

**New England Fishery Management Council Timelines**  
**January 10, 2023**

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# Scallops

## 1. Framework 36 - 2023 specifications, 2024 default specifications

Scope: 2023 specifications, 2024 default specifications (no changes)

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 65 - 2023-2025 Specifications/Management Measures

#### Scope:

- Revise the rebuilding plans for Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod,
- 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 yellowtail flounder and 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,
- Revise commercial management measures for GB cod.

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 Haddock Research Track Assessment
<b>APR 12-14</b>	<b>Council initiates framework</b>
JUN 27-30	Peer review - SNE/MA winter flounder Management Track assessment
<b>JUN 28-30</b>	<b>Council receives update on development of draft alternatives</b>
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 4	SSC discusses rebuilding plan for GOM cod and an update on possible ABC control rule revisions
AUG 25	SSC recommends OFLs/ABCs for GB yellowtail flounder, GB cod, and SNE/MA winter flounder
SEP 12-14	TMGC/SC meets to recommend TACs for US/CA management units/stock
SEP 15	Groundfish Committee meets
SEP 19-23	Peer review - 9 groundfish stocks Management Track Assessments
<b>SEP 27-29</b>	<b>Council receives TMGC recommendations and reviews progress on developing draft alternatives</b>
OCT 12	SSC recommends OFLs/ABCs for witch flounder, ocean pout, and Atlantic wolffish
OCT 26-27	SSC recommends OFLs/ABCs for GB winter flounder, GOM winter flounder, Atlantic halibut, American plaice, GOM haddock, and pollock
NOV 9	SSC recommends OFLs/ABCs for SNE/MA yellowtail flounder, CC/GOM yellowtail flounder, GB haddock, and white hake
NOV 22	Groundfish Committee meets
DEC 2	Groundfish Committee meets

<b>DEC 5-8</b>	<b>Council receives draft alternatives and takes final action</b>
<b>2023</b>	
JAN 20	SSC reviews correction to Atlantic halibut assessment and recommends OFLs/ABCs
JAN 24-26	Council takes final action on Atlantic halibut specifications only.
JAN/FEB	Preliminary submission of framework document to NMFS
FEB/MAR	Final submission of framework document to NMFS
MAY	Target implementation

## 2. 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

<b>2021</b>	
APR 30	Preliminary submission
AUG 9	Final submission
<b>2022</b>	
FEB 28 - MAR	Proposed Rule published and comment period closed March 30, 2022
APR 14	Final Decision by NMFS
<del>TBD</del> /DEC 9	Final Rule published
<del>TBD</del> /DEC 13	Implementation of west of 71° 30' exclusion measure
<b>2023</b>	
JAN 9	Implementation of all other measures

# Herring

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

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Jamie Cournane

<b>2019</b>	
<b>SEP</b>	<b>Council initiates action</b>
<b>2020</b>	
JAN-DEC	Committee develop action (while working on other actions)
<b>2021</b>	
<b>APR</b>	<b>Council clarifies scope of action – herring fishery only and adult spawners</b>
<b>2022</b>	
May	PDT and AP met to discuss additional alternatives, potentially including in-season monitoring of spawning fish on GB that trigger spawning closures
JUN 10	Committee meeting
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Council receives progress report, agrees to postpone work/further discussion until September Council meeting</b>
SEP 23	Herring Committee recommends a change in priorities to discontinue work on this action
<b>SEP 26-29</b>	<b>Council indicates work should continue</b>
<b>DEC 6-8</b>	<b>Council removes action from 2023 priorities <del>takes final action</del></b>
<b>TBD</b>	<b>Framework, including Environmental Assessment finalized by staff</b>
<b>TBD</b>	<b>NMFS publishes proposed and final rule</b>
<b>TBD</b>	<b>Implementation</b>

## 2. Herring Specifications for 2023-2025

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

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER

Jamie Cournane

2022	
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Council – receive update</b>
JUN 27	Assessment Peer Review
JUL/AUG	Develop action
AUG 4	SSC recommends OFL and ABC
SEP 23	Herring Committee meets
<b>SEP 26-29</b>	<b>Council - final action</b>
OCT 20	Preliminary submission to NMFS
<b>NOV/DEC</b>	<b>Final submission to NMFS</b>
2023	
<b>JAN 10</b>	<b>Final submission to NMFS</b>
TBD	NMFS publishes proposed rule
TBD	NMFS publishes final rule
TBD	Implementation

## Monkfish

### 1. Framework 13 – 2023-2025 Specifications

**Scope:** The actions modify 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 20	Management track assessment review
OCT	SSC develops ABC recommendations for fishing years 2023-2025
DEC	NEFMC – final action delayed until Jan 2023 due to remand of ABC recommendation to SSC
DEC	MAFMC – final action delayed until Feb 2023 due to NEFMC remand to SSC)
2023	
JAN 20	SSC considers Council remand of its October ABC recommendation
JAN	NEFMC – final action considering SSC response to Council remand of ABC
FEB	NEFMC – final action considering SSC response to NEFMC remand of ABC
JAN/FEB	Preliminary submission to NMFS
MAR	Final submission to NMFS
TBD	NMFS publishes proposed rule
TBD	NMFS publishes final rule
MAY	Target Implementation

## Habitat

### 1. Southern New England HAPC Framework (no changes)

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Michelle Bachman

2022	
<b>FEB</b>	<b>Council initiates Framework</b>
FEB –APR	Committee and PDT develop range of HAPC designation alternatives including supporting information
<b>APR</b>	<b>Council reviews draft alternatives</b>
APR-JUN	Committee and PDT continue to refine range of HAPC designation alternatives including supporting information; AP review and input
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Council final action</b>
AUG	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

### 2. Atlantic Salmon Aquaculture Framework (no changes)

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Michelle Bachman

2022	
AUG	Committee discusses possibility of initiating Atlantic salmon framework action to authorize salmon aquaculture
SEP	PDT begins background work
<b>SEP</b>	<b>NEFMC initiates Atlantic salmon framework action</b>
OCT	PDT discusses scope of framework including background information and type of impact analyses required for action
NOV	Advisory Panel, Committee meet to discuss development of alternatives
DEC	Council update, PDT continues development
2023	
JAN	PDT meets to continue development, Council update
MAR	PDT finishes drafting framework, Committee recommends preferred alternatives
<b>APR</b>	<b>NEFMC final action</b>
MAY	Formal submission
TBD	Target implementation



# Ecosystems Based Fishery Management

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

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Andrew Applegate

<b>2017</b>	
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
<b>2018</b>	
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
<b>2019</b>	
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.
<b>2020</b>	
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
<b>2021</b>	
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
<b>2022</b>	
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	Advertises 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
OCT-NOV	Conduct six initial outreach workshops using the facilitator
OCT- FEB	Analyze Management Strategies (Contractor) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present initial strategies at workshops</li> <li>• Identify most viable strategies (MSE)</li> </ul> Present results to SSC
OCT-NOV	EBFM Committee and Advisory Panel chairs (“stakeholders”) and EBFM PDT meet to develop management objectives, operating models, and candidate management procedures (Contractor)
NOV	SSC review of operating models and proposed Prototype MSE
DEC	Report: Summary of the initial outreach workshops Progress report: Prototype MSE development
<b>2023</b>	
JAN-MAR	MSE meetings reporting results to EBFM Committee and Advisory Panel chairs (“stakeholders”), EBFM PDT, and SSC
JAN	Council receives pMSE progress report; Committee recommends how and when to conduct deep-dive public information workshops
FEB	Contractor presents pMSE plan to the Scientific and Statistical Committee
FEB-MAR	pMSE contractor develops models and evaluates candidate management procedures and presents preliminary results to the stakeholders; staff develops and advertises request for proposals for deep-dive public information workshops
MAR-APR	Staff reviews facilitator proposals and negotiates a contract to conduct workshops
APR	Council receives draft pMSE report (Contractor)
MAY-JUN	Coordinate and conduct two deep-dive public information workshops (Facilitator), based on the eFEP strategy and results from the pMSE
JUN	Report: Summary of deep-dive workshops (Facilitator) Final report: Prototype MSE development (Contractor) EBFM committee recommends how to proceed with further EBFM development.