

2026 Work Plan

For the Scientific and Statistical Committee

January 21, 2026

Dr. Rachel Feeney, SSC Coordinator



New England
Fishery Management Council

Where do I find the work plan?

- Public version of workplan updated periodically; posted to the NEFMC's SSC webpage:
<https://www.nefmc.org/committees/scientific-and-statistical-committee>
- Also posted on SSC's shared folder on Google Drive.



Quick Links

- 2026 SSC Work Plan



2026 SSC Work Plan - tasks

Recommend OFLs & ABCs	Target for when SSC input is needed
<i>White hake (2026-2030)</i>	January
<i>Atlantic herring (2027-2031)</i> <i>GB haddock (2027-2031)</i>	July
<i>Scallop (2027-2028)</i>	October
<i>Red hake and silver hake (2027-2031)</i>	October
<i>US/Canada multispecies stocks (2027): GB cod, GB haddock, GB yellowtail flounder</i>	October (potentially)
<i>Other Northeast multispecies stocks (2027-2031): GOM haddock, American plaice, Atlantic halibut, witch flounder, pollock, northern windowpane flounder, southern windowpane flounder</i>	October

✓ Done!



2026 SSC Work Plan - tasks

Continued Tasks		
2	Support Council implementation of Risk Policy, review simulation testing of revised risk policy concept; approaches for setting specifications for longer timeframes (whole SSC)	March
3	SSC workshop on non-stationarity in reference points and control rules (whole SSC)	June



2026 SSC Work Plan - tasks

New Tasks		
4	Review research on monkfish catch per unit effort indices (SSC subpanel)	March
5	Review methods for setting Atlantic herring fishery time/area closures and catch caps that would prevent bycatch of river herring and shad (SSC subpanel)	July-August
6	Consult with Council on development of ABC control rules for Northeast multispecies stocks (whole SSC)	August
7	Review permit portfolio analysis of Greater Atlantic region (SSC subpanel)	Fall



2026 SSC Work Plan - tasks

Standing Tasks		
8	General review of SSC timeline, roles, and responsibilities (whole SSC as needed)	First full-SSC meeting, may have short updates throughout year
9	Review <i>State of Ecosystem Report</i> (whole SSC)	March
10	Serve on Climate and Ecosystem Steering Committee (3 SSC members)	2-3 meetings annually
11	Serve on SSC Social Sciences Subcommittee (4 SSC members)	2-3 meetings annually
12	SSC participation in peer reviews and Assessment Working Group (selected SSC members)	All year
13	Provide input on draft 2027 SSC work priorities (whole SSC)	Fall

✓ Done!

Service on committees

- **NEFMC Climate and Ecosystem Steering Committee**
 - Kerr, Lawson, Staudinger
- **NEFMC Risk Policy Working Group**
 - Kerr, McNamee, St. Martin
- **SSC Social Sciences Subcommittee**
 - Uchida (Chair), Birkenbach, Nenadovic, St. Martin
- **Assessment Working Group*** 
- **SSC subpanel to review monkfish CPUE research**
 - McManus (Chair), Kerr, McNamee
- Two SSC subpanels on river herring catch in the Atlantic herring fishery and permit portfolio analysis

**Assessment Oversight Panel and Research Track Steering Committee are on pause while the Northeast Region Coordinating Committee reconsiders assessment processes.*

Service on other peer review panels

- **Fisheries Integrated Modeling Systems (FIMS) CIE Review - April**
 - SSC panelist - Wiedenmann
- **Management Track Assessment Peer Review - June**
 - Georges Bank haddock, Atlantic herring
 - SSC panelist - TBD
- **Management Track Assessment Peer Review - September**
 - American plaice, Gulf of Maine haddock
 - SSC panelist - TBD

2026 SSC meetings (Jan-Apr)

Meeting/Topic	Date	Location
NEFMC Appoint SSC nominees	Jan 28-29	webinar
SSC SSS Fishery data products & reporting; informing 2026 Council work	February 24	webinar
SSC subpanel Monkfish CPUE review	March 13	webinar
Full SSC SOE Report; Risk Policy	March 30	TBD, hybrid
NEFMC	April 14-16	Portland, ME hybrid

2026 SSC meetings (Apr-Sept)

Meeting/Topic	Date	Location
FIMS CIE Review	April 21-23	webinar
NRCC	May 27-28	TBD
SSC Workshop Dynamic reference points	June 1-2	TBD, In-person
MTA Peer Review	June	Woods Hole, hybrid
NEFMC	June 23-25	Mystic, CT hybrid
Full SSC ABCs: A. herring, GB haddock; Summary of ref. pts. Workshop; Groundfish ABC control rules	July (potentially >1 day)	TBD
SSC subpanel A. herring fishery bycatch methods	July-early Aug	TBD
SSC SSS	Summer, TBD	TBD
MTA Peer Review	September	Woods Hole, hybrid
NEFMC	Sept 15-17	Plymouth, hybrid

2026 SSC meetings (Oct-Dec)

Meeting/Topic	Date	Location
SSC ABCs: scallops, northern and southern windowpane flounder, witch flounder, halibut	Early Oct	TBD
SSC ABCs: other groundfish, red and silver hake	Late Oct	TBD
SSC SSS subpanel Permit portfolio project	Fall	TBD
NRCC	Fall	TBD
NEFMC	Dec 8-10	Newport, hybrid