

2024 New England Fishery Management Council Priority List (Jan 2024)				
Ref #	Plan/Topic	Category	Priority/Task	Estimated Timing
G1	Groundfish	Required	Complete and submit FW66	Complete early 2024
G2	Groundfish	Required	Set ABCs/ACLs as necessary for groundfish stocks for FY2025-2027 and US/CA stocks for FY2025-2026	2024
G3	Groundfish	Required	Groundfish Management Track Assessments (June - cod stocks; Sept - GOM/GB haddock, Am. plaice, halibut, pollock, witch flounder)	2024
G4	Groundfish	Required	TRAC assessment (July - cod, haddock, yellowtail); TMGC (Sept)	2024
G5	Groundfish	Required	Yellowtail Flounder Research Track Assessment WG and Peer Review (Nov)	2024
G6	Groundfish	Required	Winter Flounder Research Track Assessment WG	Multiyear, initiated 2024
G7	Groundfish	Ongoing	In consultation with the SSC, continue work to revise ABC control rules for Northeast Multispecies stocks (IRA coordination)	Multiyear, initiated 2021
G8	Groundfish	Ongoing	Complete development of metrics to be used in the review process that will evaluate the monitoring system, per Amendment 23	Multiyear, initiated 2023
G9	Groundfish	Ongoing	Develop a Transition Plan for Atlantic cod management units, including addressing allocation issues and considering potential new measures to protect spawning cod	Multiyear, initiated 2023
G10	Groundfish	New	Conduct a focused workshop as part of the Cod Transition Plan in the first half of 2024 to identify challenges and develop alternatives for addressing Atlantic cod management considering the new stock units (IRA coordination)	Estimate: Single year
G11	Groundfish	New	Review yellowtail flounder (SNE/MA, GB) and windowpane flounder (N. and S.) sub-ACLs and AM triggers applied to the scallop fishery (joint Scallop)	Estimate: Single Year
G12	Groundfish	New	Removal of the requirement for sectors to submit federal and state information in sector operations plans	Estimate: Single Year
SC1	Scallop	Required	Complete and submit FW38	Complete early 2024
SC2	Scallop	Required	Set ABC/ACL for scallop stock with specifications for FY2025 (FY2026 default)	2024
SC3	Scallop	Required	Scallop Research Track Assessment WG and Peer Review (Mar 2025)	Multiyear, initiated 2023
SC4	Scallop	Required	Scallop RSA management	Ongoing

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SC5	Scallop	Required	Annual scallop and bycatch monitoring	Ongoing
SC6	Scallop/Habitat	Ongoing	With the Habitat Committee, develop an action for access to the Northern Edge Habitat Management Area, including development of an access area program	Multiyear, initiated 2023
SC7	Scallop	Ongoing	5-Year LAGC IFQ program review (2016-2022)	Multiyear, initiate 2024
SC8	Scallop	New	Develop long-term (3-5 years) strategic plan for managing the scallop fishery; MSE may be suggested by the strategic plan, but the plan will not be tested with MSE before approval (IRA coordination)	Estimate: Multiyear
SC9	Scallop	New	Review yellowtail flounder (SNE/MA, GB) and windowpane flounder (N. and S.) AMs (joint Groundfish)	Estimate: Single Year
HE1	Herring	Required	Set ABC/ACL for herring stock with specifications for FY2025-2027	2024
HE2	Herring	Required	Herring Management Track Assessment (June)	2024
HE3	Herring	Required	Herring Research Track Assessment WG and Peer Review (2025)	Multiyear, initiated 2023
HE4	Herring	Required	Coordination with MAFMC/ASMFC for river herring/shad issues	Ongoing
HE5	Herring	Ongoing	Amendment 10 to minimize user conflicts, achieve OY, and support rebuilding of the herring resource, including a scoping document and scoping meetings	Multiyear, initiated 2023
HE6	Herring	New	River Herring & Shad Management Measures (e.g., Catch Caps or Time/Area Closures; included in A10)	Estimate: Multiyear
M1	Monkfish	Required	Annual PDT review of monkfish fishery	2024
M2	Monk/Dogfish	Required	Complete joint NEFMC/MAFMC action to reduce sturgeon bycatch in dogfish and monkfish fisheries (Monkfish FW15; final action April 2024)	2024
M3	Monkfish	New	Improve the Monkfish RSA Program, further considering the recommendations of the RSA Working Group	Estimate: Single Year

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SK1	Skate	Required	Complete and submit FW12	Complete early 2024
SK2	Skate	Required	Annual PDT review of skate fishery	2024
D1	Dogfish	Required	Specifications 2024-2026 (MAFMC lead)	Complete early 2024
W1	Whiting	Required	Complete and submit FY2024-2026 Specifications Package	Complete early 2024
W2	Whiting	Required	Annual PDT review of whiting fishery	2024
HA1	Habitat	Required	Habitat impacts of management actions (NEPA analyses)	Ongoing
HA2	Habitat	Required	Review and consider revisions to EFH designations	Multiyear, initiate 2024
HA3	Habitat	Ongoing	Develop habitat and fishery related comments on non-fishing activities, including offshore wind and aquaculture	Ongoing
HA4	Habitat	Ongoing	Foster and contribute to habitat science and management partnerships, through participation in the CCC Habitat WG, Northeast Regional Habitat Assessment, and ASMFC Habitat Committee	Ongoing
HA5	Habitat	Ongoing	Collaborate on OSW science issues with ROSA, RODA, NMFS, BOEM, and others	Ongoing
E1	EBFM	New	Consider Ecosystem Approaches to Fishery Management (EAFM) for incremental action items across FMPs	Estimate: Multiyear
OD1	On-Demand WG	Ongoing	Continue work addressing TORs and refine TORs as needed	Multiyear, initiated 2023
RP1	Risk Policy WG	Ongoing	Continue work addressing TORs	Multiyear, completed 2024
SSC1	SSC	Required	Support Council activities including recommending OFLs and ABCs, review of scientific information, development of ABC control rules and Risk Policy, etc.	Ongoing

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SSC2	SSC	Required	SCS8 Meeting - Planning and Hosting	Multiyear, completed 2024
R1	Research	New	Update the Council's Research Priorities and determine schedule for future updates	Estimate: Single Year
EN1	Enforcement	New	Review the utility of VMS and how it is used for enforcement in coordination with the MAFMC	Estimate: Single Year
NT1	NTAP	New	Continue the Survey Contingency Working Group	Estimate: Multiyear
IA1	Inter-Agency	Required	CCC participation (Meetings and Committees: MSA/ESA, EEJ, Area-Based Management, SCS, Communications, Habitat, CMOD, NEPA)	Ongoing
IA2	Inter-Agency	Required	NRCC participation	Ongoing
IA3	Inter-Agency	Required	East Coast Climate Coordination Group and Climate Innovation Group	Ongoing
IA4	Inter-Agency	Required	NROC Ocean Policy	Ongoing
IA5	Inter-Agency	Required	Sanctuary Advisory Committees (Stellwagen, Hudson Canyon)	Ongoing
IA6	Inter-Agency	Required	International Fisheries Management (US/CA TRAC, TMGC, Steering Committee, ICCAT, HMS, NAFO)	Ongoing
IA7	Inter-Agency	Required	Take Reduction Teams	Ongoing
IA8	Inter-Agency	Required	Protected species issues, including actions as necessary to implement Biological Opinion and implement NARW recovery plan	Ongoing
IA9	Inter-Agency	Required	EEJ strategies and implementation	Ongoing