Implementation	TBD	MAY 2016

1. Delayed by additional time needed to complete Framework 47

2. Further delayed from April until June by Executive Committee decision on to extend the comment period by an additional 60 days

3. The Council revised Groundfish priorities for 2012 and put several actions ahead of the completion of Amendment 18.

4. The results of this review of the Compass Lexecon report will not be available until a later time.

5. The Council delayed approving the full range of alternatives to include measures that address fishing effort in the inshore Gulf of Maine.

6. The Council delayed approving the full range of alternatives because discussion about GOM cod management issues for FW53 and emergency action did not leave enough time at the Sep-Oct Council meeting.

2. Framework 55 2016-2018 –Specifications for Groundfish Stocks, etc.

OBJECTIVE: Specifications for US/CA stocks (GB yellowtail flounder, EGB cod, EGB haddock) for FY 2016, and specifications for all other groundfish stocks for FY 2016-FY 2018

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Jamie Cournane

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: JAN 2016

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: MAY 2016

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. Council initiates framework	JUN 2015	
2. TRAC assessments for US/CA stocks including GB yellowtail flounder	JUN 2015	
3. SSC recommends ABC for GB yellowtail flounder	AUG – SEP 2015	
4. Groundfish assessment updates for all stocks except for GB yellowtail flounder	SEP 2015	
5. TMGC recommends TACs for US/CA stocks	SEP 2015	
6. SSC completes ABC recommendations	OCT 2015	
7. PDT analyzes alternatives	AUG - NOV 2015	
8. Council approves framework /specifications	DEC 2015	
9. Final submission of framework document to NMFS	JAN 2016	
10. Implementation	MAY 2016	

Herring

1. Specifications for FY2016-2018

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Lori Steele
 TARGET COMPLETION DATE: TBD
 TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: TBD

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. Operational assessment	APR 2015	✓
2. SSC peer reviews operational assesement	APR 2015	✓
3. Council discusses the action in the context of new information provided	JUN 2015	
4. PDT analyzes alternatives	JUL – SEP 2015	
5. Council selects a preferred alternative	SEP 2015	
6. Council final action	DEC 2015	
7. Final submission of framework to NMFS	TBD	
8. Implementation	TBD	

2. Framework 4 – Disapproved Elements of Amendment 5

OBJECTIVE: Address some disapproved elements of Amendment 5, including dealer weighing provisions and measures to address net slippage

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Lori Steele
 TARGET COMPLETION DATE: JUN 2015
 TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: OCT 2015

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. PDT and Committee begin work on framework	JAN 2014	✓
2. Council initiates framework action	JAN 2014	✓
3. PDT analyzes alternatives	FEB-MAR 2014	✓
4. Council approves framework action	APR 2014	✓
5. Preliminary submission of framework to NMFS		✓JUL 2014
6. Completion of NMFS review of preliminary framework document		✓JAN 2015
7. Final submission of framework to NMFS	JUN 2014	✓FEB 2015
8. Implementation	JAN 2015	OCT 2015

WHITING (Small Mesh Multispecies)

1. Multispecies Amendment 21 – Small Mesh Multispecies Limited Access

OBJECTIVE: Develop Limited access program for Small Mesh Multispecies FMP which includes whiting.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Andrew Applegate
 TARGET COMPLETION DATE: To be determined (TBD)
 TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: To be determined (TBD)

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. Staff begins work on amendment	MAR 2015	✓
2. Staff /PDT develops scoping document	TBD	
3. Council approves scoping document	TBD	
4. Council approves management alternatives for analysis	TBD	
5. PDT prepares Draft Amendment	TBD	
6. Council approves draft amendment and selects preferred alternatives	TBD	
7. Public hearings	TBD	
8. Council approves final amendment measures	TBD	
9. Staff submits final amendment to NMFS	TBD	
10. Implementation	TBD	

1. A control date for this action was published on November 28, 2012.

2. Whiting & Hake Specifications for 2015-2017

OBJECTIVE: 2015-2017 specifications for whiting, red hake and offshore hake – ABCs/ACLs, AMs and trip limits if applicable

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Andrew Applegate
 TARGET COMPLETION DATE: JAN 2015
 TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: MAY 2015

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. PDT begins work on specifications	JUN 2015	✓
2. Assessment update	JUL 2015	✓
3. SSC develops ABC recommendations	AUG 2015	✓
4. Council initiates specifications	OCT 2015	✓
5. Council approves specifications	DEC 2015	✓
6. Final submission of specifications package to NMFS	JAN 2016	✓MAR 2016
7. Implementation	MAY 2016	AUG 2016

HABITAT

1. Omnibus Essential Fish Habitat Amendment 2, Phases I & II

OBJECTIVE: Designate EFH, and HAPCs as necessary, for all managed species; minimize the adverse effects of fishing on EFH to the extent practicable in a consistent manner across all FMPs; evaluate and possibly modify system of groundfish closures.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Michelle Bachman

MILESTONES	PLANNED / REVISED COMPLETION DATE	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. Phase 1 scoping hearings	MAR 2004	✓
2. Council approves EFH designations (Phase 1)	JUN 2007	✓
3. Peer Review of Habitat Models	FEB 2011	✓
4. Committee develops alternatives to minimize, to the extent practicable, adverse effects of fishing on EFH (including coral alts)	MAY-JUN 2011	Through AUG 2011
5. PDT analyzes adverse effects minimization alternatives (including coral alts)	MAY-JUN 2011	✓MAY-SEP 2011
6. Habitat Committee finalizes adverse effects minimization options (=habitat options), forwards to joint process with groundfish	Winter 2011-2012	✓FEB 2012
7. Council approves deep-sea coral alternatives for analysis	APR 2012	✓
8. Council moves deep-sea coral alternatives into a separate action	SEP 2012	✓
9. Habitat Committee develops Designated Habitat Research Area (DHRA) options	n/a	✓
10. Groundfish CATT/PDT/AP/Committee develop options for groundfish areas	DEC-MAR 2013	✓DEC-MAR 2013 ² .
11. Council reviews groundfish options ³	APR 23-25 2013	NA
12. Habitat and Groundfish Committees package habitat and groundfish options into alternatives ⁴	MAR-APR 2013	✓MAY-JUN 2013
13. Council approves packaged habitat /groundfish alternatives, including DHRAs, for analysis in DEIS	APR 2013	✓JUN 2013
14. Council approves Omnibus 2 draft EIS; selects preferred alternatives	JUN 2013	✓FEB 2014 ⁵ .
15. Preliminary submission of DEIS	<i>added milestone</i>	✓MAY 2014
16. NMFS completes review of preliminary submission	<i>early JUL 2014</i>	✓JUL-SEP 2014
17. Final submission of Omnibus 2 DEIS (combining EFH and HAPC designations, habitat/groundfish alternatives, and DHRAs)	<i>JUN 2014 ⁶</i>	✓SEP-OCT 2015
18. NMFS publishes NOA, starts 45-day comment period	<i>JUL 2014 ⁶</i>	✓OCT 2014
19. Public hearings	<i>AUG 2014 ⁶</i>	✓ NOV 2014-JAN 2015
20. Council reviews public comments, selects final alternatives	NOV 2014 ⁶	APR 2015
21. Staff submission of amendment and FEIS to NMFS	<i>JAN 2014 ⁶</i>	JUN-1-15
22. NMFS provide comments on submission		JUN-26-15
23. Staff revisions submitted to NMFS		JUL-10-15
24. Proposed rule published		SEP-15-15
25. Final rule published		NOV-16-15
26. Implementation	<i>AUG 2015 ⁶</i>	DEC-16-15

1. Planned completion dates for pending items are based on the November 2012 timeline.

2. CATT convened in August 2012. Projected completion of this step was pushed back due to delay in Groundfish Framework 48 and complexity of technical issues and analyses.
3. Step added to January 2013 timeline for clarification.
4. Delayed from NOV 2013 because of Federal government shutdown and Council decision in DEC 2013 to request more complete analysis of alternatives
5. Revised as a result of alternatives added at Feb 25-26, 2015 Council meeting

2. Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment

OBJECTIVE: Designate deep-sea coral protection zones in the Gulf of Maine, continental slope and canyons, and New England seamounts, and develop fishing restrictions to protect corals within those zones.

PROJECT MANAGER: Michelle Bachman
TARGET COMPLETION DATE: To be determined (TBD)
TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: To be determined (TBD)

Comments: work on the coral amendment will be reinitiated once the Council completes Omnibus EFH Amendment 2. The Mid-Atlantic Council is pursuing a similar action and efforts and analyses will be coordinated between the two Councils. The timeline may be compressed if an Environmental Assessment can be completed, rather than an EIS.

MILESTONES	PLANNED ¹ .	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. Council directed PDT to evaluate information related to deep-sea corals and develop alternatives for deep-sea coral protection	-	✓ FEB 2008
2. Committee and PDT develop deep-sea coral alternatives	-	✓ SEP 2010-APR 2012
3. Advisory Panel reviews deep-sea coral alternatives	-	✓ JAN 2012
4. Council approves deep-sea coral alternatives for analysis	APR 2012	✓
5. Council develops and approves MOU with MAFMC and SAFMC coordinating coral management activities	SEP 2012	✓ JUN 2013
6. Council splits coral alternatives from Omnibus EFH Amendment 2; initiate separate coral action	SEP 2012	✓
7. Council approves Omnibus Coral draft EIS (or EA) and public hearing document; selects preferred alternatives	NOV 2012	TBD ² .
8. Staff submits Omnibus Coral DEIS	DEC 2012	TBD
9. NMFS publishes NOA, starts 45-day comment period (perhaps reduced in scope if EA)	JAN 2012	TBD
10. Public hearings (perhaps reduced in scope if EA)	JAN 2012	TBD
11. Council approves Coral Amendment EIS (or EA)	APR 2013	TBD
12. Final submission of amendment and FEIS to NMFS	JUN 2013	TBD
13. Implementation	DEC 2013	TBD

1. Planned dates were based on the coral amendment being completed before Omnibus EFH Amendment 2; however the Council decided to finish the coral amendment after the Omnibus EFH A2 submission.
2. This could occur at the Council meeting following Omnibus EFH A2 submission.

MONKFISH

1. Framework Adjustment 9 (Groundfish Framework 54)

OBJECTIVE: The framework modifies the DAS system for monkfish and groundfish

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Fiona Hogan

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: To be determined (TBD)

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: To be determined (TBD)

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
Framework 9		
1. NEFMC initiates framework adjustment	NOV 2014	✓
2. Committee develops management alternatives for framework	SEP 2014 – DEC 2014	✓SEP 2014 –APR 2014
3. NEFMC approves range of alternatives	APR 2015	
4. PDT analyzes alternatives	MAR – APR 2015	
5. NEFMC approves framework	JUN 2015	
6. MAFMC approves framework	JUN 2015	
7. Final submission of framework to NMFS	AUG 2015	
8. Implementation	SEP 2015-MAY 2016	

2. Amendment 6

OBJECTIVE: The framework would address measures currently included in A6 that could be implemented via a framework action, e.g. modifications to the DAS system. A6 would consider catch shares including sectors and IFQs in the Monkfish FMP, and would address latent effort. A6 would be completed after the framework.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Fiona Hogan
TARGET COMPLETION DATE: To be determined (TBD)
TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: To be determined (TBD)

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. Committee restarts the development of management alternatives for A6	SEP 2015	TBD
2. NEFMC approves Amendment 6 alternatives for analysis in Draft EIS (including voter eligibility)*	SEP 2016	TBD
3. <i>MAFMC approves Amendment 6 alternatives for analysis in Draft EIS (including voter eligibility)*</i>	OCT 2016	TBD
4. NEFMC approves Draft Amendment 6/Draft EIS, public hearing document & selects preferred alternatives	JAN 2017	TBD
5. <i>MAFMC approves Draft Amendment 6/Draft EIS, public hearing document & selects preferred alternatives</i>	FEB 2017	TBD
6. Public Hearings	APR 2017	TBD
7. NEFMC reviews public and advisor comments and O/S recommendations; approves final Amendment 6 measures	JUN 2017	TBD
8. <i>MAFMC reviews public and advisor comments and O/S recommendations; approves final Amendment 6 measures</i>	JUL 2017	TBD
9. NMFS prepares and conducts referendum (including proposed and final rule), tally results; concurrent with FEIS preparation	JUN 2018	TBD
10. Staff submits FEIS for preliminary review	AUG2018	TBD
11. Final submission of amendment & FEIS to NMFS	OCT 2018	TBD
12. NMFS review/approval/publish proposed rule	NOV 2018	TBD
13. Implementation	MAY 2019	TBD

1. Timing refers to original amendment timeline
2. If Council includes ITQ program requiring a referendum

SKATES

1. Framework to End Overfishing for Winter and Thorny Skates

OBJECTIVE: End overfishing for winter and thorny skates

PROJECT MANAGER: Fiona Hogan

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: DEC 2015

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: MAY 2015

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED(✓) / PROJECTED
1. PDT develops monitoring report	JUL - SEP 2015	✓ NOV 2015
2. Council initiates framework adjustment (the timing of the action will depend on the results of the monitoring report)	JUN 2015	
3. PDT begins work on framework	TBD	
4. Committee & PDT develop & analyze alternatives	TBD	
5. Council approves framework	TBD	
6. Final submission of framework to NMFS	TBD	
7. Implementation	TBD	

Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) Amendment

OBJECTIVE: Remedy deficiencies in current SBRM amendment in cooperation with NMFS and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

NMFS Project Manager: Douglas Potts

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: APR 2015

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: APR 2015

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. NEFMC & MAFMC approve management alternatives for analysis	SEP 2012	✓
2. FMAT prepares Draft Amendment	OCT 2012- FEB 2013	✓
3. Councils approve draft alternatives for public comment	APR 2013 ¹	✓ JUN 2013
4. Draft available for public comment period	MAY	✓ SEP-OCT 2013 ²
5. MAFMC approves final action	JUN 2013	✓ APR 2014 ³
6. NEFMC approves final action	JUN 2013	✓ APR 2014 ³
7. Implementation	NOV 2013	APR 2015

1. Draft alternatives were not completed in April for review by Councils.

2. Delayed to address concerns identified at June MAFMC and NEFMC meetings

3. Delayed to extend public comment period

Vessel Baseline Omnibus Amendment

OBJECTIVE: Streamline or reduce vessel upgrade restrictions in NEFMC and MAFMC FMPs in cooperation with NMFS

NMFS Project Manager: Travis Ford

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: JUL 2015

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: MAY 2015

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. GARFO staff presents plan to both Councils	AUG - SEP 2013	✓
2. GARFO staff gather input from species committees, as requested	NOV 2013 – JAN 2015	✓ JAN 2015
3. Analyze alternatives and draft amendment document	MAR – APR 2015	✓ MAY 2015 ¹ .
4. Councils approve draft amendment	APR 2015	✓ JUN 2015 ¹ .
5. 30-day comment period on draft amendment	JUL 2015	✓ AUG – SEP 2015
6. <i>Final MAFMC approval of amendment document</i>	<i>AUG 2015</i>	✓ <i>OCT 2015</i>
7. Final NEFMC approval of amendment document	SEP – OCT 2015	✓ NOV 2015 ² .
8. Proposed and final rulemaking	OCT 2015 – FEB 2015	DEC 2015 – APR 2015
9. Implementation (with start of NE Multispecies fishing year)	MAY 1, 2015	

1. Delayed because the NEFMC the Council expressed an interest in starting a discussion with the MAFMC to remove or loosen vessel length and HP upgrade restrictions, and these are larger changes than the ones currently being considered
2. Delayed because of ull NEFMC meeting agenda in SEP-OCT 2015

Industry-funded Monitoring Amendment

OBJECTIVE: Develop an industry-funded monitoring program to meeting monitoring objectives for all FMPs

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Lori Steele/ Monitoring Amendment FMAT

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: JULY 2015

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: JAN 2015

MILESTONES	PROJECTED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. FMAT begins work on action	FEB 2013	✓
2. NMFS provides NEFMC guidance on type of action required and possible funding mechanisms	SEP 2013	✓ NOV 2013
3. Councils approve draft range coverage target range of alternatives of alternatives to be analyzed	JAN / FEB 2015	✓ JAN / FEB 2015
4. PDT/FMAT/Councils develop alternatives, draft EA	FEB-OCT 2015 ¹	✓ FEB –APR 2015
5. Councils approve additional alternatives for inclusion in an Environmental Assessment		APR 2015
6. Councils approve draft EA for public review	NOV-DEC 2015	JUN 2015
7. Councils take final action	JAN-FEB 2015	SEP 2015
8. Final rule published	JUN 2015	JAN 2016
9. Final rule effective	JUL 2015	FEB 2016

1. New timeline proposed by NMFS in response to comments at NEFMC and MAFMC meeting that the public and Councils would like more opportunity to provide input and consider the implications of the action.

Background

Timelines are included for all actions that still require Council, committee or staff work during the current calendar year or that have not been fully implemented. Timelines are updated only after review by the Executive Committee or at the direction of the Council Chair between Executive Committee meetings.

Notes on major changes to timelines since September 2015

1. Omnibus Habitat Amendment 2 - Public hearings were delayed from September- October 2015 to November 2015 - January 2015 and final action delayed from January 2015 to April 2015 due to longer time than expected for the review of DEIS and to respond to NMFS comments including addressing additional concerns about possible changes to the protection of spawning cod.
2. Multispecies Amendment 18 - Final action delayed from NOV 2015 to JUN 2015 the Council delayed approving the full range of alternatives to include measures that address fishing effort in the inshore Gulf of Maine. There had been two timelines for this action: one that included the requirement for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and a shorter one that included a requirement for an environmental assessment (EA). The shorter timeline was dropped when the Council added alternatives for inshore/offshore differences in management measures for the Gulf of Maine that will probably trigger the need to include an EIS instead of an EA.