

New England Fishery Management Council Timelines

Aug 27, 2019

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* Indicates preliminary timeline – not yet reviewed by GARFO

Background

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. Framework 32

Scope: 2020 scallop specifications, 2021 default specifications, GB yellowtail mitigation measures

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Jonathon Peros

2019	
JUN 11-13	NEFMC – Initiate Framework 32
JUL-SEP	Committee / AP / PDT develop alternatives
SEP 24-26	NEFMC – Council receives update on the development of FW32
OCT	SSC recommends ABC for FY2020 and FY2021
OCT-NOV	Committee and PDT complete documents
DEC 3-5	NEFMC – Council takes final action
DEC-JAN	Council staff submits decision draft completes pre-submission
2020	
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 Amendment 21

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

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Jonathon Peros

2019	
JAN	NEFMC - review action plan and approve scoping document
FEB-APR	NOI for developing an EIS is published – Scoping period
JUN	NEFMC - Review Amendment 21 scoping comments; develop goals and objectives;
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	NEFMC – Approve range of alternatives for Draft EIS
JAN-MAR	PDT completes Impact Analyses
APR	NEFMC - Review/approve Draft EIS for public hearings, select preferred alternatives for NGOM and LAGC IFQ possession limits
MAY	Staff completes draft DEIS submission
JUN-AUG	NMFS review of DEIS
AUG	Final submission of DEIS to NMFS
SEP	NMFS publishes DEIS
SEP-DEC	Public comment period and public hearings
2021	
JAN	Committee and AP meetings
JAN	NEFMC – Review public comments, select final preferred alternatives
FEB	Preliminary submission of amendment document including EIS
MAR	Final submission of amendment document including EIS
APR	Implementation – Start of FY 2021?

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
JUN	Council receives scoping comments; discusses purpose/need and range of alternatives
JUL-SEP	Committee/PDT develop alternatives and analyses
SEP	Council receives progress report
OCT-NOV	Committee/AP/PDT continue to develop alternatives and analyses
2018	
JAN	Council receives progress report
FEB-APR	PDT develops analyses and no action alternatives
APR	Council receives progress report, no action alternatives
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
JUN	Council receives progress report
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
SEP	Council receives progress report
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
DEC	Council receives progress report
DEC	Committee/AP/PDT continue to develop alternatives and analyses
2019	

JAN	Council receives final report from Fishery Data Working Group; SSC sub-panel provides report on review of Fishery Data Working Group
FEB –APR	Committee, AP and PDT continue to develop alternatives and analyses
APR	Council approves range of alternatives for further development
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
JUN	SSC sub-panel provides report on review of PDT analyses; Council approves range of alternatives for analysis
JUN-SEP	PDT completes the DEIS
SEP	Council approves DEIS for public comment period/hearings, selects preferred alternatives
SEP-OCT	PDT revises and submits the DEIS to NMFS
DEC-JAN	Public hearings and comment period
2020	
JAN	Council takes final action
FEB	Staff finalizes EIS
MAR	Preliminary submission
MAY	Final submission
2021	
MAY 2021	Target Implementation

2 Framework 59 - 2020-2022 specifications for groundfish stocks

- Set 2020 total allowable catches for US/Canada management units of Eastern Georges Bank cod and Eastern GB haddock, and 2020-2021 specifications for the GB yellowtail flounder stock
- Set 2020-2022 specifications for 15 other groundfish stocks*
- Address commercial/recreational allocation issues if raised by new Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) data
- Revise the GB cod Incidental Catch TAC and remove the allocation to the Closed Area I Hook Gear Haddock Special Access Program

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Jamie Cournane

2019	
JUN	NEFMC – Council initiates framework
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 14 groundfish stocks, including consideration of revised MRIP data for stocks with recreational catches. 4 stocks are Level 1, 9 stocks are Level 2, and 1 stock is Level 3.
SEP	NEFMC – Council reviews progress on setting specifications for groundfish stocks, the three U.S./Canada management units/stock for 2020 and reviews draft alternatives for adjustments to allocations
OCT	SSC recommends ABCs for 14 groundfish stocks
DEC	NEFMC – Council receives draft alternatives for specifications and adjustments to allocations and takes final action/approves the framework for submission to NMFS
2020	
JAN	Final submission of framework document to NMFS
MAY 1	Implementation

* 1) GB cod; 2) Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod; 3) GB haddock; 4) GOM haddock; 5) GB yellowtail flounder; 6) Cape Cod/GOM yellowtail flounder; 7) Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder; 8) GB winter flounder; 9) American plaice; 10) witch flounder; 11) pollock; 12) white hake; 13) Atlantic halibut; 14) Northern windowpane flounder; and 15) Southern windowpane flounder

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

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. Continue development of localized depletion alternatives.
JUL - DEC	MSE and localized depletion-related work continues
2017	
JAN	NEFMC – Discuss range of alternatives for MSE control rule 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	
JAN 29	Staff completes draft DEIS submission
JAN-MAR	NMFS review of DEIS
APR	Final submission of DEIS to NMFS
MAY 1	NMFS publishes DEIS
MAY-JUN	Public comment period and public hearings
JUL-SEP	Committee and AP meetings
SEP	NEFMC – Review public comments, select final preferred alternatives
2019	
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
TBD	Implementation

2. Framework 6 - Specifications for 2019-2021

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Deirdre Boelke

2019	
JAN	Council receives update from NMFS on 2019 specifications
JAN-FEB	NMFS publishes proposed rule for 2019 specifications
APR	Council approves range of alternatives for 2019 and 2020 specifications and revised OFL and ABC recommendations
APR-MAY	Committee and PDT develop action
JUN	Council takes final action
JUL	Preliminary submission of 2020-2021 Atlantic herring fishery specifications package
AUG SEP	NEFMC staff receives NMFS' comments and makes revisions to specifications package
SEP	Final submission of 2019-2021 Atlantic herring fishery specifications
OCT	NMFS publishes proposed rule for 2019-2020 Atlantic herring fishery specifications
DEC	NMFS publishes final rule
2020	
JAN 1	Target Implementation

* Timeline depends on in-season action by NMFS to set specifications for 2019 and implementation of Amendment 8

Whiting (Small-mesh Multispecies)

1. *Southern Red Hake Rebuilding Plan; Title of action - TBD

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

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Andrew Applegate

2019 -2020	
MAR-JUN	Committee / PDT develop alternatives and bycatch analysis
JUN	Council receives bycatch analysis
JUL	Annual monitoring report completed
SEP	Council receives annual monitoring report / initiates action
TBD	Staff and PDT develops action
DEC	Council approves final action
TBD	Staff completes preliminary submission
TBD	Target Implementation

* **Preliminary timeline**

Monkfish

2. Framework 11 - 2020-2022 Specifications

OBJECTIVE: The actions modifies the specifications for monkfish

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Fiona Hogan

2019	
JUN	NEFMC – Council initiates framework
JUL - SEP	Operational assessment reviewed
AUG - SEP	SSC develops ABC recommendations for fishing years 2020-2022
SEP	Committee develops management alternatives
SEP	NEFMC – Council approves framework
OCT	MAFMC approves framework
2020	
JAN	Council deems proposed rule
JAN	Preliminary submission of document
FEB	NMFS comments on preliminary submission
MAR	Final submission of framework to NMFS
MAY	Target Implementation

*Preliminary Timeline

Habitat

1. Habitat - Clam Dredge Exemption Framework

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, SEP	Council updates
OCT	Notice of availability for OHA2
JUL-DEC	PDT work on data to support framework
2018	
JAN	Decision date for OHA2
FEB-MAR	Continued PDT work
APR-9	OHA2 implementation (starts one-year clock on exemption from habitat closure)
MAR-MAY	PDT, AP, Committee develop alternatives
SEP	Council selects range of alternatives for analysis in clam framework
OCT-NOV	Draft framework document/EA, Committee identifies preferred alternatives
DEC	Council takes final action on framework
2019	
FEB 28 ✓	Preliminary submission of Framework for review
APR JUN ✓	Staff receives comments on preliminary submission from GARFO
JUN-JUL ✓	Final submission
TBD OCT	Implementation

- Document review delayed due to federal government shutdown

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 for Council to consider new alternative
JUL 2017 - JAN 2018	PDT/Committee work to further analyze/consider new alternative for continental slope/canyons
SEP & DEC	Council receives Updates on work to further analyze/consider new alternative for continental slope/canyons
2018	
JAN	Council takes final action
DEC 21 ✓	Preliminary submission of Deep-Sea Coral Amendment and draft EA
2019	
APR MAY ✓	Staff receives comments on preliminary submission from GARFO
JUN ✓	Final submission
OCT	Target implementation

Skates

1. Framework 7

Scope: Skate specifications for FYs 2020 & 2021

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Fiona Hogan

2019	
JUN	Council initiates framework/specifications
AUG	Operational assessment reviewed
AUG	SSC develops ABC recommendations for fishing years 2020 & 2021
SEP	Committee develops management alternatives
SEP	Council approves framework
DEC/JAN	Preliminary submission of framework/specifications document to NMFS
2020	
FEB	Staff receives comments on preliminary submission
FEB/MAR	Final submission of framework/specifications document to NMFS
MAY	Implementation

2. 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
2018	
MAY-NOV	Committee/PDT develop alternatives and preliminary analyses
2019	
MAR-MAY	Committee/PDT continue to develop alternatives and preliminary analyses
JUN	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

Deep-sea Red Crab

1. Fishing Year 2020-2023 Specifications

Scope: Set specifications for the Red Crab FMP for fishing years 2020-2023

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Jessica Joyce (contractor)

2019	
MAR- JUL	PDT reviews data from the red crab fishery
AUG	SSC develops ABC recommendation for FY 2020-2023
SEP	NEFMC – Council approves specifications
OCT	Preliminary submission of document
NOV	NMFS comments on preliminary submission
DEC	Council deems proposed rule
2020	
JAN	Final submission of specifications to NMFS
MAR	Target implementation

EVTR for Commercial Vessels

1. Framework Adjustment - (eVTRs) for commercial vessels

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

PROJECT MANAGERS: Sam Asci – NEFMC
Karson Coutre - MAFMC

2018	
DEC 2018	Initiation
2019	
DEC 2018	Initiation
JAN-FEB	Formation of FMAT
MAR	FMAT to develop initial draft alternatives/discuss analyses
MAR	Joint AP meeting
APR	MAFMC Council meeting—Framework meeting 1
APR	NEFMC Council meeting—update to NEFMC
MAY	Follow up FMAT meeting
JUN	NEFMC Council meeting—initiate Framework action
JUL	AP/industry webinar
SEP	NEFMC Council meeting—Framework meeting 1
TBD	FMAT meeting
DEC	MAFMC - Final action
2020	
JAN	NEFMC - Final action

Industry-funded Monitoring Amendment

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

PROJECT MANAGERS:

Fiona Hogan– NEFMC Staff
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 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	NEFMC final vote to submit preferred alternative
2018	
JAN	NEFMC receives monitoring service provider presentation
FEB	NMFS conducts internal review of EM pilot project
FEB	Proposed rule published
APR	NEFMC reviews final EM pilot project report, and considers whether EM/Portside is an adequate substitute for ASM for MWT
NOV-7	Proposed rule published/EFP drafting begins
DEC-18	NMFS approves amendment
2019	
TBD	Final rule published
TBD	Implementation - Omnibus and Herring measures effective

Ecosystems Based Fishery 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
2018	
JAN	DELAYED – Center for Independent Experts (CIE) peer review of EBFM catch framework and application of operating models
APR 30-MAY 4	Center for Independent Experts (CIE) peer review of EBFM catch framework and application of operating models
JUN	EBFM Committee develops course of action to further development of eFEP
SEP	NEFMC – Council receives summary of CIE review
SEP 2018 – APR 2019	PDT fleshes out remaining details of eFEP framework; NEFSC and others continue operating model development, incorporating CIE recommendations
2019	
JAN	Council receives progress report on eFEP issues; adopts plan for future development possibly including an MSE process.
JUN	Secure MSE steering panel membership and begin planning, using the eFEP template and available draft discussion documents; retrospective analysis of herring MSE
JUL-AUG	Council contracts with experts to conduct MSE facilitator
SEP	Council receives complete eFEP framework; MSE Steering Committee progress report
DEC	MSE Steering Committee makes recommendations for an MSE process to evaluate Georges Bank Ecosystem Production Unit management procedures, including stakeholder engagement.
2020	
MAR–JUN	Council conducts MSE meetings and analysis
JUN-DEC	Create ecosystem diagrams and refine operating models (NEFSC)
DEC	SSC review of ecosystem diagrams and refine operating models
OCT-MAR 2021	Analyze Management Strategies (NEFSC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present initial strategies at workshops • Identify most viable strategies (MSE) • Present final results to SSC • Present MSE results to the Council
2021	
JUN	Council receives MSE report and determines whether and how to proceed with an actual Fishery Ecosystem Plan