

New England Fishery Management Council Timelines

March 18, 2022

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* Indicates preliminary timeline – not yet reviewed by GARFO

Scallops

1. Amendment 21 – NGOM and IFQ Possession Limits

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-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.
APR	NEFMC – Approve range of alternatives
MAY	PDT completes Impact Analyses
JUN	NEFMC - Review/approve Draft EA for public hearings, select preferred alternatives for NGOM and LAGC IFQ possession limits
JULY-AUG	Staff prepare document for public hearings, public comment period and public hearings, summarize public input
SEP	NEFMC - Council takes final action
OCT-DEC	Staff updates EA for preliminary submission
2021	
JUNE 3	Preliminary submission of amendment document including EA
AUG	Final submission of amendment document including EA
SEP 8	Notice of Availability / Proposed Rule published
DEC	Final Decision from NMFS
2022	
JAN 12 ✓	Final Rule published effective Mar 31
APR	Implementation

2. Framework 34 - 2022 specifications, 2023 default specifications

Scope: 2022 specifications, 2023 default specifications, implementing Amendment 21

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Jonathon Peros

2021	
JUN	NEFMC – Initiate Framework 34
JUL-SEP	Committee / AP / PDT develop alternatives
SEP	NEFMC – Council receives update on the development of FW 34
OCT	SSC recommends ABC for FY2021 and FY2022
OCT-NOV	Committee and PDT complete documents
DEC	NEFMC – Council takes final action
DEC	Council staff complete decision draft
2022	
JAN	NMFS publishes proposed rule.
FEB	Council staff completes pre-submission, NMFS reviews EA
MAR	Staff completes final submission for NMFS review and approval
APR 1	NMFS publishes final rule, Implementation

3. 2023 specifications, 2024 default specifications*

Scope: 2023 specifications, 2024 default specifications

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Jonathon Peros

2022	
JUN	NEFMC – Initiate
SEP	NEFMC – Council receives update on the development
OCT	SSC recommends ABC for FY2023 and FY2024
OCT-NOV	Committee and PDT complete documents
DEC	NEFMC – Council takes final action
DEC	Council staff complete decision draft
2023	
JAN	NMFS publishes proposed rule.
FEB	Council staff completes pre-submission, NMFS reviews EA
MAR	Staff completes final submission for NMFS review and approval
APR 1	NMFS publishes final rule, Implementation

Groundfish

1. Framework 63 - 2022-2024 Specifications/Management Measures

Scope:

- Set 2022 total allowable catches for US/Canada management units of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod and Eastern GB haddock, and 2022-2023 specifications for the GB yellowtail flounder stock,
- Set 2022 specifications for GB cod and 2022-2024 specifications for Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod
- Adjust 2022 specifications for white hake based on the rebuilding plan,
- Adopt additional measures to promote stock rebuilding, and
- Develop alternatives to the current default system.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGERS: Jamie Cournane/Robin Frede

2021	
MAY	Assessment Oversight Panel meets
JUN	Council initiates framework
JUL 12-14	TRAC assesses US/CA management units of EGB cod and EGB haddock, and the GB yellowtail flounder stock
AUG 25	SSC recommends OFLs/ABCs for GB yellowtail flounder
AUG 31-SEP 2	TMGC/SC recommends TACs for US/CA management units/stock
SEP 13-15	Management track assessments for GB cod and GOM cod
SEP	Council receives TMGC recommendations and reviews progress on developing draft alternatives
OCT 25	SSC recommends OFLs/ABCs for GB cod, GOM cod, GB haddock, GOM haddock, and white hake
DEC	Council receives draft alternatives and takes final action
2022	
FEB	Preliminary submission of framework document to NMFS
FEB	Final submission of framework document to NMFS
MAY	Target implementation

Change in scope – Possibly adjusting 2022 Haddock specifications was dropped

2. 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
JUL-AUG	PDT develops DEIS
SEP	Council receives progress report, including preliminary draft impacts analysis
OCT-NOV	PDT continues to develop DEIS, Committee/AP/PDT continue to develop alternatives and analyses
DEC	Council receives progress report
DEC	PDT completes DEIS
2020	
JAN	PDT completes DEIS
JAN	Council approves DEIS for public comment period/hearings and identifies preliminary preferred alternatives
FEB	Staff completes preliminary DEIS submission; NMFS review of DEIS
MAR	Final submission of DEIS to NMFS
MAR	NMFS publishes DEIS
JUN	Council receives progress report - reschedules final action
JUN-AUG	Public hearing and comment period continued
SEP	Council takes final action
OCT- APR	Staff finalizes EIS
2021	
APR 30	Preliminary submission
AUG 9	Final submission
2022	
JAN 21 ✓	Proposed Rule published
APR	Final Decision from NMFS
MAY	Target Effective Date
MAY	Target implementation*

* There may be phased-in implementation of some requirements.

3. Framework 65 - 2023-2025 Specifications/Management Measures*

Scope:

- Set 2023 total allowable catches for US/Canada management units of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod, Eastern GB haddock, and the GB yellowtail flounder stock,
- Set 2023-2024 specifications for GB cod and GB yellowtail flounder stocks,
- Set 2023-2025 specifications for 14 additional groundfish stocks,
- Revise rebuilding plans for GOM cod and Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) winter flounder,
- Adopt additional measures to promote stock rebuilding, and
- In consultation with the SSC, revise ABC control rules for Northeast Multispecies stocks.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGERS: Jamie Cournane/Robin Frede

2022	
FEB 24	Assessment Oversight Panel meets (SNE/MA winter flounder)
MAY 24	Assessment Oversight Panel meets (13 groundfish stocks)
JUN 27-30	Management track assessment for SNE/MA winter flounder
JUN 28-30	Council initiates framework
JUL 11-13 (tent.)	TRAC assesses US/CA management units of EGB cod and EGB haddock, and the GB yellowtail flounder stock
TBD	SSC recommends OFLs/ABCs for GB yellowtail flounder, GB cod, and SNE/MA winter flounder, discusses rebuilding plans for GOM cod and SNE/MA winter flounder, discusses possible ABC control rule revisions
TBD	TMGC/SC recommends TACs for US/CA management units/stock
SEP 19-23	Management track assessments for 13 groundfish stocks
SEP 27-29	Council receives TMGC recommendations and reviews progress on developing draft alternatives
TBD	SSC recommends OFLs/ABCs for 13 groundfish stocks
DEC 6-8	Council receives draft alternatives and takes final action
2023	
JAN	Preliminary submission of framework document to NMFS
FEB	Final submission of framework document to NMFS
MAY 1	Target implementation

Herring

1. Framework 7 – Spawning protection for herring on Georges Bank

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Deirdre Boelke

2019 Framework 7	
SEP	Council initiates action
2020	
JAN-DEC	Committee develop action (while working on other actions)
2021	
APR	Council clarifies scope of action – herring fishery only and adult spawners
2022	
DEC-2021 TBD	Potential final action (shifted to 2022 after PDT and AP can meet in person to discuss additional alternatives, potentially including in-season monitoring of spawning fish on GB that trigger spawning closures)
TBD	Framework, including Environmental Assessment finalized by staff
TBD	NMFS publishes proposed and final rule
TBD	Implementation

2. Framework 9 - Rebuilding plan and accountability measures

Scope: Rebuild herring resource and possibly adjust accountability measures

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Deirdre Boelke

2021	
JAN-APR	Committee and PDT develop action
APR	Update – Council clarified what will be included in this action
JUN	Update
SEP	Final action
NOV	Preliminary submission to NMFS
2022	
JAN	Preliminary submission reviewed by NMFS
FEB	Final submission of FW to NMFS
TBD	NMFS publishes proposed rule

TBD	NMFS publishes final rule
TBD	Implementation

3. 2023-2025 Herring Specifications

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Deirdre Boelke

2022	
JUN	Initiate action
JUL/AUG	Develop action
SEP	Final action
NOV	Preliminary submission to NMFS
DEC	Final submission to NMFS
2023	
TBD	NMFS publishes proposed rule
TBD	NMFS publishes final rule
TBD	Implementation

Monkfish

1. Framework 13 – 2023-2025 Specifications

OBJECTIVE: The actions modifies the specifications for monkfish and is expected to include other measures related to Council priorities

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Rachel Feeney

2022	
APR	NEFMC – Council initiates framework
SEP	Management track assessment reviewed
OCT	SSC develops ABC recommendations for fishing years 2020-2022
DEC	NEFMC – final action
DEC	MAFMC – final action
2020	
JAN	Preliminary submission to NMFS
MAR	Final submission to NMFS
TBD	NMFS publishes proposed rule
TBD	NMFS publishes final rule
MAY	Target Implementation

Skates

1. Amendment 8 (formerly Framework 9) – Updating Skate FMP Objectives, Revising Permit characteristics

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Rachel Feeney

2021	
SEP	Council initiates Framework 9
NOV	Committee develops objectives and range of alternatives
2022	
JAN	Committee recommends preferred alternatives
FEB	Council final action on Framework 9 – No Action for alternatives; decided to submit FMP objectives in Amendment 8
MAR	Preliminary submission of Amendment 8 to NMFS
APR	Target implementation of Amendment 8

2. Specifications for Fishing Years 2022-2023

Scope: Adjustments to catch limits for the 2021-2023 fishing years.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Rachel Feeney

2021	
MAR	PDT preliminary work to support alternatives development; Committee and AP receive brief update
APR	Council meeting – update
APR-JUN	PDT develops background for ABC recommendations and other alternatives
MAY-JUN	Committee and AP develop alternatives to adjust measures, e.g., possession limits
JUN	Council meeting – update
JUL	SSC meeting to recommend ABC
AUG	PDT prepares specifications document; Final AP and Committee meetings to consider impact analysis and recommend preferred alternatives
SEP	Council takes final action
OCT	Preliminary submission of document to NMFS
DEC	Final submission of document to NMFS
2022	
JAN 18	Proposed rule published
MAY 1	Target Implementation

* The scope of this action has changed – consideration of changes to possession limits has been eliminated.

Ecosystems Based Fishery Management

1. Scope: Phase III – Public engagement and Management Strategy Evaluation

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	
JAN-FEB	Staff develops RFP for EBFM science communicator and communicator begins contract
MAR– JUN	EBFM, staff, and the EBFM Committee work with GreenFinStudio to produce public information materials. Plan public meetings and contract with facilitators.
JUN	Council receives final draft outreach materials from GreenFinStudio
JUN-JUL	Council receives final outreach deliverables from GreenFinStudio
JUL-AUG	Committee develops recommendations for workshop format and framework, based on public outreach materials
AUG-SEP	Council staff solicits applications for facilitators and negotiates statement of work; organizes meetings
SEP	Council receives planning update on public outreach workshops
OCT	Council discussion of path for EBFM
DEC	Council discussion of path for EBFM continued
2021	
FEB	Council adds five stakeholder members to the MSE Steering Committee
MAR-MAY	MSE Steering Committee develops and recommends workshop plan

JUN	Council approves workshop plan
NOV-JAN	Hire needed contractors and schedule workshops
2022	
FEB-MAR	Staff works with facilitator to develop engagement strategy and plan workshops; seek invited experts to give presentations and answer public questions
APR-MAY	Council conducts first phase of public outreach meetings and analysis
MAY-JUN	Analyze and summarize workshops
JUN	Council receives workshop reports and decides how to proceed with EBFM development
TBD	Create ecosystem diagrams and refine operating models (NEFSC)
TBD	SSC review of ecosystem diagrams and refine operating models
TBD	Analyze Management Strategies (NEFSC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present initial strategies at workshops • Identify most viable strategies (MSE) • Present results to SSC Present MSE results to the Council
TBD	Council receives MSE report and determines whether and how to proceed with an actual Fishery Ecosystem Plan