

2026 New England Fishery Management Council Priorities

Ref #	Plan/Topic	Priority/Task	Estimated Timing
G1	Groundfish	Complete and submit FW72	Complete early 2026
G2	Groundfish	Action to set ABC/ACL for groundfish stocks for FY2027-FY2031; US/CA stocks for FY2027; additional management measures	2026
G3	Groundfish	Groundfish Management Track Assessments (June - Georges Bank haddock; Sept - Gulf of Maine haddock, American plaice) and data updates (halibut, witch flounder, pollock)	2026
G4	Groundfish	Updates for transboundary management (TMGC; cod, haddock, yellowtail flounder)	2026
G5	Groundfish	Review redfish sector exemption program	2026
G6	Groundfish	Amendment 23 monitoring system review including complete development of metrics	2026
G7	Groundfish	Continue work to revise ABC control rules for Northeast Multispecies stocks	2026
G8	Groundfish	Review white hake rebuilding plan and reference points	2026
SC1	Scallop	Complete and submit FW40	Complete early 2026
SC2	Scallop	LAGC IFQ program review (2016-2023)	Complete early 2026
SC3	Scallop	Action to set ABC/ACL for scallop stock with specifications for FY2027 (FY2028 default); Develop sub-management units in NGOM and regional allocations of Limited Access DAS/analyze carryover provisions	2026
SC4	Scallop	Develop new projection methods	2026
SC5	Scallop	Scallop Strategic Plan Menu Items	Multiyear
SC6	Scallop	Scallop RSA Management (Share Day, Proposal Review)	Ongoing
HE1	Herring	Action to set ABC/ACL for Atlantic herring stock for FY2027-FY2031; Develop measures to minimize interactions with river herring and shad	2026

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HE2	Herring	Herring Management Track Assessment (June)	2026
HE3	Herring	Amendment 10: minimize user conflicts, achieve OY, and support rebuilding of the Atlantic herring resource	Multi-year, initiated in 2022
HE4	Herring	Coordination with MAFMC/ASMFC for river herring/shad issues	Ongoing
M/SK1	Monkfish/Skate	Peer review of the monkfish Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) research projects and evaluate use of CPUE indices in monkfish assessment and management	2026
M/SK2/EO3	Monkfish/Skate	Scope an IFQ program for monkfish and/or skate wing fisheries; consider EO14276 response related to monkfish management modifications	Multiyear
W1	Whiting	Action to set ABC/ACL for small-mesh stocks for FY2027-2031; additional management measures	2026
HA1	Habitat	Develop revised EFH designations for groundfish, small mesh, and scallops	2026
HA2	Habitat	Habitat impacts of management actions (NEPA analyses)	Ongoing
HA3	Habitat	Develop habitat and fishery related comments on non-fishing activities, including offshore energy	Ongoing
HA4	Habitat	Contribute to habitat and ocean planning science and management partnerships, through CCC Habitat WG, ASMFC Habitat Committee, Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership, and ROSA	Ongoing
HA5	Habitat	Continue to advance Fishing Effects Model analyses, integrate habitat information into Council initiatives, maintain expertise, and share habitat products with regional partners	Ongoing
HA6	Habitat	Evaluation of the Great South Channel Habitat Management Area surfclam exemption areas	2026
OD1	On-Demand Gear	Joint action with MAFMC and GARFO to revise gear marking regulations across FMPs	Multiyear, initiated 2025
RP1	Risk Policy WG	RPWG TOR #3: Communication strategies for revised Risk Policy	2026
RP2	Risk Policy WG	Simulation testing of revised Risk Policy Concept for some FMPs/species/stocks with SSC review	Multiyear, initiated 2025
RP3	Risk Policy WG	Implementation of revised Risk Policy Concept for some FMPs/species/stocks, integrated with ABC control rule revisions	Multiyear, initiated 2025

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SSC1	SSC	Support Council activities including recommending OFLs and ABCs and review of scientific information	Ongoing
SSC2	SSC	Support SSC Social Science Sub-panel	Ongoing
EN1	Enforcement	Reengage Committee; Q1 Committee meeting	2026
EN2	Enforcement	Address issues related to development and implementation of ropeless/on-demand gear	Multiyear, initiated 2024
NT1	NTAP	Continue the Survey Contingency Working Group; Industry-Based Survey implementation	Ongoing
CE1	Climate and Ecosystem	Spring and fall meetings of the Climate and Ecosystem Steering Committee; guidance for IRA initiatives, climate-resilient fisheries management, and ecosystem approaches	Ongoing
IA1	Inter-Agency	CCC participation	Ongoing
IA2	Inter-Agency	NRCC participation	Ongoing
IA3	Inter-Agency	East Coast Coordination Group and Climate Core Team; CEFI Decision Support Team	Ongoing
IA4	Inter-Agency	NROC Ocean Policy	Ongoing
IA5	Inter-Agency	Sanctuary Advisory Committees (Stellwagen, Hudson Canyon)	Ongoing
IA6	Inter-Agency	International Fisheries Management (US/CA TMGC, Steering Committee, ICCAT, HMS, NAFO); revisit TMGC biomass apportionment methodology	Ongoing
IA7	Inter-Agency	Take Reduction Teams; Protected Species Issues	Ongoing
IRA1	IRA	Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rules for Northeast Multispecies	Multiyear, completion 2027
IRA2	IRA	Atlantic cod management transition (pending implementation of A25)	Multiyear, completion 2027
IRA3	IRA	Operationalizing ecosystem approaches in NE fisheries management, evaluate possible management approaches for cusk to inform ESA listing review	Multiyear, completion 2027
IRA4	IRA	Operationalizing the East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning Initiative	Multiyear, completion 2027

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IRA5	IRA	Holistic strategic plan for climate resilient NE fisheries management	Multiyear, completion 2027
IRA6	IRA	Enhancing participatory processes for climate resilient fisheries	Multiyear, completion 2027
EO1	EO14276	Modifications to Vessel Baseline Restrictions	Multiyear
EO2	EO14276	Fishery Management Plan Revisions	Multiyear
EO3/M/SK2	EO14276	Monkfish management modifications - coordinated with Monkfish priority	Multiyear