



## New England Fishery Management Council

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Eric Reid, *Chair* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

### MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** November 12, 2021  
**TO:** Executive Committee  
**FROM:** Tom Nies  
**SUBJECT:** 2022 Council Priorities – Executive Director Recommendations

1. The attached documents are to help the Executive Committee develop recommendations for 2021 Council priorities. I will update enclosure (2) for the Council meeting to reflect the Executive Committee recommendations.

- a. The first enclosure summarizes the prioritization of the tasks by Council members. My recommendations are highlighted in yellow. The prioritization and other issues are discussed below.
- b. The second enclosure lists possible tasks. Tasks are listed by FMP or major topic, with tasks that should be completed by the end of the year in the first column and multi-year tasks in the second column. My advice for Executive Committee recommendations are highlighted in yellow. The list includes major staff tasks that are expected to occur.
- c. This year, my recommendations do not assume that all multi-year tasks in progress will continue until completed.
- d. While in some cases tasks are grouped into packages, these are tentative and can be changed once priorities are established. This list includes an estimate of staff time for each item; this is further explained below.

#### Resource Use

2. The results of the priority exercise guide how the Council uses its resources, so it may be useful to look the previous year's expenditures. Figure 1 below summarizes our resource use from 1 October 2020 through 30 September 2021. Meeting and contract expenses were summarized by topic, Council meeting costs were allocated to topics by the amount of actual time spent on each topic, and personnel costs were assigned based on staff tasking. Due to the pandemic, meeting costs (including Council meetings) were much lower than usual over the

course of the year. As a result, the resource allocation results are driven by personnel and contract costs more than is usual.

Figure 1 – Summary of resource allocation from October 2020 through September 2021. Numbers in parentheses reflect last year’s ranking if it differs from this year.



Meetings/ Contracts	Council Time	Personnel Costs	Overall
Groundfish	Misc. Reports(2)	Groundfish	Groundfish
Council (NR)	Groundfish (1)	Scallops	Scallops
SSC	Habitat (NR)	Skates (4)	Herring
EBFM	Herring (5)	Whiting (6)	Habitat (6)
Scallops (2)	Skates (NR) Prot. Spec. (NR)	Herring (3) IT/Meeting Support (NR)	Skates (4)
Liaison (NR)			Whiting (NR)

**Prioritization Exercise**

3. In an effort to help the executive Committee allocate Council resources, each Council member was asked to rank each task as a high, medium, or low priority task. All eighteen Council members completed the survey. The ratings were converted to a score (high=3, medium = 2, and low = 1), summed for each task, and the tasks ranked in order. The average score (41.2) and standard deviation (SD) (7.1) across all tasks was calculated. Given the standard deviation, scores within a few points of each other do not reflect a difference in importance as evaluated by the Council. The SD for each task was also calculated. Lower SDs for a task could be interpreted as indicating more agreement on the task’s ranking; higher SDs indicate less agreement on the task’s importance. Perfect agreement would result in an SD of 0; an even distribution (6 high, 6 medium, 6 low) results in an SD of 0.84, and an even split (9 high, 9 low) results in an SD close to 1.

- 4. There are a few observations worth noting from this ranking exercise.
  - a. As it typical, there is general agreement among Council members on the importance of the top twenty or so tasks. There is a greater divergence of opinion on the bottom tasks.
  - b. Tasks with the highest SD (over 0.8) are usually ranked average or below.
  - c. There are several instances where Committee recommendations diverge significantly from the ranking completed by the entire Council. These are highlighted in the following discussion.

**Staff Resources**

5. For the last two years, Council staff provided an estimate of the time needed to complete each task. Attachment (2) includes an estimate of the technical staff-months needed to address a task. These should be viewed as approximations and are not precise. How much time a task takes can turn out to be very different than what was expected if the Council expands the scope of an action. In some cases, the task description is so vague that it is not possible to provide an estimate.

6. In general, after considering holidays, vacation time, sick time, professional development, and miscellaneous tasks, each technical staff member is available for ten months of work time. The time available for each FMP or topic is based on current (2021) staff assignments. For the tasks I recommend, the time is added and compared to the time available, based on 2021 assignments. There is some flexibility to reassign staff, so the total surplus/shortfall is also important to review.

7. I constrained my recommendations to match the available staff time. For some tasks, it may be possible to augment the staff with contract assistance. This year the Council will face difficult choices in order to match tasks to the available staff time – particularly in the case of scallops, habitat, and EBFM.

### **Groundfish**

8. In order to support other Council priorities, the staff time devoted to groundfish is less than in 2021. Staff participation in three research track and the fall management track assessments are a significant commitment. In addition, the specifications action and need to address inadequate rebuilding progress are likely to use significant staff time.

9. Should the Executive Committee wish to address additional groundfish priorities, it will be necessary to reduce activity in other FMPs.

### **Monkfish**

10. A monkfish management track assessment will support a specifications action this fall. The Council has not spent much time on monkfish in recent years due to other priorities, and this action represents a chance to address several other pending issues.

11. The monkfish RSA program needs attention in order to encourage participation.

### **Sea Scallops**

12. Difficult decisions face the Council. The number of possible tasks far exceeds the available staff time. Given the annual demands of updating specifications and supporting the RSA program, there is little time for other activities. Last year, submitting specifications required more time than usual because of concerns raised by OMB. The two possible scallop leasing tasks

and the Northern Edge access are of interest to the Committee, but it is difficult to see how both can be addressed at the same time.

13. There is a divergence between the Scallop Committee recommendations and ranking of tasks by the Council as a whole. For example, the Committee does not recommend the strategic plan, yet this was ranked 23 by the Council as a whole. The Committee made a recommendation on leasing (see the next paragraph), but the Council ranked both options below average.

14. I am unclear on the Scallop Committee's leasing recommendation because it did not match either possible task identified in September. The identified tasks attempted to differentiate between a two-step process (hearing of some kind, followed by decision on whether to initiate an action or not) and a one-step process (straight to initiating the action). The Scallop Committee's motion is unclear which was preferred ("Initiative scoping for the development of a limited access vessel DAS and access area trip leasing program"). The Committee will be asked to clarify their motion at its next meeting.

### **Herring**

15. This should be relatively straightforward, though progress on a spawning closure action is postponed until an in-person meeting can be held.

### **Habitat**

16. The time that could be spent on habitat issues continues to increase. The Council's desire to comment "early and often" on offshore wind and aquaculture projects takes up a large amount of staff time, even when sharing the workload with the MAFMC. There could be nine offshore wind project DEIS's next summer/fall. We may not be able to support commenting on each one.

17.

18. Revisiting the Habitat Management Areas on the Northern Edge of Georges Bank drew divergent opinions from Council members. Support for this action weakened slightly compared to last year, with only three Council members ranking it a high priority. The approach adopted was to have the Habitat Committee begin work on this action in 2021, and bring the Scallop Committee/PDT into the process later. In order to make time for other actions, I recommend delaying further action on this task.

19. GARFO identified a potential framework to facilitate an offshore aquaculture project. It is unclear how complicated this will be, but the Council may want to pursue this effort in order to stay relevant with aquaculture project development.

### **Small Mesh Multispecies/Whiting**

20. We were successful in changing the management track assessment schedule to delay the whiting assessment until 2023, so there is no need for specifications this year. Other than the annual monitoring report, I recommend we delay any whiting action until 2023 to free up staff time for other projects.

## **EBFM**

21. EBFM activities were ranked below average. There is only staff time to pursue the beta MSE and the workshops.

## **Skates**

22. Not much activity will occur with the skate FMP this year after the specifications package and FW 9 are completed. I recommend preliminary work on the ABC flowchart as a multi-year priority. I do not recommend starting an action this year on possession limits, which were changed for FY 2020-2021. We just completed specifications, which is the best opportunity for changing possession limits. This could be a priority for next year.

## **Trawl Survey Advisory Panel**

23. Because the panel is staffed by the MAFMC with funding from the NEFSC, participation does not tax Council staff.

## **SSC**

24. The SSC will continue to advise the Council on OFLs/ABCs and will be consulted during development of new groundfish ABC control rules.

## **Other**

25. While in the past many of the “other” tasks fall on the ED or Deputy and do not incur significant time by tech staff, the NRCC assessment process and CCC working groups are placing increasing demands on staff time.

## **Grouping**

26. To reiterate, grouping suggestions in this document should not be considered binding. Changes are sometimes made over the course of the year.

Enclosures: (1) 2022 Priority Ranking – Executive Director Recommendations  
(2) 2022 Draft Priorities – Executive Director Recommendations

11/12/2021		This worksheet identifies possible priorities or tasks for 2022. This list has not been prioritized by the Ex Comm.								
		Executive Director recommendations highlighted in yellow.							Priority	
Number		Priority/Task Title	High	Medium	Low	Score	Rank	Rank in Plan		
1	Groundfish	Set ABCs/ACLs for roughly half of groundfish stocks for FY2023-2025 and US/CA stocks for FY 2023, including consideration of GB YTF ACL=0	18			54	1	1		
31	Sea Scallops	Prepare a specifications package to set FY 2023 (2024 default) specifications (i.e. setting DAS, access area trips, Northern GOM TAC, limited access general category IFQ allocations, etc.).	18			54	1	1		
49	Herring	Specifications for fishing years 2023-2025	17	1		53	3	1		
20	Monkfish	Develop and submit action to adjust monkfish specifications for 2023-2025, including potential modifications to the discard estimation methods based on the recent work done by the PDT	16	2	0	52	4	1		
37	Skates	Complete submission of specifications for 2022-2023	16	2	0	52	4	1		
85	Sea Scallops	Complete ongoing actions (Framework 34)	16	2		52	4	2		
7	Groundfish	Revise rebuilding plans for GOM cod and SNE/MA winter flounder	17	0	1	52	4	2		
48	Herring	Complete submission of formal rebuilding plan and potential adjustments to herring AMs (Framework 9)	17		1	52	4	2		
70	SSC	Consult with Council on development of ABC control rules for Northeast Multispecies stocks	15	3		51	9	1		
72	Whiting	Approve and submit 2023-2025 Specifications Package	15	3	0	51	9	1		
18	Other	Participate on Large Whale and Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Teams	14	4		50	11	1		
68	SSC	Support Council activities such as recommending ABCs and making recommendations in the FMP development process	14	4		50	11	2		
106	Groundfish:Staff	Groundfish management track assessments	14	4	0	50	11	3		
45	Other	Adopt additional measures for fisheries if required by Northern Right Whale Biological Opinion	15	2	1	50	11	1		
107	Sea Scallops:Staff	NMFS and PDT have annual responsibilities related to estimating scallop, yellowtail, and windowpane catch during the year (i.e. LA AM exception, re-evaluation of YT sub-ACL based on updated information).	15	2	1	50	11	3		
17	Habitat:Staff	Develop habitat and fishery related comments on non-fishing activities, particularly wind power, in consultation with other agencies, (including NMFS and MAFMC).	13	5		49	16	1		
44	Groundfish:Staff	Research Track Assessments: Haddock, American Plaice, Atlantic Cod	13	5	0	49	16	4		
62	Sea Scallops:Staff	Participate in Spring 2023 management track review of projection models (staff - 2022 calendar year)	13	5		49	16	4		
86	Spiny Dogfish	Specifications 2023-2025 (MAFMC lead)	14	3	1	49	16	1		
99	Inter-organization Activities	International Fisheries Management TMGC/TRAC/Steering Committee ICCAT HMS Advisory Panel/HMS FMP NAFO Commissioner	14	3	1	49	16	1		
60	Habitat:Staff	Habitat impacts (NEPA analyses) of management actions	12	6		48	21	2		
80.00	Whiting:Staff	Whiting management track assessments (silver, red, offshore hakes) scheduled for 2022	12.00	6.00		48.00	21.00	2.00		

Number		Priority/Task Title	High	Medium	Low	Score	Rank	Rank in Plan
97	Inter-organization Activities	CCC Working Group participation (EM, Legislative, CMOD, Communications, ABM)	12.00	6.00		48	21	2
98	Inter-organization Activities	NRCC Working Group Participation, including various WGs that support the stock assessment process	12.00	6.00		48	21	2
105	Other:staff	Protected Species issues, including actions as necessary to review Biological Opinion and implement NARW recovery plan	12.00	6.00		48	21	3
52	Herring:Staff	Participation in 2022 herring management track assessment	11.00	7.00		47	26	3
19	Groundfish:Staff	TRAC/TMGC	12.00	5.00	1.00	47	26	5
41	Sea Scallops	Develop long-term (3-5 year) strategic plan for managing scallop fishery	12.00	5.00	1.00	47	26	5
5	Monkfish:Staff	Monkfish management track assessment	13.00	3.00	2.00	47	26	2
30	Groundfish	Adopt additional measures to promote stock rebuilding	13.00	3.00	2.00	47	26	5
34	Sea Scallops	Evaluate rotational management program	10.00	8.00		46	31	6
10	Whiting:Staff	PDT receives annual monitoring report from Regional Office and advise Council whether management adjustments are needed	11	6	1	46	31	3
13	Groundfish	Develop metrics to be used on the review process that will evaluate the monitoring system, as per Amendment 23	11.00	6.00	1.00	46	31	7
79	Groundfish	Develop a protocol for timely review and revision, as appropriate, of biological reference points relative to prevailing environmental conditions.	11.00	6.00	1.00	46	31	7
56	Habitat	Participate in ROSA activities; collaborate with RODA and other offshore wind partners on fisheries issues	12	4	2	46	31	3
100	Inter-organization Activities	Participate in NRCC Scenario Planning Exercise to develop governance approach for addressing climate change issues	12	4	2	46	31	4
47	Herring	Complete FW 7 action that considers GB spawning closures	13	2	3	46	31	4
59	Habitat	Develop action to consider additional HAPC designations for complex habitat in SNE	9	9		45	38	4
2	Skates:Staff	Prepare skate annual monitoring report	10	7	1	45	38	2
84	Groundfish	Begin adjustments to management measures needed as a result of revised understanding of cod stock structure. This may require an amendment.	10	7	1	45	38	9
46	Sea Scallops:Staff	Support annual scallop RSA process, including priority setting, and technical and management reviews.	11	5	2	45	38	7
33	Whiting	Consider modifying annual monitoring report requirement to match assessment/specifications cycle	8	10	0	44	42	4
51	Herring:Staff	Coordination with MAFMC, ASMFC on various herring issues (RH/S, etc.)	8	10	0	44	42	5
73	Sea Scallops	Continue work of Scallop Survey Working Group	8	10		44	42	8
71	Enforcement, Safety, VMS	Continue to support enforcement, safety and VMS issues.	9	8	1	44	42	1
64	Research	Continue implementation of RSA Program review recommendations for the sea scallop, monkfish, and herring FMPs (see Scallop and Monkfish items)	8	9	1	43	46	1
81	Skates	Complete development of action to address the skate fishery problem statement adopted by the Council, including the measures that may be considered in the action. (FW 9, formerly A5)	9	7	2	43	46	3

Number	Priority/Task Title	High	Medium	Low	Score	Rank	Rank in Plan	
104	<b>Other:staff</b>	Support Regional Fishery Dependent Data Initiative (FDDI)	6	12	0	42	48	4
3	<b>Spiny Dogfish</b>	Respond as necessary to monitoring or trip limit reports	8	8	2	42	48	2
12	<b>Groundfish</b>	In consultation with the SSC, revise ABC control rules for Northeast Multispecies stocks	8	8	2	42	48	10
87	<b>Groundfish</b>	Review new research on spawning and recruitment that impact rebuilding – focus on GOM cod and SNE/MA winter flounder	8	8	2	42	48	10
96	<b>Trawl Survey AP</b>	Address issues identified in AP charter	6	11	1	41	52	1
57	<b>Research</b>	Complete annual update to research priorities	7	9	2	41	52	2
63	<b>Habitat</b>	Comment and consult on aquaculture planning and development issues using the Council's Aquaculture Policy and coordination plan.	7	9	2	41	52	5
65	<b>Habitat:Staff</b>	Co-chair Northeast Regional Habitat Assessment Inshore Work Team	7	9	2	41	52	5
69	<b>SSC</b>	<u>Support review of Council Risk Policy</u>	8	7	3	41	52	3
90	<b>EBFM</b>	Develop and conduct a Beta management strategy evaluation to develop and test EBFM management strategies for the Georges Bank EPU, using example management objectives developed by the EBFM committee.	9	5	4	41	52	1
91	<b>EBFM</b>	Review and revised the Council's Risk Policy to formally take ecosystem status and effects into account when setting ABCs.	9	5	4	41	52	1
27	<b>Monkfish</b>	Consider gear specific discard mortality estimates based on new gear research	6	10	2	40	59	3
29	<b>Monkfish:Staff</b>	Analyze the characteristics of the fishery, including the active monkfish participants and any impacts on the entry of latent effort from other fisheries.	6	10	2	40	59	3
40	<b>Habitat:Staff</b>	Participate on ASMFC habitat committee	6	10	2	40	59	7
61	<b>Sea Scallops</b>	Support the review of scallop sub-ACLs for GB YT and SWP (Groundfish)	6	10	2	40	59	9
78	<b>EBFM</b>	Conduct information and educational workshops on EBFM, focusing on potential application to Georges Bank eFEP	7	8	3	40	59	3
88	<b>Whiting</b>	Analyze causes of bycatch in the small-mesh multispecies fishery and identify potential measures to reduce bycatch.	7	8	3	40	59	5
108	<b>Other</b>	Dialogue meeting between Council, industry, and scientists to improve communications and cooperation	7	8	3	40	59	5
95	<b>Risk Policy Working Group</b>	Review Council's Risk Policy	8	6	4	40	59	1
21	<b>Monkfish</b>	AP and PDT develop a fishery performance report to help the Council/Committee better understand present conditions on the fishery	7	8	3	40	59	3
24	<b>Monkfish</b>	Consider ways to increase efficiency in the monkfish fishery by 1) reducing bycatch by turning discards into landings, 2) allow either back-loading or front-loading of DAS, 3) increasing trip limits, and/or 4) allowing monkfish DAS leasing	5	12	1	40	59	3
103	<b>Other</b>	Review and implement Program Review recommendations	4	13	1	39	69	6
28	<b>Monkfish</b>	Consider requiring VMS for the federal fishery, including evaluation of costs	7	7	4	39	69	7
101	<b>Inter-organization Activities</b>	Participate in NROC Ocean Policy Committee and data portal activities	5	11	1	38	71	5
83	<b>Skates</b>	An action to consider revising the ABC/ACL flowchart to better account for known sources of catch	4	12	2	38	71	4



Number		Priority/Task Title	High	Medium	Low	Score	Rank	Rank in Plan
35	<b>Sea Scallops</b>	Conduct scoping or listening sessions on a LA DAS and AA trips leasing program to assess the need for a leasing program and whether to move forward with developing an amendment.	5	10	3	38	71	10
75	<b>EBFM:Staff</b>	Support EBFM activities (WGNARS, SOE, etc.)	6	8	4	38	71	4
92	<b>Inter-organization Activities</b>	SBNMS SAC	6	8	4	38	71	5
102	<b>Whiting</b>	Retain AM for southern red hake because of high uncertainty in commercial discard estimates.	6	8	4	38	71	6
67	<b>Research:Staff</b>	Support S-K program	5	9	4	37	77	3
74	<b>Whiting</b>	Adjust ACL framework to account for recreational catch estimates	5	9	4	37	77	7
39	<b>Sea Scallops</b>	5-Year LAGC IFQ program review (2016 to 2020)	4	10	4	36	79	11
66	<b>Research</b>	Review and adjust research priority process	6	6	6	36	79	4
93	<b>Observer Committee</b>	Appropriate observer protocols	7	4	7	36	79	1
16	<b>Red Crab</b>	Initiate development of information for setting red crab specifications	4	9	5	35	82	1
54	<b>Groundfish</b>	Develop explicit criteria for the use of the constant ABC approach as candidates for OFLs/ABC's, including rationale for holding the lowest projection constant	4	9	5	35	82	12
58	<b>Habitat</b>	Develop action to facilitate Atlantic salmon aquaculture proposals in the EEZ	5	7	6	35	82	8
15	<b>Observer Committee</b>	Study issue of full retention/no discards.	6	5	7	35	82	2
76	<b>Whiting</b>	Evaluate why the fishery is not achieving optimum yield and possibly develop a mana	6	5	7	35	82	8
94	<b>Groundfish</b>	Develop a recreational angler permit with reporting requirements for cod OR Recreational permits and reporting for Atlantic cod like the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council did for tilefish, to get better data.	6	5	7	35	82	12
109	<b>Other</b>	Consider examining length and horsepower restrictions on efficiency and whether permit-splitting may also be a tool to address these efficiency concerns.	7	3	8	35	82	7
4	<b>Whiting</b>	Analyze the validity and impacts of current small-mesh multispecies regulations and exemption area boundaries on achieving optimum yield.	2	12	4	34	89	9
9	<b>Groundfish</b>	Review commercial sector PSC allocation as per Council allocation review schedule.	2	12	4	34	89	14
77	<b>Groundfish</b>	Review sub-ACL allocations for GB YTF (scallops), GB YTF (small mesh), SNE/MA WINP (scallops), SNE/MA WINP (large mesh)	2	12	4	34	89	14
22	<b>Herring</b>	<u>Prepare white paper to evaluate effectiveness of Herring FMP</u>	3	10	5	34	89	6
50	<b>Monkfish</b>	Review the rationale for recent changes to IVR regulations; consider whether concerns can be addressed through revisions to administration of trip limits and/or DAS clocking/accounting regulations to increase efficiency and flexibility for vessels and to reduce monkfish discards.	3	10	5	34	89	8
11	<b>EBFM</b>	Conduct initial stakeholder-engaged management strategy evaluation workshops and work with the NEFSC (or others) to develop operating models to evaluate management procedures and strategies for potential application to a Georges Bank Ecosystem Production Unit.	4	8	6	34	89	5

Number		Priority/Task Title	High	Medium	Low	Score	Rank	Rank in Plan
89	<b>Groundfish</b>	Revise the small vessel category trip limits – tied to changes in catch limits / changes in stock size	4	8	6	34	89	14
6	<b>Skates</b>	An action to consider revising skate wing and bait possession limits, to be implemented for 2023 and beyond.	3	9	6	33	96	5
55	<b>Habitat</b>	Assess the possibility of, and if possible, develop an action to revise Habitat Management Areas on Northern Edge of Georges Bank	3	9	6	33	96	9
82	<b>Groundfish</b>	Consider adjustments to sector program suggested by sector catch share review	3	9	6	33	96	17
38	<b>Sea Scallops</b>	Develop management and policy approaches for scallop seeding and grow out , including predator management	4	7	7	33	96	12
25	<b>Monkfish</b>	Review recommendations from the RSA program review and develop measures to improve the Monkfish RSA program's effectiveness.	2	10	6	32	100	9
43	<b>Sea Scallops</b>	Develop measures to improve enforceability of landings limits (bag tags)	3	8	7	32	100	13
32	<b>Sea Scallops</b>	Support action for access to Northern Edge HMA ( see Habitat), including development of access area program for modified area	3	7	8	31	102	14
42	<b>Sea Scallops</b>	Revisit DAS clock counting system to address changes in resource distribution	1	10	7	30	103	15
23	<b>Other</b>	Outreach to underserved communities	2	8	8	30	103	8
110	<b>Monkfish</b>	Consider a 12-inch minimum mesh size for monkfish gillnets	2	8	8	30	103	10
36	<b>Sea Scallops</b>	Develop limited access vessel DAS and access area trip leasing suggested by the Scallopers Campaign	3	6	9	30	103	15
14	<b>Groundfish</b>	Examine vessel upgrade restrictions for horsepower and length for sector vessels [possible white paper]	4	3	11	29	107	18
26	<b>Monkfish</b>	<u>Revisit use of RSA DAS and ability to flip to a directed RSA DAS while at sea</u>	1	7	10	27	108	11
8	<b>Groundfish</b>	Establish sub-ACLs for party/charter as necessary	2	4	12	26	109	19
53	<b>SBRM</b>	No action planned	1		17	20	110	1

2022 Draft Priorities  
 November 12, 2021  
 Executive Director Recommendations

11/12/2021	UNDERLINE: REGULATORY REQUIREMENT						Yellow: Executive Director Recommendations					
113.4	Total Time										2022 Staff Time Available	115
1.9	Time Balance										Total Staff Time	115.3
FMP/Time	Annual	Comm.	Executive Director Proposed	Council	Rank	Multi-Year	Comm.	Executive Director Proposed	Council	Rank	2021 Staff Time Distribution	
Groundfish						Time						30
8	<u>Set ABCs/ACLs for roughly half of groundfish stocks for FY2023-2025 and US/CA stocks for FY 2023, including consideration of GB YTF ACL=0; revise rebuilding plans for GOM cod and SNE/MA winter flounder; adopt additional measures to promote stock rebuilding</u>		✓		1; 4; 26	3	Develop metrics to be used in the review process that will evaluate the monitoring system, as per Amendment 23			✓		31
4	<u>In consultation with the SSC, revise ABC control rules for Northeast Multispecies stocks</u>		✓		48	4	Begin adjustments to management measures needed as a result of revised understanding of cod stock structure. This may require an amendment.					38
2	<u>Develop a protocol for timely review and revision, as appropriate, of biological reference points relative to prevailing environmental conditions.</u>					31						
1	<u>Review new research on spawning and recruitment that impact rebuilding – focus on GOM cod and SNE/MA winter flounder</u>					48						
6	<u>Develop a recreational angler permit with reporting requirements for cod OR Recreational permits and reporting for Atlantic cod like the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council did for tilefish, to get better data.</u>					82						
1.5	<u>Develop explicit criteria for the use of the constant ABC approach as candidates for OFLs/ABC's, including rationale for holding the lowest projection constant</u>					82						
1.5	<u>Revise the small vessel category trip limits – tied to changes in catch limits / changes in stock size</u>					89						
3	<u>Review commercial sector PSC allocation as per Council allocation review schedule.</u>					89						
1	<u>Review sub-ACL allocations for GB YTF (scallops), GB YTF (small mesh), SNE/MA WINP (scallops), SNE/MA WINP (large mesh)</u>					89						
3	<u>Consider adjustments to sector program suggested by sector catch share review</u>					96						
2	<u>Examine vessel upgrade restrictions for horsepower and length for sector vessels [possible white paper]</u>					107						

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FMP/Time	Annual	Comm.	Executive Director Proposed	Council	Rank	Multi-Year	Comm.	Executive Director Proposed	Council	Rank	2021 Staff Time Distribution
3	<i>Establish sub-ACLs for party/charter as necessary</i>				109						
4	<b>Staff: Research Track Assessments: Haddock, American Plaice, Atlantic Cod</b>		✓		16						
0.5	<b>Staff: Groundfish management track assessments</b>		✓		11						
2	<b>Staff: TRAC/TMGC</b>		✓		26						
8.5	<i>Time Balance</i>					3					
21.5	<i>Total Staff Time</i>										
<b>Monkfish</b>											0.1
7	<b>Develop and submit action to adjust monkfish specifications for 2023-2025, including potential modifications to the discard estimation methods based on the recent work done by the PDT; consider a 12-inch minimum mesh size for monkfish gillnets; consider requiring VMS for the federal fishery, including evaluation of costs</b>	✓	✓		4; 103; 69	2		✓		59	
1	<b>AP and PDT develop a fishery performance report to help the Council/Committee better understand present conditions on the fishery</b>	✓	✓		59						
0.5	<i>Consider gear specific discard mortality estimates based on new gear research</i>	✓			59						
1	<i>Consider ways to increase efficiency in the monkfish fishery by 1) reducing bycatch by turning discards into landings, 2) allow either back-loading or front-loading of DAS, 3) increasing trip limits, and/or 4) allowing monkfish DAS leasing</i>	✓			59						
0.5	<i>Review the rationale for recent changes to IVR regulations; consider whether concerns can be addressed through revisions to administration of trip limits and/or DAS clocking/accounting regulations to increase efficiency and flexibility for vessels and to reduce monkfish discards.</i>				89						
2	<b>Review recommendations from the RSA program review and develop measures to improve the Monkfish RSA program's effectiveness.</b>		✓		100						
1	<i>Revisit use of RSA DAS and ability to flip to a directed RSA DAS while at sea</i>				108						
0.5	<b>Monkfish management track assessment</b>		✓		26						
-10.4	<i>Time Balance</i>					0					
10.5	<i>Total Staff Time</i>										

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FMP/Time	Annual	Comm.	Executive Director Proposed	Council	Rank	Multi-Year	Comm.	Executive Director Proposed	Council	Rank	2021 Staff Time Distribution
<b>Sea Scallops</b>											27
2.5	Complete ongoing actions (Framework 34)	✓	✓		4	3		✓		16	
13	Prepare a specifications package to set FY 2023 (2024 default) specifications (i.e. setting DAS, access area trips, Northern GOM TAC, limited access general category IFQ allocations, etc.);	✓	✓		1	4		✓		96	
3	Develop long-term (3-5 year) strategic plan for managing scallop fishery				26	0.5		✓		102	
1	Evaluate rotational management program	✓	✓		31	4				103	
3	Support annual scallop RSA process, including priority setting, and technical and management reviews.		✓		38						
2	Continue work of Scallop Survey Working Group	✓	✓		42						
1	Support the review of scallop sub-ACLs for GB YT and SWP (Groundfish)				59						
4	Conduct scoping or listening sessions on a LA DAS and AA trips leasing program to assess the need for a leasing program and whether to move forward with developing an amendment.	✓	✓		71						
1	5-Year LAGC IFQ program review (2016 to 2020)		✓		79						
3	Develop measures to improve enforceability of landings limits (bag tags)				100						
3	Revisit DAS clock counting system to address changes in resource distribution	✓			103						
1	NMFS and PDT have annual responsibilities related to estimating scallop, yellowtail, and windowpane catch during the year (i.e. LA AM exception, re-evaluation of YT sub-ACL based on updated information).		✓		11						
-3.5	Time Balance					3					
30.5	Total Staff Time										

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<b>Herring</b>											8
3	<i>Specifications for fishing years 2023-2025</i>	✓	✓		3						
0.5	<i>Complete submission of formal rebuilding plan and potential adjustments to herring AMs (Framework 9)</i>		✓		4						
3.5	<i>Complete FW 7 action that considers GB spawning closures</i>	✓	✓		31						
0.5	<i>Coordination with MAFMC, ASMFC on various herring issues (RH/S, etc.)</i>		✓		42						
2	<i>Prepare white paper to evaluate effectiveness of Herring FMP</i>				89						
0.75	<i>Staff: Participation in 2022 herring management track assessment</i>	✓	✓		26						
-0.25	<i>Time Balance</i>					0					
8.25	<i>Total Staff Time</i>										
<b>Spiny Dogfish</b>											0.5
0.25	<i>Specifications 2023-2025 (MAFMC lead)</i>		✓		16						
0.1	<i>Respond as necessary to monitoring or trip limit reports</i>		✓		48						
0.15	<i>Time Balance</i>										
0.35	<i>Total Staff Time</i>										
<b>SBRM</b>											1
	<i>No Action Planned</i>				110						
1	<i>Time Balance</i>										
<b>Red Crab</b>											1
0.2	<i>Initiate development of information for setting red crab specifications</i>		✓		82						
0.8	<i>Time Balance</i>										
0.2	<i>Total Staff Time</i>										
<b>Habitat</b>											12.5
2	<i>Develop habitat and fishery related comments on non-fishing activities, particularly wind power, in consultation with other agencies, (including NMFS, BOEM, and MAFMC).</i>		✓		16	3		✓		52	
1	<i>Habitat impacts (NEPA analyses) of management actions</i>		✓		21	4				96	
1.5	<i>Participate in ROSA activities; collaborate with RODA and other offshore wind partners on fisheries issues</i>		✓		31						
2	<i>Develop action to consider additional HAPC designations for complex habitat in SNE</i>		✓		38						

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1	<i>Comment and consult on aquaculture planning and development issues using the Council's Aquaculture Policy and coordination plan.</i>		✓		52						
0.5	<i>Participate on ASMFC habitat committee</i>		✓		59						
4	<i>Develop action to facilitate Atlantic salmon aquaculture proposals in the EEZ</i>		✓		82						
-2.5	<i>Time Balance</i>					3					
15	<i>Total Staff Time</i>										
<b>Research</b>											0.7
1.5	<i>Complete annual update to research priorities</i>		✓		52	2				46	
2	<i>Support S-K program</i>		✓		77						
0.5	<i>Review and adjust research priority process</i>				79						
-2.8	<i>Time Balance</i>					0					
3.5	<i>Total Staff Time</i>										
<b>SSC</b>											2
1.4	<i>Support Council activities such as recommending ABCs and making recommendations in the FMP development process</i>		✓		11						
0.1	<i>Consult with Council on development of ABC control rules for Northeast Multispecies stocks</i>		✓		9						
0.1	<i>Support review of Council Risk Policy</i>				52						
0.5	<i>Time Balance</i>										
1.5	<i>Total Staff Time</i>										
<b>Enforcement, Safety, VMS</b>											0.5
1	<i>Continue to support enforcement, safety and VMS issues.</i>		✓		42						
-0.5	<i>Time Balance</i>										
1	<i>Total Staff Time</i>										

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<b>Whiting</b>											8
4	<u>Approve and submit 2023-2025 Specifications Package</u>				9	5				82	
2	Consider modifying annual monitoring report requirement to match assessment/specifications cycle				42	5	✓			89	
0	Retain AM for southern red hake because of high uncertainty in commercial discard estimates.				71						
2	Analyze causes of bycatch in the small-mesh multispecies fishery and identify potential measures to reduce bycatch.	✓			59						
6	Adjust ACL framework to account for recreational catch estimates				77						
0.75	Staff: Whiting management track assessments (silver, red, offshore hakes) scheduled for 2022				21						
1	<u>PDT receives annual monitoring report from Regional Office and advise Council whether management adjustments are needed</u>		✓		31						
7	Time Balance					0					
1	Total Staff Time										
<b>Skates</b>											12.5
0.1	<u>Complete submission of specifications for 2022-2023</u>		✓		4	2	✓	✓		96	
2	<u>Complete development of action to address the skate fishery problem statement adopted by the Council, including the measures that may be considered in the action. (FW 9, formerly A5)</u>	✓	✓		46	3	✓			71	
1	<u>Staff: Prepare skate monitoring report</u>	✓	✓		38						
7.4	Time Balance					2					
5.1	Total Staff Time										



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<b>EBFM</b>											3.5
6	<i>Develop and conduct a Beta management strategy evaluation to develop and test EBFM management strategies for the Georges Bank EPU, using example management objectives developed by the EBFM committee.</i>	✓	✓		52	6 <i>Review and revised the Council's Risk Policy to formally take ecosystem status and effects into account when setting ABCs.</i>	✓			52	
3	<i>Conduct information and educational workshops on EBFM, focusing on potential application to Georges Bank eFEP</i>	✓	✓		59						
8	<i>Conduct initial stakeholder-engaged management strategy evaluation workshops and work with the NEFSC (or others) to develop operating models to evaluate management procedures and strategies for potential application to a Georges Bank Ecosystem Production Unit.</i>	✓			89						
1	<i>Support EBFM activities (WGNARS, SOE, etc.)</i>	✓			71						
-5.5	<i>Time Balance</i>					0					
9	<i>Total Staff Time</i>										
<b>Observer Committee</b>											0
	<i>Appropriate observer protocols</i>				79						
	<i>Study issue of full retention/no discards.</i>				82						
0	<i>Time Balance</i>					0					
<b>Risk Policy Working Group</b>											0
8	<i>Review and revised the Council's Risk Policy to formally take ecosystem status and effects into account when setting ABCs.</i>				59						
0	<i>Time Balance</i>										
0	<i>Total Staff Time</i>										
<b>Trawl Survey AP</b>											0
0	<i>Address issues identified in AP charter</i>		✓		52						
<b>Inter-Organizational</b>											5
2	<i>CCC Working Group participation (EM, Legislative, CMOD, Communications, ABM)</i>		✓		21	1 <i>Participate in NRCC Scenario Planning Exercise to develop governance approach for addressing climate change issues</i>	✓			31	
2	<i>NRCC Working Group Participation, including various WGs that support the stock assessment process</i>		✓		21						
	<i>International Fisheries Management TMGC/TRAC/Steering Committee ICCAT HMS Advisory Panel/HMS FMP NAFO Commissioner</i>		✓		16						

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	<i>Participate in NROC Ocean Policy Committee and data portal activities</i>		✓		71						
	<i>SBNMS SAC</i>		✓		71						
<b>0</b>	<i>Time Balance</i>					1					
<b>5</b>	<i>Total Staff Time</i>										
<b>Other</b>											<b>3</b>
	<i>Protected Species issues, including actions as necessary to review Biological Opinion and implement NARW recovery plan</i>		✓		21	<i>Review and implement Program Review recommendations</i>		✓		69	
	<i>Participate on Large Whale and Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Teams</i>		✓		11	<i>Support Regional Fishery Dependent Data Initiative (FDDI)</i>		✓		48	
	<i>Adopt additional measures for fisheries if required by Northern Right Whale Biological Opinion</i>		✓		11						
	<i>Dialogue meeting between Council, industry, and scientists to improve communications and cooperation</i>				59						
	<i>Consider examining length and horsepower restrictions on efficiency and whether permit-splitting may also be a tool to address these efficiency concerns.</i>				82						
<b>2</b>	<i>Outreach to underserved communities</i>		✓		103						
<b>1</b>	<i>Time Balance</i>					0					
<b>2</b>	<i>Total Staff Time</i>										