

New England Fishery Management Council Timelines
June 4 , 2015

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SCALLOPS

1. Scallop Framework Adjustment 27

OBJECTIVE: 2016-2017 Scallop Specifications – fishery specifications only;

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Deirdre Boelke

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: JAN 2016

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: MAY 2016

| MILESTONES | PLANNED | COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED |
|--|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. PDT begins work on framework | APR 2015 | ✓ |
| 2. Council initiates framework | JUN 2015 | |
| 3. SSC develops ABC recommendations | SEP- OCT 2015 | |
| 4. Council approves framework | DEC 2015 | |
| 5. Final submission of framework to NMFS | JAN 2016 | |
| 6. Implementation | MAY 2016 | |

2. Scallop Amendment 19

OBJECTIVE: Implement measures to implement fishery specifications closer to the start of the scallop fishing year

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Deirdre Boelke

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: JAN 2016

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: JUN 2016

| MILESTONES | PLANNED | COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED |
|---|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Staff begins work on amendment | MAR 2015 | ✓ |
| 2. Council provides committee guidance | JUN 2015 | |
| 3. Council reviews draft amendment | SEP 2015 | |
| 4. Public hearings | OCT-NOV 2015 | |
| 5. Council approves amendment | DEC 2015 | |
| 6. Final submission of amendment to NMFS | JAN 2016 | JAN-FEB 2016 |
| 7. Implementation | JUN 2016 | AUG 2016 |

GROUND FISH

Amendment 18 – Accumulation Limits & Fleet Diversity (with EIS)

OBJECTIVE: Amendment to consider accumulation limits; measures to preserve fleet diversity, measures to enable US-Canada quota trading, measures for permit banks; other measures.

The Council is waiting for guidance from NMFS about whether an EIS will be required.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Rachel Feeney

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: APR 2015

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: MAY 1, 2015

| MILESTONES | PLANNED | COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Staff completes draft Fleet Diversity, Allocation, and Excessive Shares whitepaper | SEP 2010 | ✓ |
| 2. NMFS publishes control date for A18 | APR 2011 | ✓ |
| 3. Accumulation Limits Workshop | JUN 2011 | ✓ |
| 4. Committee approves scoping document | AUG 2011 | ✓ |
| 5. Council approves scoping document | SEP 2011 | ✓ |
| 6. Scoping hearings | NOV-DEC 2011 | ✓JAN 2012 ¹⁻ |
| 7. Council reviews scoping comments | JAN 2012 | ✓JUN 2012 ²⁻ |
| 8. Council considers fishery performance data and sets goals & objectives for the amendment | MAR-JUN 2013 ³⁻ | ✓JUN 2013 |
| 9. Independent peer review of Compass-Lexecon report on excessive shares in the groundfish fishery | APR-MAY 2015 | ✓JUN 2015 ⁴⁻ |
| 10. Council <u>partially</u> approves range of alternatives for DEIS | | ✓JUN 2015 ⁵⁻ |
| 11. Council approves remaining range of alternatives for DEIS | JAN 2015 | ✓NOV 2014 ⁶⁻ |
| 12. Council approves DEIS & selects preferred alternatives | APR 2015 | ✓APR 2015 |
| 13. NMFS accepts DEIS | JUN 2015 | JUN 2015 |
| 14. Public hearings - 45-day comment period | JUL – AUG | JUL-AUG 2015 |
| 15. Council votes on final action | SEP 2015 | SEP 2015 |
| 16. Amendment & FEIS submitted to NMFS | NOV 2015 | NOV-2015 |
| 17. Revisions, final submission of amendment & FEIS, review, and deeming of proposed regulations. NMFS publishes NOA. 60-day public comment period | NOV 2015 - FEB 2015 | NOV-DEC 2015 |
| 18. Implementation | TBD | MAY 2016 |

1. Delayed by additional time needed to complete Framework 47

2. Further delayed from April until June by Executive Committee decision on to extend the comment period by an additional 60 days

3. The Council revised Groundfish priorities for 2012 and put several actions ahead of the completion of Amendment 18.

4. The results of this review of the Compass Lexecon report will not be available until a later time.

5. The Council delayed approving the full range of alternatives to include measures that address fishing effort in the inshore Gulf of Maine.

6. The Council delayed approving the full range of alternatives because discussion about GOM cod management issues for FW53 and emergency action did not leave enough time at the Sep-Oct Council meeting.

Framework 55 2016-2018 –Specifications for Groundfish Stocks, etc.

OBJECTIVE: Specifications for US/CA stocks (GB yellowtail flounder, EGB cod, EGB haddock) for FY 2016, and specifications for all other groundfish stocks for FY 2016-FY 2018

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Jamie Cournane

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: JAN 2016

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: MAY 2016

| MILESTONES | PLANNED | COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED |
|---|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Council initiates framework | JUN 2015 | |
| 2. TRAC assessments for US/CA stocks including GB yellowtail flounder | JUN 2015 | |
| 3. SSC recommends ABC for GB yellowtail flounder | AUG – SEP 2015 | |
| 4. Groundfish assessment updates for all stocks except for GB yellowtail flounder | SEP 2015 | |
| 5. TMGC recommends TACs for US/CA stocks | SEP 2015 | |
| 6. SSC completes ABC recommendations | OCT 2015 | |
| 7. PDT analyzes alternatives | AUG - NOV 2015 | |
| 8. Council approves framework /specifications | DEC 2015 | |
| 9. Final submission of framework document to NMFS | JAN 2016 | |
| 10. Implementation | MAY 2016 | |

Herring

1. Specifications for FY 2016-2018

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Lori Steele
 TARGET COMPLETION DATE: TBD
 TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: TBD

| MILESTONES | PLANNED | COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED |
|---|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Operational assessment | APR 2015 | ✓ |
| 2. SSC peer reviews operational assesement | APR 2015 | ✓ |
| 3. Council discusses the action in the context of new information provided | JUN 2015 | |
| 4. PDT analyzes alternatives | JUL – SEP 2015 | |
| 5. Council selects a preferred alternative | SEP 2015 | |
| 6. Council final action | DEC 2015 | |
| 7. Final submission of framework to NMFS | TBD | |
| 8. Implementation | TBD | |

2. Amendment 8 – EBFM based control rule for herring
 (timeline yet to be determined)

3. Framework 4 – Disapproved Elements of Amendment 5

OBJECTIVE: Address some disapproved elements of Amendment 5, including dealer weighing provisions and measures to address net slippage

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Lori Steele
 TARGET COMPLETION DATE: JUN 2015
 TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: OCT 2015

| MILESTONES | PLANNED | COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED |
|--|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. PDT and Committee begin work on framework | JAN 2014 | ✓ |
| 2. Council initiates framework action | JAN 2014 | ✓ |
| 3. PDT analyzes alternatives | FEB-MAR 2014 | ✓ |
| 4. Council approves framework action | APR 2014 | ✓ |
| 5. Preliminary submission of framework to NMFS | | ✓JUL 2014 |
| 6. Completion of NMFS review of preliminary framework document | | ✓JAN 2015 |
| 7. Final submission of framework to NMFS | JUN 2014 | ✓FEB 2015 |
| 8. Implementation | JAN 2015 | OCT 2015 |

WHITING (Small Mesh Multispecies)

1. Multispecies Amendment 21 – Small Mesh Multispecies Limited Access

OBJECTIVE: Develop Limited access program for Small Mesh Multispecies FMP which includes whiting.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Andrew Applegate
 TARGET COMPLETION DATE: To be determined (TBD)
 TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: To be determined (TBD)

| MILESTONES | PLANNED | COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED |
|---|------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Staff begins work on amendment | MAR 2015 | ✓ |
| 2. Staff /PDT develops scoping document | TBD | |
| 3. Council approves scoping document | TBD | |
| 4. Council approves management alternatives for analysis | TBD | |
| 5. PDT prepares Draft Amendment | TBD | |
| 6. Council approves draft amendment and selects preferred alternatives | TBD | |
| 7. Public hearings | TBD | |
| 8. Council approves final amendment measures | TBD | |
| 9. Staff submits final amendment to NMFS | TBD | |
| 10. Implementation | TBD | |

1. A control date for this action was published on November 28, 2012.

2. Whiting & Hake Specifications for 2015-2017

OBJECTIVE: 2015-2017 specifications for whiting, red hake and offshore hake – ABCs/ACLs, AMs and trip limits if applicable

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Andrew Applegate
 TARGET COMPLETION DATE: JAN 2015
 TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: MAY 2015

| MILESTONES | PLANNED | COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED |
|---|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. PDT begins work on specifications | JUN 2015 | ✓ |
| 2. Assessment update | JUL 2015 | ✓ |
| 3. SSC develops ABC recommendations | AUG 2015 | ✓ |
| 4. Council initiates specifications | OCT 2015 | ✓ |
| 5. Council approves specifications | DEC 2015 | ✓ |
| 6. Final submission of specifications package to NMFS | JAN 2016 | ✓MAR 2016 |
| 7. Implementation | MAY 2016 | AUG 2016 |

HABITAT

1. Omnibus Essential Fish Habitat Amendment 2, Phases I & II

OBJECTIVE: Designate EFH, and HAPCs as necessary, for all managed species; minimize the adverse effects of fishing on EFH to the extent practicable in a consistent manner across all FMPs; evaluate and possibly modify system of groundfish closures.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Michelle Bachman

| MILESTONES | PLANNED / REVISED COMPLETION DATE | COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED |
|---|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Phase 1 scoping hearings | MAR 2004 | ✓ |
| 2. Council approves EFH designations (Phase 1) | JUN 2007 | ✓ |
| 3. Peer Review of Habitat Models | FEB 2011 | ✓ |
| 4. Committee develops alternatives to minimize, to the extent practicable, adverse effects of fishing on EFH (including coral alts) | MAY-JUN 2011 | Through AUG 2011 |
| 5. PDT analyzes adverse effects minimization alternatives (including coral alts) | MAY-JUN 2011 | ✓MAY-SEP 2011 |
| 6. Habitat Committee finalizes adverse effects minimization options (=habitat options), forwards to joint process with groundfish | Winter 2011-2012 | ✓FEB 2012 |
| 7. Council approves deep-sea coral alternatives for analysis | APR 2012 | ✓ |
| 8. Council moves deep-sea coral alternatives into a separate action | SEP 2012 | ✓ |
| 9. Habitat Committee develops Designated Habitat Research Area (DHRA) options | n/a | ✓ |
| 10. Groundfish CATT/PDT/AP/Committee develop options for groundfish areas | DEC-MAR 2013 | ✓DEC-MAR 2013 ² . |
| 11. Council reviews groundfish options ³ | APR 23-25 2013 | NA |
| 12. Habitat and Groundfish Committees package habitat and groundfish options into alternatives ⁴ | MAR-APR 2013 | ✓MAY-JUN 2013 |
| 13. Council approves packaged habitat /groundfish alternatives, including DHRAs, for analysis in DEIS | APR 2013 | ✓JUN 2013 |
| 14. Council approves Omnibus 2 draft EIS; selects preferred alternatives | JUN 2013 | ✓FEB 2014 ⁵ . |
| 15. Preliminary submission of DEIS | <i>added milestone</i> | ✓MAY 2014 |
| 16. NMFS completes review of preliminary submission | <i>early JUL 2014</i> | ✓JUL-SEP 2014 |
| 17. Final submission of Omnibus 2 DEIS (combining EFH and HAPC designations, habitat/groundfish alternatives, and DHRAs) | <i>JUN 2014 ⁶</i> | ✓SEP-OCT 2015 |
| 18. NMFS publishes NOA, starts 45-day comment period | <i>JUL 2014 ⁶</i> | ✓OCT 2014 |
| 19. Public hearings | <i>AUG 2014 ⁶</i> | ✓ NOV 2014-JAN 2015 |
| 20. Council reviews public comments, selects final alternatives | NOV 2014 | APR - JUN 2015 ⁶ |
| 21. Staff submission of amendment and FEIS to NMFS | <i>JAN 2014</i> | SEP-30-15 |
| 22. NMFS provide comments on submission | | NOV-18-15 |
| 23. Staff revisions submitted to NMFS | | DEC-3-15 |
| 24. Proposed rule published | | JAN-25-16 |
| 25. Final rule published | | APR-29-16 |
| 26. Implementation | <i>AUG 2015 ⁶</i> | MAY-30-16 |

1. Planned completion dates for pending items are based on the November 2012 timeline.

2. CATT convened in August 2012. Projected completion of this step was pushed back due to delay in Groundfish Framework 48 and complexity of technical issues and analyses.
3. Step added to January 2013 timeline for clarification.
4. Delayed from NOV 2013 because of Federal government shutdown and Council decision in DEC 2013 to request more complete analysis of alternatives
5. Revised as a result of alternatives added at Feb 25-26, 2015 Council meeting

2. Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment

OBJECTIVE: 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.

PROJECT MANAGER: Michelle Bachman
TARGET COMPLETION DATE: To be determined (TBD)
TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: To be determined (TBD)

Comments: work on the coral amendment will be reinitiated once the Council completes Omnibus EFH Amendment 2. The Mid-Atlantic Council is pursuing a similar action and efforts and analyses will be coordinated between the two Councils. The timeline may be compressed if an Environmental Assessment can be completed, rather than an EIS.

| MILESTONES | PLANNED ¹ . | COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED |
|---|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Council directed PDT to evaluate information related to deep-sea corals and develop alternatives for deep-sea coral protection | - | ✓ FEB 2008 |
| 2. Committee and PDT develop deep-sea coral alternatives | - | ✓ SEP 2010-APR 2012 |
| 3. Advisory Panel reviews deep-sea coral alternatives | - | ✓ JAN 2012 |
| 4. Council approves deep-sea coral alternatives for analysis | APR 2012 | ✓ |
| 5. Council develops and approves MOU with MAFMC and SAFMC coordinating coral management activities | SEP 2012 | ✓ JUN 2013 |
| 6. Council splits coral alternatives from Omnibus EFH Amendment 2; initiate separate coral action | SEP 2012 | ✓ |
| 7. Council approves Omnibus Coral draft EIS (or EA) and public hearing document; selects preferred alternatives | NOV 2012 | TBD ² . |
| 8. Staff submits Omnibus Coral DEIS | DEC 2012 | TBD |
| 9. NMFS publishes NOA, starts 45-day comment period (perhaps reduced in scope if EA) | JAN 2012 | TBD |
| 10. Public hearings (perhaps reduced in scope if EA) | JAN 2012 | TBD |
| 11. Council approves Coral Amendment EIS (or EA) | APR 2013 | TBD |
| 12. Final submission of amendment and FEIS to NMFS | JUN 2013 | TBD |
| 13. Implementation | DEC 2013 | TBD |

1. Planned dates were based on the coral amendment being completed before Omnibus EFH Amendment 2; however the Council decided to finish the coral amendment after the Omnibus EFH A2 submission.
2. This could occur at the Council meeting following Omnibus EFH A2 submission.

MONKFISH

1. Framework Adjustment 9 (Groundfish Framework 54)

OBJECTIVE: The framework modifies the DAS system for monkfish and groundfish

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Fiona Hogan

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: To be determined (TBD)

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: To be determined (TBD)

| MILESTONES | PLANNED | COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED |
|---|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Framework 9 | | |
| 1. NEFMC initiates framework adjustment | NOV 2014 | ✓ |
| 2. Committee develops management alternatives for framework | SEP 2014 – DEC 2014 | ✓ SEP 2014 – APR 2014 |
| 3. NEFMC approves range of alternatives | APR 2015 | ✓ |
| 4. PDT analyzes alternatives | MAR – JUN 2015 | ✓ |
| 5. NEFMC approves framework | JUN 2015 | |
| 6. MAFMC approves framework | JUN 2015 | |
| 7. Final submission of framework to NMFS | AUG 2015 | |
| 8. Implementation | SEP 2015-MAY 2016 | |

2. Amendment 6

OBJECTIVE: The framework would address measures currently included in A6 that could be implemented via a framework action, e.g. modifications to the DAS system. A6 would consider catch shares including sectors and IFQs in the Monkfish FMP, and would address latent effort. A6 would be completed after the framework.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Fiona Hogan
TARGET COMPLETION DATE: To be determined (TBD)
TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: To be determined (TBD)

| MILESTONES | PLANNED | COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED |
|---|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Committee restarts the development of management alternatives for A6 | SEP 2015 | TBD |
| 2. NEFMC approves Amendment 6 alternatives for analysis in Draft EIS (including voter eligibility)* | SEP 2016 | TBD |
| 3. <i>MAFMC approves Amendment 6 alternatives for analysis in Draft EIS (including voter eligibility)*</i> | OCT 2016 | TBD |
| 4. NEFMC approves Draft Amendment 6/Draft EIS, public hearing document & selects preferred alternatives | JAN 2017 | TBD |
| 5. <i>MAFMC approves Draft Amendment 6/Draft EIS, public hearing document & selects preferred alternatives</i> | FEB 2017 | TBD |
| 6. Public Hearings | APR 2017 | TBD |
| 7. NEFMC reviews public and advisor comments and O/S recommendations; approves final Amendment 6 measures | JUN 2017 | TBD |
| 8. <i>MAFMC reviews public and advisor comments and O/S recommendations; approves final Amendment 6 measures</i> | JUL 2017 | TBD |
| 9. NMFS prepares and conducts referendum (including proposed and final rule), tally results; concurrent with FEIS preparation | JUN 2018 | TBD |
| 10. Staff submits FEIS for preliminary review | AUG2018 | TBD |
| 11. Final submission of amendment & FEIS to NMFS | OCT 2018 | TBD |
| 12. NMFS review/approval/publish proposed rule | NOV 2018 | TBD |
| 13. Implementation | MAY 2019 | TBD |

1. Timing refers to original amendment timeline
2. If Council includes ITQ program requiring a referendum

SKATES

1. Framework to End Overfishing for Winter and Thorny Skates

OBJECTIVE: End overfishing for winter and thorny skates

PROJECT MANAGER: Fiona Hogan

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: DEC 2015

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: MAY 2015

| MILESTONES | PLANNED | COMPLETED(✓) / PROJECTED |
|---|----------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. PDT develops monitoring report | JUL - SEP 2015 | ✓ NOV 2015 |
| 2. Council initiates framework adjustment (the timing of the action will depend on the results of the monitoring report) | JUN 2015 | SEP 2015 |
| 3. PDT begins work on framework | TBD | |
| 4. Committee & PDT develop & analyze alternatives | TBD | |
| 5. Council approves framework | TBD | |
| 6. Final submission of framework to NMFS | TBD | |
| 7. Implementation | TBD | |

Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) Amendment

OBJECTIVE: Remedy deficiencies in current SBRM amendment in cooperation with NMFS and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

NMFS Project Manager: Douglas Potts

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: APR 2015

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: APR 2015

| MILESTONES | PLANNED | COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. NEFMC & MAFMC approve management alternatives for analysis | SEP 2012 | ✓ |
| 2. FMAT prepares Draft Amendment | OCT 2012- FEB 2013 | ✓ |
| 3. Councils approve draft alternatives for public comment | APR 2013 ¹ | ✓ JUN 2013 |
| 4. Draft available for public comment period | MAY | ✓ SEP-OCT 2013 ² |
| 5. MAFMC approves final action | JUN 2013 | ✓ APR 2014 ³ |
| 6. NEFMC approves final action | JUN 2013 | ✓ APR 2014³ |
| 7. NMFS publishes proposed rule | | ✓ JAN 2015 |
| 8. Implementation | NOV 2013 | MAY 2015 |

1. Draft alternatives were not completed in April for review by Councils.

2. Delayed to address concerns identified at June MAFMC and NEFMC meetings

3. Delayed to extend public comment period

Vessel Baseline Omnibus Amendment

OBJECTIVE: Streamline or reduce vessel upgrade restrictions in NEFMC and MAFMC FMPs in cooperation with NMFS

NMFS Project Manager: Travis Ford
 TARGET COMPLETION DATE: JUL 2015
 TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: MAY 2015

| MILESTONES | PLANNED | COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED |
|---|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. GARFO staff presents plan to both Councils | AUG - SEP 2013 | ✓ |
| 2. GARFO staff gather input from species committees, as requested | NOV 2013 –JAN 2015 | ✓ JAN 2015 |
| 3. Analyze alternatives and draft amendment document | MAR – APR 2015 | ✓ MAY 2015 ¹ . |
| 4. Councils approve draft amendment | APR 2015 | ✓ JUN 2015 ¹ . |
| 5. 30-day comment period on draft amendment | JUL 2015 | ✓ AUG –SEP 2015 |
| 6. <i>Final MAFMC approval of amendment document</i> | <i>AUG 2015</i> | ✓ <i>OCT 2015</i> |
| 7. Final NEFMC approval of amendment document | SEP – OCT 2015 | ✓ NOV 2015 ² . |
| 8. Proposed and final rulemaking | OCT 2015 – FEB 2015 | JUN 2015 – AUG 2015 ³ . |
| 9. Implementation (with start of NE Multispecies fishing year) | MAY 1, 2015 | |

1. Delayed because the NEFMC the Council expressed an interest in starting a discussion with the MAFMC to remove or loosen vessel length and HP upgrade restrictions, and these are larger changes than the ones currently being considered
2. Delayed because of full NEFMC meeting agenda in SEP-OCT 2015
3. Longer time than expected for NMFS to publish the proposed rule – not until June 2.

Industry-funded Monitoring Amendment

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

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Lori Steele/ Monitoring Amendment FMAT

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: JULY 2015

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: JAN 2015

| MILESTONES | PROJECTED | COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. FMAT begins work on action | FEB 2013 | ✓ |
| 2. NMFS provides NEFMC guidance on type of action required and possible funding mechanisms | SEP 2013 | ✓ NOV 2013 |
| 3. Councils approve draft range coverage target range of alternatives of alternatives to be analyzed | JAN / FEB 2015 | ✓ JAN / FEB 2015 |
| 4. PDT/FMAT/Councils develop alternatives, draft EA | FEB-OCT 2015 ¹ | ✓ FEB –APR 2015 |
| 5. Councils approve additional alternatives for inclusion in an Environmental Assessment | | APR 2015 ² |
| 6. Councils approve draft EA for public review | NOV-DEC 2015 | SEP 2015 |
| 7. Councils take final action | JAN-FEB 2015 | DEC 2015 |
| 8. Final rule published | JUN 2015 | APR 2016 |
| 9. Final rule effective | JUL 2015 | MAY 2016 |

1. New timeline proposed by NMFS in response to comments at NEFMC and MAFMC meeting that the public and Councils would like more opportunity to provide input and consider the implications of the action.
2. Council added portside sampling alternative which required further analysis

Background

Timelines are included for all actions that still require Council, committee or staff work during the current calendar year or that have not been fully implemented. Timelines are updated only after review by the Executive Committee or at the direction of the Council Chair between Executive Committee meetings.

Notes on major changes to timelines since September 2015

1. Omnibus Habitat Amendment 2 - Public hearings were delayed from September- October 2015 to November 2015 - January 2015 and final action delayed from January 2015 to April 2015 due to longer time than expected for the review of DEIS and to respond to NMFS comments including addressing additional concerns about possible changes to the protection of spawning cod. In April 2015 the Council was not able to complete final action on the amendment, thereby delaying it until June 2015.
2. Multispecies Amendment 18 - Final action delayed from NOV 2015 to JUN 2015 the Council delayed approving the full range of alternatives to include measures that address fishing effort in the inshore Gulf of Maine. There had been two timelines for this action: one that included the requirement for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and a shorter one that included a requirement for an environmental assessment (EA). The shorter timeline was dropped when the Council added alternatives for inshore/offshore differences in management measures for the Gulf of Maine that will probably trigger the need to include an EIS instead of an EA.