

New England Fishery Management Council Timelines

AUG 31, 2017

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Background

Preliminary or draft timelines may be provided for actions for which Action Plans have not been formally approved; however, they will be revised as needed when Actions Plans are available. The Council, together with GARFO and the NEFSC, will develop action plans for all regulatory actions as soon as practicable.

Timelines are provided for actions until they have been approved or disproved by NMFS. They are updated only after review by the Executive Committee or at the direction of the Council Chair between Executive Committee meetings or as part of the process for updating action plans.

SCALLOPS

1. Framework 29 Specifications for FY 2018 and 2019 Default, Etc.

Scope: 2018-2019 Scallop Specifications; NGOM management measures; AMs for N. windowpane, GB and SNE/MA yellowtail flounder.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Jonathon Peros

2017	
APR 18	NEFMC – Council initiates action
MAY	PDT work on 2017 priorities
JUN	Committee / PDT develop alternatives
JUN 20-22	NEFMC – receives information on development of management measures
JUL-SEP	Committee / PDT develop alternatives
SEP 26-28	NEFMC – receives information on the development of specifications
OCT	SSC recommends ABC for FY17 and FY18
OCT-NOV	Committee and PDT complete documents
DEC 5-7	NEFMC – Council takes final action
DEC-JAN	Council staff submits decision draft completes pre-submission
2018	
JAN	NMFS publishes proposed rule
JAN	EA reviewed by NMFS
FEB	Staff completes final submission for NMFS review and approval
MAR	NMFS publishes final rule
APR 1	Target Implementation

2. Scallop Framework Adjustment – Access Area Boundaries

Scope: Modify scallop access area boundaries consistent with Omnibus Habitat Amendment 2

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Jonathon Peros

***Timeline to be developed based on implementation of
Omnibus Habitat Amendment 2***

3. Other Scallop priority timelines to be developed

Staff: NMFS and PDT have new <u>annual responsibilities related to estimating scallop and YT catch during the year</u> (i.e. LA AM exception, re- evaluation of YT sub-ACL based on updated information).

<i>Integrate findings from Sea Scallop Survey Methods Peer Review (process TBD, but may include additional review of how surveys are combined for management advice)</i>
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GROUND FISH

1. Framework 57 FY 2018-2020 Groundfish Specifications, etc.

Scope: Incorporate status changes / set specifications for all groundfish stocks for FY 2018 - 2020 and for FY 2018 for US/Canada stocks (EGB cod and haddock, and **G** yellowtail flounder; evaluate the common pool trimester TACs; modify Atlantic halibut management; modify S. windowpane flounder AMs for large-mesh non-groundfish fisheries (e.g., scup and summer flounder; revise the recreational management measures process.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Jamie Cournane

2017	
JUN 20-22	NEFMC – Council initiates framework
JUL	TRAC assessments for US/CA stocks including GB yellowtail flounder
AUG 8	SSC recommends ABC for GB yellowtail flounder
SEP	TMGC recommends TACs for US/CA stocks
SEP 11-15	Operational Assessments for all groundfish stocks (except for GB yellowtail flounder)
SEP 26-28	NEFMC – Receives an update on the development of the action, approve range of alternatives, including discussing US/CA stocks
OCT 23-24	SSC recommends ABCs for groundfish stocks (except for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder)
DEC 5-7	NEFMC – Council takes final action/approves framework
2018	
JAN 30 – FEB 1	NEFMC – Provide recommendations to GARFO for FY 2018 recreational measures for GOM cod and haddock
TBD	Preliminary submission
TBD	Final submission of framework document to NMFS
MAY 1	Implementation

2. Amendment 23 Groundfish Monitoring

Scope: Consider changes to the groundfish monitoring and reporting system to ensure it is providing accurate catch information necessary to manage the fishery efficiently

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Jamie Cournane

2017	
MAR - APR	Council holds scoping hearings
APR- MAY	Groundfish Committee/PDT review scoping comments
MAY	AP develops recommendations
JUN	Council receives scoping comments; discusses purpose/need and range of alternatives
TBD	Groundfish Committee/PDT develop alternatives and analyses
SEP	Council receives progress report
TBD	Groundfish Committee/PDT continue develop alternatives and analyses
DEC	Council receives progress report
2018	
TBD	Groundfish Committee/PDT continue develop alternatives and analyses
TBD	Council approves range of alternatives
TBD	Preparation of EA or EIS
TBD	Public hearings and comment period
TBD	NEFMC – Council takes final action/approves amendment
2019	
MAY 1	Target Implementation

3. Other Groundfish priority timelines to be developed

2017
Process for review of groundfish catch in other fisheries; to include state water and other sub- component analysis review, identifying those stocks and segments of the fishery where sub-component catch exceeds 5 percent and determine if additional sub-ACLs are needed.
Investigate reclassification of both windowpane flounder stocks as Ecosystem Component Species, and other approaches that will improve flexibility.
MULTIYEAR
Staff: Cod Stock Structure Workshop

Herring

1. Amendment 8 – MSE for ABC control rule / localized depletion

Scope: Account for the role of Atlantic herring within the ecosystem including its role as forage (via revising the ABC control rule), to stabilize the fishery at a level designed to achieve OY, and to address localized depletion in inshore waters.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGERS: Deirdre Boelke/Rachel Feeney

2015	
JAN	NEFMC - Review action plan and approve scoping document
FEB-APR	NOI for developing an EIS is published – Scoping period
JUN	NEFMC - Review EBFM Report and A8 scoping comments; revise goals and objectives; recommends peer review of Management Strategy Evaluation
AUG-SEP	Supplemental scoping period regarding expanded scope of A8 (localized depletion)
DEC	Herring PDT reviews scoping comments, discusses technical analyses to support A8
2016	
JAN	NEFMC - Review scoping comments, approve MSE approach to developing ABC control rule alternatives
FEB-APR	Herring PDT, AP, Committee work to develop background information and alternatives regarding localized depletion. Planning for MSE workshop.
MAY	Public workshop on MSE.
JUN	NEFMC – approve range of ABC control rule objectives, performance metrics and control rules to be evaluated. Continued development of localized depletion alternatives.
JUL - DEC	MSE and localized depletion-related work continues
2017	
JAN	NEFMC – Discuss range of alternatives for MSE CR alternatives only
MAR	Independent peer review of MSE analysis
APR	NEFMC – Approve range of alternatives for Draft EIS
MAY- SEP	Impacts analysis
SEP	NEFMC – Select preferred alternatives for ABC control rule
DEC	NEFMC - Review/approve Draft EIS for public hearings, select preferred alternatives for localized depletion measures
2018	
APR	NEFMC - Review public comments, select final preferred alternatives
TBD	Preliminary submission of EIS
TBD	Final submission EIS
TBD	Implementation of action

WHITING (Small Mesh Multispecies)

1. Amendment 22 – Limited Access

Scope: Develop Limited access program for the Small Mesh Multispecies FMP, which includes whiting, red hake and offshore hake.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Andrew Applegate

2015	
MAY-AUG	Draft scoping document
AUG-SEP	Whiting PDT finalizes annual monitoring report with management advice
SEP 29-OCT 1	NEFMC - approve scoping document for Amendment 22 - receive annual monitoring report and decide whether additional whiting management action is needed – additional action may delay Amendment 22
DEC -JAN	Staff conducts public hearings and summarizes comments
2016	
JAN 26-28	Council reviews scoping comments and approve scope of amendment
FEB-NOV	Whiting Committee/AP develop range of alternatives
MAR-SEP	PDT prepares preliminary analysis of alternatives and potential effects, committee and advisory panel identify range of qualification criteria alternatives
NOV	NEFMC - Committee report on limited access qualification criteria alternatives
2017	
APR	NEFMC – Approve range of alternatives for DEIS analysis
MAR-MAY	Whiting PDT analyzes range of alternatives and develops Draft EIS
MAY-AUG	Whiting AP/Committee review Draft amendment /DEIS, recommend preferred alternatives
SEP	NEFMC - Review draft amendment and select preferred alternatives
TBD	Submit DEIS; NEPA comment period begins
TBD	Staff conducts public hearings for Draft Amendment 22
TBD	NEFMC – Review public comments, committee recommendations and select final measures to submit for review and approval
2018	
TBD	Whiting PDT develops Final EIS
TBD	Amendment 22 preliminary submission
TBD	Amendment 22 Final submission 2018
TBD	Implementation

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

2. 2018-2020 Specifications

Scope: Small mesh multispecies (silver hake, offshore hake, red hake specifications for FY 2018-2020.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Andrew Applegate

2017	
APR-MAY	Staff prepares action plan, review by PDT
JUL-AUG	GARFO and NEFSC prepare small-mesh multispecies fishery monitoring report, including assessment update for red and silver hake stocks
AUG	Whiting PDT finalizes annual monitoring report with management advice
SEP 26-28	NEFMC – Receive annual monitoring report & approval of ABC specification, possession limit, and exemption area alternatives
SEP-OCT	Staff and PDT prepare specifications document
OCT 12	SSC develops ABC recommendations
DEC 5-7	NEFMC Approve and submit specifications document with preferred alternatives
DEC	Preliminary submission of documents for NMFS review
2018	
JAN-FEB	NMFS comments / final submission
FEB-MAY	NMFS review and NEFMC deeming
MAY 1, 2018	Implementation

HABITAT

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

Scope: 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	✓ APR - JUN 2015 ⁶.
21. Preliminary submission of amendment and FEIS to NMFS	<i>JAN 2014</i>	✓ JAN 2016 ⁷ .
22. NMFS provide comments on submission		✓ APR 2016
23. Staff revisions submitted to NMFS	MAY 2016 ⁸.	✓AUG 2016
24. Proposed rule published	FEB 2017	TBD
25. Final rule published	JUL 2017	TBD
26. Implementation	AUG 2017	TBD

AUG-31-2017

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
6. Delayed because Council modified previously identified alternatives
7. Additional time required to analyze final preferred alternatives
8. Additional time required because extensive revisions were required to address comments

2. Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment

Scope: 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.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Michelle Bachman

2008-2013	
FEB 2008	Council directed PDT to evaluate information related to deep-sea corals and develop alternatives for deep-sea coral protection
2010-2012	Committee and PDT develop alternatives
APR 2012	Council approves range of alternatives for analysis
AUG 2012	Notice of intent to split habitat amendment
SEP 2012	Council splits coral alternatives from Omnibus Habitat Amendment 2
JUN 2013	Council approves MOU to coordinate with MAFMC and SAFMC on coral protection
2015	
JUN	Council approves remaining aspects of OHA2
DEC	Council identifies coral amendment as 2016 priority
DEC 4 & 15	Habitat PDT meetings
2016	
MAR	Habitat Committee meeting
AUG-FEB 2017	PDT analysis, development of draft EA
SEP	Council receives update
NOV	Council reviews preliminary impacts analysis; refines range of alternatives
2017	
MAR	Develop EA, Advisory Panel review, additional Committee work, workshop
APR	Council finalizes range of alternatives including final zone boundaries, prior to hearings, selects preferred alternatives
MAY-JUN	Public hearings
JUN	FINAL action postponed to consider new alternative
JUL-NOV	PDT/COMMITTEE work to further analyze/consider new alternative for continental slope/canyons
SEP	Update on work to further analyze/consider new alternative for continental slope/canyons
DEC	Council takes final action
2018	
TBD	Submission of Deep-Sea Coral Amendment and final EA
TBD	Implementation

3. Habitat - Clam dredge exemption framework - preliminary timeline

Scope: Identify possible exemption areas for hydraulic clam dredges within two management areas proposed in Omnibus EFH Amendment 2

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Michelle Bachman

2015	
SEPT 29-OCT 1	NEFMC – Initiates framework
NOV 23	Habitat PDT meeting
DEC 1-3	NEFMC – Identifies as 2016 priority
2016	
MAR, AUG	Habitat Committee meetings – PDT update
NOV-DEC	PDT work
2017	
JAN	Council update
JUN	Possible publication of OHA2 – starts 95 day review clock
JUL-OCT	PDT work on data to support framework
OCT-DEC	Committee/PDT/AP meetings to develop alternatives
DEC	Possible decision date for OHA2
2018	
JAN	Council selects range of alternatives for analysis
FEB-MAR	Possible OHA2 implementation date, assuming September 2017 publication of amendment and proposed rule
FEB-MA	Draft framework document/EA, Committee identifies preferred alternatives
JUN	Council takes final action on framework
AUG	Submission of Clam Exemption Framework
2019	
JAN	Implementation

* Timing will depend on the publication and decision dates for Omnibus Habitat Amendment 2, since this is a trailing framework to that amendment.

SKATES

1. Skate Framework Adjustment 4

Scope: Revise possession limits to reduce the likelihood of overages occurring in FY2017

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Fiona Hogan

2017	
APR	Council initiates framework
APR-JUN	PDT develops & analyzes alternatives
JUN	Committee initiates framework
JUN	Council approves framework
AUG	Final submission of framework document to NMFS
DEC	Implementation

2. Framework 5 - Specifications FYs 2018 - 2019; landing of barndoor

Scope: Set specifications for FYs 2018 and 2019; allow landings of barndoor skate

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Fiona Hogan

2017	
JUN	Council initiates framework/specifications
JUL-AUG	PDT develops annual monitoring report
AUG	SSC recommends ABC for skate complex
AUG-SEP	Committee & PDT develop & analyze alternatives
DEC	Council approves framework/specifications
2018	
FEB	Final submission of framework/specifications document to NMFS
MAY 1	Implementation

3. Amendment 5 – Limited Access for Skate FMP

Scope: Develop Limited access program for the Skate FMP

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Fiona Hogan

2016	
NOV	Council approves scoping document
2017	
JAN-FEB	Scoping hearings
APR	Council reviews scoping comments
MAY-NOV	Committee/PDT develop alternatives and preliminary analyses
DEC	Council receives progress report
2018	
JAN 29 – FEB 1	Council receives progress report
TBD	Council approves range of alternatives for analysis in draft EIS
TBD	PDT completes DEIS
TBD	Council approves draft EIS for public review
TBD	Public hearings
TBD	Council takes final action
TBD	Implementation

Industry-funded Monitoring Amendment

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

PROJECT MANAGERS:

Fiona Hogan– NEFMC Staff

Carly Bari/Carrie Nordeen - GARFO FMAT

2013	
FEB	FMAT begins work on action
NOV	NMFS provides NEFMC guidance on type of action required and possible funding mechanisms
2015	
JAN / FEB	Councils approve draft coverage target range of alternatives to be analyzed
FEB–OCT ^{1.}	PDT/FMAT/Councils develop alternatives, draft EA
APR 2 ^{2.}	Councils approve additional alternatives for inclusion in an Environmental Assessment
2016	
JAN^{3.} JUN	Councils approve draft EA for public review
OCT-NOV	Public hearing(s)
DEC	MAFMC postponed final action
2017	
JAN	NEFMC considers final action and selects several alternatives
APR	MAFMC considers final action
APR	NEFMC final vote to submit preferred alternative
TBD	Final rule published
TBD	Final rule effective

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.
2. Council added portside sampling alternative required additional analysis.
3. Delayed because Council added monitoring set-aside option to the IFM Amendment at its Sept-Oct 2015 meeting. The MAFMC tasked the PDT/FMAT with continuing to refine cost assumptions and economic analysis of mackerel coverage target alternatives.

Ecosystems Based Management

Scope: Phase II – Develop worked example of integrated Example Fishery Ecosystem Plan for Georges Bank.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Andrew Applegate

2017	
JAN	NEFMC - Georges Bank Example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP) - Committee progress report
FEB – MAY	Committee and PDT continue work on examples of GB Ecosystem Production Unit (EPU) operating models and draft ecosystem forage fish mgt. policy
SEP	NEFMC - Georges Bank Example Fishery Ecosystem Plan – report on quantitative worked examples of GB EPU operating models and harvest control rules
TBD	PDT develops MSE work plan
DEC	Georges Bank Fishery Ecosystem Plan - initial overview of Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)
2018	
JAN 29-FEB 1	Georges Bank eFEP: progress report
TBD	Summarize MSE results & identify potential FEP measures
TBD	Draft and analyze FEP or EBFM policy documents