

New England Fishery Management Council Timelines

JUN 3, 2022

SCALLOPS	2
1. FRAMEWORK 35 - 2023 SPECIFICATIONS, 2024 DEFAULT SPECIFICATIONS.....	2
GROUNDFISH	3
2. FRAMEWORK 63 - 2022-2024 SPECIFICATIONS/MGT. MEASURES (<i>ABBREVIATED</i>) .	3
3. AMENDMENT 23 GROUNDFISH MONITORING (<i>ABBREVIATED</i>).....	3
4. FRAMEWORK 65 - 2023-2025 SPECIFICATIONS/MANAGEMENT MEASURES	4
HERRING	5
5. FRAMEWORK 7 – SPAWNING PROTECTION FOR HERRING ON GEORGES BANK...5	
6. FRAMEWORK 9 - REBUILDING PLAN AND ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES	5
7. HERRING SPECIFICATIONS FOR 2023-2025	6
MONKFISH	7
1. FRAMEWORK 13 – 2023-2025 SPECIFICATIONS.....	7
SKATES.....	8
1. AMENDMENT 8 (FORMERLY FRAMEWORK 9)	8
2. SPECIFICATIONS FOR FISHING YEARS 2022-2023	8
HABITAT	9
ECOSYSTEMS BASED FISHERY MANAGEMENT	10

* **Indicates preliminary timeline – not yet reviewed by GARFO**

Scallops

1. Framework 35 - 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

2. Framework 63 - 2022-2024 Specifications/Mgt. Measures (*Abbreviated*)

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	
DEC	Council receives draft alternatives and takes final action*
2022	
FEB 25	Preliminary submission of framework document to NMFS
MAR 28	Final submission of framework document to NMFS
APR 20	Proposed Rule published and comment period closed May 5, 2022
MAY **	Target implementation (delayed)

* Change in scope –Adjusting 2022 Haddock specifications was dropped

3. Amendment 23 Groundfish Monitoring (*Abbreviated*)

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

2021	
APR 30	Preliminary submission
AUG 9	Final submission
2022	
FEB 28	Proposed Rule published
APR 14	Final Decision by NMFS
TBD*	Final Rule
TBD	Target implementation – delayed beyond May 1

*Proposed Rule comment period closed March 30, 2022

4. Framework 65 - 2023-2025 Specifications/Management Measures

Scope:

- Revise status determination criteria, as appropriate,
- Revise rebuilding plans for Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod and Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) winter flounder,
- Set FY2023-FY2024 total allowable catches for US/Canada management units of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod and Eastern GB haddock, and the GB yellowtail flounder stock,
- Set FY2023-FY2024 specifications for GB cod, including a catch target for the recreational fishery
- Set FY2023-FY2025 specifications for GB haddock, GOM haddock, CC/GOM yellowtail flounder, SNE/MA yellowtail flounder, GB winter flounder, GOM winter flounder, SNE/MA winter flounder, American plaice, witch flounder, pollock, white hake, Atlantic halibut, ocean pout, and Atlantic wolffish,
- Adopt additional measures to promote stock rebuilding for GOM cod and SNE/MA winter flounder,
- Revise acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rules, in consultation with the SSC.

2022	
JAN 25-27	Peer review - Gulf of Maine haddock Research Track assessment
MAR 16	Groundfish Committee meets
MAR 28-31	Peer review - Georges Bank /Eastern Georges Bank Research Track assessment
APR 12-14	Council initiates framework
JUN 27-30	Peer review - SNE/MA winter flounder Management Track assessment
JUN 28-30	Council receives update on development of draft alternatives
JUL 12-14	TRAC assesses US/CA management units of EGB cod and EGB haddock, and the GB yellowtail flounder stock
JUL 18-22	Peer review – American plaice Research Track assessment
AUG/SEP 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
SEP 13-15	TMGC/SC meets to recommend TACs for US/CA management units/stock
SEP 19-23	Peer review - 13 groundfish stocks Management Track Assessments
SEP 27-29	Council receives TMGC recommendations and reviews progress on developing draft alternatives
OCT/NOV 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	Target implementation

Herring

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

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Rachel Feeney

2019	
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	
May 17	PDT and AP met to discuss additional alternatives, potentially including in-season monitoring of spawning fish on GB that trigger spawning closures
JUN	Council receives progress report
TBD	Potential final action
TBD	Framework, including Environmental Assessment finalized by staff
TBD	NMFS publishes proposed and final rule
TBD	Implementation

6. Framework 9 - Rebuilding plan and accountability measures

Scope: Rebuild herring resource and possibly adjust accountability measures

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Rachel Feeney

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 11	Final submission of FW to NMFS
MAR 2	NMFS published proposed rule
TBD	NMFS publishes final rule (<i>likely to be in June</i>)
TBD	Implementation

7. Herring Specifications for 2023-2025

Scope: Adjust specifications, including the ACL, based on updated assessment information

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER

Rachel Feeney

2022	
JUN	Council – receive update
JUN 27	Assessment Peer Review
JUL/AUG	Develop action
AUG 4	SSC recommends OFL and ABC
SEP	Council - 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

Scope: 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 19-24	Management track assessment assessment review
OCT	SSC develops ABC recommendations for fishing years 2020-2022
DEC	NEFMC – final action
DEC	MAFMC – final action
2023	
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)

Scope: Update Skate FMP objectives, revise 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
MAR 28	Final submission of Amendment 8 to NMFS
APR	Proposed rule published
JUL	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 - final action
OCT	Preliminary submission of document to NMFS
DEC	Final submission of document to NMFS
2022	
JAN 18	Proposed rule published
MAR 17	Final Rule Published
MAY 1	Implementation

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

Habitat

1. Southern New England Habitat Area of Particular Concern Framework

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Michelle Bachman

2022	
FEB	Council initiates Framework
FEB –APR	Committee and PDT develop range of HAPC designation alternatives including supporting information
APR	Council reviews draft alternatives
APR-JUN	Committee and PDT continue to refine range of HAPC designation alternatives including supporting information; AP review and input
JUN	Council final action
JUL	Staff submits framework to NOAA GARFO
TBD	NOAA review
TBD	Public comment period (30 days)
TBD	Final Rule publication/Implementation
TBD	NOAA approval and implementation ¹

¹ This action is expected to qualify for a categorical exclusion under NEPA. No rulemaking is required for HAPCs so implementation would occur upon approval.

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	
MAR-APR	Staff works with facilitator to develop engagement strategy and plan workshops; seek invited experts to give presentations and answer public questions
MAR-APR	Staff and PDT develop draft Prototype MSE plan
APR	Council approves Prototype MSE plan
APR-MAY	Council issues request for proposals for a contractor to conduct Prototype MSE and evaluates applicants
APR-JUN	Council conducts first phase of public outreach meetings and analysis (Facilitator)
MAY-JUN	Analyze and summarize workshops (Facilitator)
JUN	Advertise for contractor to develop and conduct Prototype MSE based on plan
JUN	Council receives outreach reports and continues preparing for public information workshops
JUL	Council hires contractor to develop and conduct Prototype MSE
AUG-SEP	Conduct six initial outreach workshops using the facilitator
AUG	SSC review of operating models and proposed Prototype MSE
AUG-OCT	EBFM Committee and Advisory Panel chairs (“stakeholders”) and EBFM PDT meet to develop management objectives, operating models, and candidate management procedures (Contractor)
SEP	Report: Summary of the initial outreach workshops (Facilitator) Progress report: Prototype MSE development (Contractor)
NOV	Coordinate and conduct two deep-dive public information workshops (Facilitator)
OCT-DEC	Analyze Management Strategies (Contractor) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present initial strategies at workshops • Identify most viable strategies (MSE) Present results to SSC
DEC	Report: Summary of deep-dive workshops (Facilitator) Progress report: Prototype MSE development (Contractor)
2023	
JAN	MSE meetings reporting results to EBFM Committee and Advisory Panel chairs (“stakeholders”), EBFM PDT, and SSC
DEC JAN	Council receives MSE report and determines how to proceed with an actual Fishery Ecosystem Plan