

## New England Fishery Management Council Timelines

### September 10, 2020

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\* Indicates preliminary timeline – not yet reviewed by GARFO

## Background

### Recently implemented actions

3/9/2020	Industry Funded Monitoring Amendment for all FMPs except Atlantic herring
4/1/2020	Scallop Framework 32 - Specifications for Fishing Year (FY) Specifications for FY 2021
5/1/2020	Skate Framework 8 - Specifications for Fishing Years 2020 & 2021
5/5/2020	Herring Framework 6 - Specifications for 2019-2021
5/14/2020	2020 Atlantic Deep-sea Red Crab Specifications
6/18/2020	Habitat Clam Dredge Exemption Framework
June 2020	Industry Funded Monitoring Amendment for Atlantic herring
7/28/2020	Multispecies (Groundfish) Framework 59 Specifications for Fishing Years 2020 & 2021
8/13/2020	Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Fishing Year 2020 Recreational Management Measures

### Timelines

Preliminary or draft timelines may be provided for actions for which Action Plans have not been formally approved; however, they will be revised when Actions Plans change.

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. Scallop Amendment 21 with September Final Action

Scope: Consider changes to management of the Northern Gulf of Maine area and LAGC IFQ possession limits.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Jonathon Peros

2019	
<b>JAN</b>	<b>NEFMC - review action plan and approve scoping document</b>
FEB-APR	NOI for developing an EIS is published – Scoping period
<b>JUN</b>	<b>NEFMC - Review Amendment 21 scoping comments; develop goals and objectives;</b>
JULY-DEC	Scallop PDT, AP, Committee work to develop background information and alternatives regarding Northern Gulf of Maine and LAGC IFQ possession limits. Scallop PDT reviews scoping comments, discusses technical analyses to support A21.
2020	
JAN-MAR	Scallop PDT, AP, Committee work to develop background information and alternatives regarding Northern Gulf of Maine and LAGC IFQ possession limits. Scallop PDT reviews scoping comments, discusses technical analyses to support A21.
<b>APR</b>	<b>NEFMC – Approve range of alternatives</b>
MAY	PDT completes Impact Analyses
<b>JUN</b>	<b>NEFMC - Review/approve Draft EA for public hearings, select preferred alternatives for NGOM and LAGC IFQ possession limits</b>
JULY-AUG	Staff prepare document for public hearings, public comment period and public hearings, summarize public input
<b>SEP</b>	<b>NEFMC - Council takes final action</b>
OCT-DEC	Staff updates EA for preliminary submission
2021	
FEB	Preliminary submission of amendment document including EA
MAY - JUNE	Final submission of amendment document including EA
JULY - AUG	Final rule & Implementation

## 2. Framework 33 with January 2020 Final Action

**Scope:** 2021 scallop specifications, 2022 default specifications

**STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:** Jonathon Peros

<b>2020 -2021</b>	
<b>JUN</b>	<b>NEFMC – Initiate Framework 33 (FW33)</b>
JUL-SEP	Committee / AP / PDT develop alternatives
<b>SEP</b>	<b>NEFMC – Council receives update on the development of FW33</b>
NOV	SSC recommends ABC for FY2021 and FY2022
OCT-JAN	Committee and PDT complete documents
<b>DEC</b>	<b>NEFMC – Council receives update on the development of FW33</b>
DEC-JAN	Committee and PDT complete documents
<b>JAN</b>	<b>NEFMC – Council takes final action</b>
JAN - FEB	Council staff completes pre-submission
MAR	NMFS publishes proposed rule
MAR	EA reviewed by NMFS
MAR - APR	Staff completes final submission for NMFS review and approval
APR - MAY	NMFS publishes final rule
APR - MAY	Implementation

# Groundfish

## 1. 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 MANAGERS: Jamie Cournane/Robin Frede

2017	
MAR-APR	Council holds scoping hearings
APR-MAY	Groundfish Committee/PDT review scoping comments
MAY	AP develops recommendations
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Council receives scoping comments; discusses purpose/need and range of alternatives</b>
JUL-SEP	Committee/PDT develop alternatives and analyses
<b>SEP</b>	<b>Council receives progress report</b>
OCT-NOV	Committee/AP/PDT continue to develop alternatives and analyses
2018	
<b>JAN</b>	<b>Council receives progress report</b>
FEB-APR	PDT develops analyses and no action alternatives
<b>APR</b>	<b>Council receives progress report, no action alternatives</b>
APR-JUN	Fishery Data for Stock Assessment Working Group forms, meets to discuss objective of how fishery dependent data can be used to inform stock abundance
APR-MAY	PDT provides analyses for development of alternatives
MAY-JUN	Committee/AP receive PDT analyses, recommend initial alternatives for development
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Council receives progress report</b>
JUN-SEP	PDT develops alternatives and analyses
JUN-SEP	Fishery Data Working Group develops report to address objectives
SEP	Committee/AP review progress on developing alternatives, recommend additional alternatives for development
<b>SEP</b>	<b>Council receives progress report</b>
OCT-NOV	Fishery Data Working Group forms recommendations, completes draft report
OCT-NOV	Committee/AP/PDT continue to develop alternatives and analyses
NOV	SSC review of Fishery Data Working Group draft report
<b>DEC</b>	<b>Council receives progress report</b>
DEC	Committee/AP/PDT continue to develop alternatives and analyses

<b>2019</b>	
<b>JAN</b>	<b>Council receives final report from Fishery Data Working Group; SSC sub-panel provides report on review of Fishery Data Working Group</b>
FEB – APR	Committee, AP and PDT continue to develop alternatives and analyses
<b>APR</b>	<b>Council approves range of alternatives for further development</b>
APR	SSC sub-panel reviews PDT analytical approach to monitoring issues
MAY	Joint Committee/AP/PDT meeting to discuss and consider the SSC sub-panel review recommendations, continue to develop revisions to the draft alternatives
MAY	Committee, AP and PDT continue to develop alternatives and analyses
<b>JUN</b>	<b>SSC sub-panel provides report on review of PDT analyses; Council approves range of alternatives for analysis</b>
JUL-AUG	PDT develops DEIS
<b>SEP</b>	<b>Council receives progress report, including preliminary draft impacts analysis</b>
OCT-NOV	PDT continues to develop DEIS, Committee/AP/PDT continue to develop alternatives and analyses
<b>DEC</b>	<b>Council receives progress report</b>
DEC	PDT completes DEIS
<b>2020</b>	
JAN	PDT completes DEIS
<b>JAN</b>	<b>Council approves DEIS for public comment period/hearings and identifies preliminary preferred alternatives</b>
FEB	Staff completes preliminary DEIS submission; NMFS review of DEIS
MAR	Final submission of DEIS to NMFS
<b>MAR</b>	<b>NMFS publishes DEIS</b>
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Council receives progress report - reschedules final action</b>
JUN-AUG	Public hearing and comment period continued
<b>SEP</b>	<b>Council takes final action</b>
OCT- NOV	Staff finalizes EIS
NOV	Preliminary Submission
DEC	Final Submission
<b>2021</b>	
<b>AUG</b>	Target Effective Date*
<b>2022</b>	
MAY	Target Implementation*

- Depending what the Council selects, there may be phased-in implementation of some requirements.

## 2. Framework 61 - 2021-2023 Specifications for Groundfish Stocks, etc.

- Set 2021 total allowable catches for US/Canada management units of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod and Eastern GB haddock, and 2021-2022 specifications for the GB yellowtail flounder stock
- Set 2021-2023 specifications for 9 other groundfish stocks: Georges Bank winter flounder, Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic winter flounder, Gulf of Maine winter flounder, Acadian redfish, Atlantic halibut, Northern windowpane flounder, Southern windowpane flounder, Atlantic wolffish, and ocean pout.
- Address commercial/recreational allocation issues if raised by new Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) data, and
- Investigate ways to increase GB haddock utilization, including modification of gear requirements

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Jamie Cournane

2020	
MAY 27	Assessment Oversight Panel meeting
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Council initiates framework</b>
JUL	TRAC assessments for US/CA management units of EGB cod and EGB haddock, and the GB yellowtail flounder stock
AUG	SSC recommends ABC for GB yellowtail flounder
SEP	TMGC recommends TACs for US/CA management units/stock
SEP	Management track assessments for redfish, halibut, wolffish, ocean pout, windowpane, and winter flounder stocks
<b>SEP</b>	<b>Council reviews progress on setting specifications for groundfish stocks, the three U.S./Canada management units/stock for 2021, and reviews draft alternatives</b>
OCT	SSC recommends ABCs for 9 groundfish stocks
<b>DEC</b>	<b>NEFMC – Council receives draft alternatives for specifications and adjustments to allocations and takes final action/approves the framework for submission to NMFS</b>
2021	
JAN	Preliminary submission of framework document to NMFS
FEB	Final submission of framework document to NMFS
MAY 1	Target Implementation

# Herring

## 1. Amendment 8 – ABC control rule / localized depletion

**Scope:** Account for the role of Atlantic herring within the ecosystem including its role as forage (via the ABC control rule) and to address localized depletion in inshore waters.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Deirdre Boelke

<b>2015</b>	
<b>JAN</b>	<b>NEFMC – review action plan and approve scoping document</b>
FEB-APR	NOI for developing an EIS is published – Scoping period
<b>JUN</b>	<b>NEFMC – Review EBFM Report and A8 scoping comments; revise goals and objectives; recommends peer review of Management Strategy Evaluation</b>
AUG-SEP	Supplemental scoping period regarding expanded scope of A8 (localized depletion)
DEC	Herring PDT reviews scoping comments, discusses technical analyses to support A8
<b>2016</b>	
<b>JAN</b>	<b>NEFMC – Review scoping comments, approve MSE approach to developing ABC control rule alternatives</b>
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.
<b>JUN</b>	<b>NEFMC – approve range of ABC control rule objectives, performance metrics and control rules to be evaluated. Continue development of localized depletion alternatives.</b>
JUL – DEC	MSE and localized depletion-related work continues
<b>2017</b>	
<b>JAN</b>	<b>NEFMC – Discuss range of alternatives for MSE control rule alternatives only</b>
MAR	Independent peer review of MSE analysis
<b>APR</b>	<b>NEFMC – Approve range of alternatives for Draft EIS</b>
MAY- SEP	Impacts analysis
<b>SEP</b>	<b>NEFMC – Select preferred alternatives for ABC control rule</b>
<b>DEC</b>	<b>NEFMC – Review/approve Draft EIS for public hearings, select preferred alternatives for localized depletion measures</b>
<b>2018</b>	
JAN 29	Staff completes draft DEIS submission
JAN-MAR	NMFS review of DEIS
APR	Final submission of DEIS to NMFS
<b>MAY 1</b>	<b>NMFS publishes DEIS</b>
MAY-JUN	Public comment period and public hearings
JUL-SEP	Committee and AP meetings
<b>SEP</b>	<b>NEFMC – Review public comments, select final preferred alternatives</b>
<b>2019</b>	
JAN 29 ✓	Preliminary submission of amendment document including draft FEIS
APR 19 ✓	Staff receives comments on submission from GARFO
MAY 13 ✓	Final submission of amendment document including draft FEIS
NOV 20 ✓	NMFS approves amendment
TBD	Implementation



## 2. Framework 7 – Spawning protection for herring on Georges Bank

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Deirdre Boelke

<b>2019</b>	
<b>SEP</b>	<b>Council initiates action</b>
<b>2020</b>	
JAN-MAY	Committee and PDT develop action
<b>APR</b>	<b>Update: approve goal and objectives</b>
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Update: possible approval of alternatives (could be later if needed)</b>
<b>SEP</b>	<b>Update of progress on FW</b>
<b>2021</b>	
<b>JAN</b>	<b>Council final action</b>
TBD	NMFS publishes proposed rule
TBD	NMFS publishes final rule
TBD	Target Implementation (by Fall 2021 if possible)

## 3. Framework 8 – Herring specifications 2021-2023 & mackerel OY issue

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Deirdre Boelke

<b>2020</b>	
<b>JAN</b>	<b>Council initiates action</b>
FEB-MAY	Committee and PDT develop action
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Update and possible approval of alternatives to consider for mackerel issue</b>
<b>SEP</b>	<b>Council final action</b>
DEC	Final submission to NMFS
<b>2021</b>	
TBD	NMFS publishes proposed rule (target of Jan)
TBD	NMFS publishes final rule (target of Mar)
TBD	Target Implementation (target of Mar)

## Whiting (Small-mesh Multispecies)

### 1. Framework 62 - Southern Red Hake Rebuilding Plan

**Scope:** Measures to address the overfished status of southern red hake and begin stock rebuilding.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Andrew Applegate

<b>2019</b>	
MAR-JUN	Committee / PDT develop alternatives and bycatch analysis
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Council receives bycatch analysis</b>
JUL	Annual monitoring report completed
<b>SEP</b>	<b>Council receives annual monitoring report / initiates action</b>
NOV-DEC	PDT works on developing conceptual rebuilding approaches for red hake
<b>DEC</b>	<b>Council receives PDT report on conceptual rebuilding approaches for red hake</b>
<b>2020</b>	
JAN	PDT continues work on developing conceptual approaches for red hake rebuilding
<b>JAN</b>	<b>Council approves red hake rebuilding approaches for analysis</b>
FEB-MAR	PDT analyzes alternatives
<b>APR</b>	<b>Council receives update on progress</b>
MAY	PDT analyzes alternatives and drafts action document
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Council approves final alternative</b>
AUG 12	Preliminary Submission
AUG 25	The southern red hake possession limit reduced from 5,000 lbs to 400 lbs as an in-season AM
TBD	Final Submission
TBD	Target Implementation

## 2. Specifications for Fishing Years 2021-2023\*

**Scope:** Adjustments to catch limits and potentially some measures for the 2021-2023 fishing years.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Andrew Applegate

2020	
JUL/AUG	PDT develops SAFE Report for fishing year 2019
SEP	Management track assessment
<b>SEP</b>	<b>Council receives Annual Monitoring Report and preliminary Management Track assessment reports.</b>
OCT-DEC	PDT develops annual catch limit recommendations based on the management track assessment results and develops alternatives
NOV	SSC reviews and approves annual catch limit recommendations
NOV	Committee and advisors develop alternatives to adjust measures, e.g. possession limits
<b>DEC</b>	<b>Council receives update</b>
DEC-JAN	Staff and PDT analyze alternatives and draft specification document
2021	
<b>JAN</b>	<b>Council approves final alternative</b>
JAN-FEB	Staff submits preliminary document to NOAA Fisheries
MAY 1	Target Implementation

# Monkfish

## 1. Framework 12 – 2020-2022 Specifications

OBJECTIVE: The actions modifies the specifications for monkfish

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Chris Kellogg

<b>2019</b>	
<b>JUN</b>	<b>NEFMC – Council initiates framework</b>
JUL – SEP	Operational assessment reviewed
AUG – SEP	SSC develops ABC recommendations for fishing years 2020-2022
SEP	Committee develops management alternatives
<b>SEP</b>	<b>NEFMC – Council approves framework including Supplemental Information Report (SIR)</b>
<b>OCT</b>	<b>MAFMC approves framework/SIR</b>
<b>2020</b>	
APR 2	Framework/SIR preliminary submission
MAY 7	NMFS comments on preliminary submission
MAY 11	Final submission of framework to NMFS
JUN 30	Proposed rule published
JUL 30	End of proposed rule comment period
Oct 19	Implementation – Final rule published 9/17

# Habitat

## 1. 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
2010-2012	Committee and PDT develop alternatives
<b>APR 2012</b>	<b>Council approves range of alternatives for analysis</b>
AUG 2012	Notice of intent to split habitat amendment
<b>SEP 2012</b>	<b>Council splits coral alternatives from Omnibus Habitat Amendment 2</b>
<b>JUN 2013</b>	<b>Council approves MOU to coordinate with MAFMC and SAFMC on coral protection</b>
2015	
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Council approves remaining aspects of OHA2</b>
<b>DEC</b>	<b>Council identifies coral amendment as 2016 priority</b>
DEC 4 & 15	Habitat PDT meetings
2016	
MAR	Habitat Committee meeting
AUG-FEB	PDT analysis, development of draft EA
<b>SEP</b>	<b>Council receives update</b>
<b>NOV</b>	<b>Council reviews preliminary impacts analysis; refines range of alternatives</b>
2017	
MAR	Develop EA, Advisory Panel review, additional Committee work, workshop
<b>APR</b>	<b>Council finalizes range of alternatives including final zone boundaries, prior to hearings, selects preferred alternatives</b>
MAY-JUN	Public hearings
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Final action postponed for Council to consider new alternative</b>
JUL 2017 - JAN 2018	PDT/Committee work to further analyze/consider new alternative for continental slope/canyons
<b>SEP &amp; DEC</b>	<b>Council receives updates on work to further analyze/consider new alternative for continental slope/canyons</b>
2018	
<b>JAN</b>	<b>Council takes final action</b>
DEC 21	Preliminary submission of Deep-Sea Coral Amendment and draft EA
2019	
<b>APR MAY</b>	Staff receives comments on preliminary submission from GARFO
JUN	Final submission
NOV 20 ✓	NFMS approves amendment
2020	
JAN 3 ✓	Proposed rule published
TBD	2020

# Skates

## 1. Amendment 5 – Limited Access for Skate FMP

**Scope:** Develop Limited access program for the Skate FMP

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Rachel Feeney

<b>2016</b>	
<b>NOV</b>	<b>Council approves scoping document</b>
<b>2017</b>	
JAN-FEB	Scoping hearings
<b>APR</b>	<b>Council reviews scoping comments</b>
<b>2018</b>	
MAY-NOV	Work on Amendment 5 postponed to complete skate framework actions
<b>2019</b>	
MAR-MAY	Committee/PDT develop alternatives and preliminary analyses
<b>APR/JUN</b>	<b>Council receives progress report</b>
APR-DEC	Committee/PDT continue to develop alternatives and preliminary analyses
<b>DEC</b>	<b>Council receives progress report, tasks Committee to develop problem statement, goals and objectives</b>
<b>2020</b>	
JAN - JUN	PDT continues to provide background fishery data; Committee develops problem statement and an additional objective
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Council receives progress report</b>
<b>SEP</b>	<b>Council to consider additional Committee recommendations on problem statement and additional objective</b>
<b>TBD</b>	<b>Council approves range of alternatives for analysis in draft EIS</b>
TBD	PDT completes DEIS
<b>TBD</b>	<b>Council approves draft EIS for public review</b>
TBD	Public hearings
<b>TBD</b>	<b>Council takes final action</b>
TBD	Implementation

## EVTR for Commercial Vessels

### 1. Framework Adjustment - eVTRs for commercial vessels

**Scope:** Require electronic reporting of vessel trip reports (eVTRs) for vessels with permits under New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council FMPs

PROJECT MANAGERS: Sam Asci – NEFMC  
Karson Coutre – MAFMC

<b>2018</b>	
DEC 2018	Initiation
<b>2019</b>	
JAN-FEB	Formation of FMAT
MAR	FMAT to develop initial draft alternatives/discuss analyses
MAR	Joint AP meeting
<b>APR</b>	<b>MAFMC Council meeting—Framework meeting 1</b>
<b>APR</b>	<b>NEFMC Council meeting—update to NEFMC</b>
MAY	Follow up FMAT meeting
<b>JUN</b>	<b>NEFMC Council meeting—initiate Framework action</b>
JUL	AP/industry webinar
<b>SEP</b>	<b>NEFMC Council meeting—Framework meeting 1</b>
OCT	FMAT meeting
NOV	AP/Industry webinar
<b>DEC</b>	<b>MAFMC - Final action</b>
<b>2020</b>	
<b>JAN</b>	<b>NEFMC - Final action</b>
MAR 4	Preliminary submission of Commercial eVTR Framework
APR 8	Staff receives comments on preliminary submission from GARFO
APR 14	Final submission
JUL 17 ✓	Proposed Rule
TBD 2021	Implementation