

Priorities

2022

8/4/2022	UNDERLINE: REGULATORY REQUIREMENT						Yellow: Council Decision				
FMP	Annual	Comm.	Executive Director Proposed	Council	Rank		Multi-Year	Comm.	Executive Director Proposed	Council	Rank
Groundfish						Time					
	<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 (w/o GB YTF ACL=0)	✓	✓	1; 4; 26		Develop metrics to be used in the review process that will evaluate the monitoring system, as per Amendment 23	2	✓	✓	31
	In consultation with the SSC, revise ABC control rules for Northeast Multispecies stocks	3	✓	✓	48		Begin adjustments to management measures needed as a result of revised understanding of cod stock structure. This may require an amendment.				38
	Develop a protocol for timely review and revision, as appropriate, of biological reference points relative to prevailing environmental conditions.				31		Allocate GB cod to the recreational fishery and establish AMs. In 2022, PDT will develop white paper on potential allocation approaches to shape action in 2023. To be informed by cod stock structure work. See following priority for similar work. Deleted April 2022				NR
	Review new research on spawning and recruitment that impact rebuilding – focus on GOM cod and SNE/MA winter flounder				48		Develop a transition plan for Atlantic cod management from the current two management units to up to five management units. Prepare white paper on potential approaches to allocate "Georges Bank" cod to the recreational fishery, to be delivered in 2022 to inform the 2023 priorities discussion. (Added April 2022)			✓	
	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.				82						

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	<i>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</i>				82						
	<i>Revise the small vessel category trip limits – tied to changes in catch limits / changes in stock size</i>				89						
	<i>Review commercial sector PSC allocation as per Council allocation review schedule.</i>				89						
	<i>Review sub-ACL allocations for GB YTF (scallops), GB YTF (small mesh), SNE/MA WINP (scallops), SNE/MA WINP (large mesh)</i>				89						
	<i>Consider adjustments to sector program suggested by sector catch share review</i>				96						
	<i>Examine vessel upgrade restrictions for horsepower and length for sector vessels [possible white paper]</i>				107						
	<i>Establish sub-ACLs for party/charter as necessary</i>				109						
	Staff: Research Track Assessments: Haddock, American Plaice, Atlantic Cod	✓	✓	✓	16						
	Staff: Groundfish management track assessments	✓	✓	✓	11						
	Staff: TRAC/TMGC	✓	✓	✓	26						
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; consider a 12-inch minimum mesh size for monkfish gillnets; consider requiring VMS for the federal fishery, including evaluation of costs (removed June 2022); consider measures to reduce discards in the southern monkfish management area.	✓	✓	✓	4; 103; 69; NR		<i>Analyze the characteristics of the fishery, including the active monkfish participants and any impacts on the entry of latent effort from other fisheries.</i>	✓			59
	AP and PDT develop a fishery performance report to help the Council/Committee better understand present conditions on the fishery	✓	✓	✓	59						
	<i>Consider gear specific discard mortality estimates based on new gear research</i>	✓			59						

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	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	✓			59						
	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.				89						
	Review recommendations from the RSA program review and develop measures to improve the Monkfish RSA program's effectiveness.				100						
	Revisit use of RSA DAS and ability to flip to a directed RSA DAS while at sea				108						
	Monkfish management track assessment		✓	✓	26						
Sea Scallops											
	Complete ongoing actions (Framework 34)	✓	✓	✓	4		Participate in Spring 2023 management track review of projection models (staff - 2022 calendar year)		✓	✓	16
	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		Develop management and policy approaches for scallop seeding and grow out , including predator management	✓			96
	Develop long-term (3-5 year) strategic plan for managing scallop fishery				26		Support action for access to Northern Edge HMA (see Habitat), including development of access area program for modified area	✓			102
	Evaluate rotational management program	✓	✓	✓	31		Develop limited access vessel DAS and access area trip leasing suggested by the Scallopers Campaign				103
	Support annual scallop RSA process, including priority setting, and technical and management reviews.		✓	✓	38						
	Continue work of Scallop Survey Working Group	✓	✓	✓	42						

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	Support the review of scallop sub-ACLs for GB YT and SWP (Groundfish)				59					
	Conduct scoping for a LA DAS and AA trips leasing program to assess: 1) the need for a leasing program, and 2) what should the leasing program consider; then decide on whether to move forward with developing an amendment (multi-step approach).	✓	✓	✓	71					
	5-Year LAGC IFQ program review (2016 to 2020)				79					
	Develop measures to improve enforceability of landings limits (bag tags)				100					
	Revisit DAS clock counting system to address changes in resource distribution	✓			103					
	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					
Herring										
	Specifications for fishing years 2023-2025	✓	✓	✓	3					
	Complete submission of formal rebuilding plan and potential adjustments to herring AMs (Framework 9)		✓	✓	4					
	Complete FW 7 action that considers GB spawning closures	✓	✓	✓	31					
	Coordination with MAFMC, ASMFC on various herring issues (RH/S, etc.)		✓	✓	42					
	Prepare white paper to evaluate effectiveness of Herring FMP				89					
	Staff: Participation in 2022 herring management track assessment	✓	✓	✓	26					
Spiny Dogfish										
	Specifications 2023-2025 (MAFMC lead)		✓	✓	16					
	Support a framework adjustment under the lead of the MAFMC to develop possible additional changes to the trip limit.		✓	✓	48					
SBRM										
	No Action Planned				110					

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Red Crab											
0.2	Initiate development of information for setting red crab specifications		✓	✓	82						
Habitat											
	Develop habitat and fishery related comments on non-fishing activities, particularly wind power, in consultation with other agencies, (including NMFS, BOEM, and MAFMC).		✓	✓	16		Co-chair Northeast Regional Habitat Assessment Inshore Work Team		✓	✓	52
	<u>Habitat impacts (NEPA analyses) of management actions</u>		✓	✓	21		Assess the possibility of, and if possible, develop an action to revise Habitat Management Areas on Northern Edge of Georges Bank				96
	Participate in ROSA activities; collaborate with RODA and other offshore wind partners on fisheries issues		✓	✓	31						
	Develop action to consider additional HAPC designations for complex habitat in SNE		✓	✓	38						
	Comment and consult on aquaculture planning and development issues using the Council's Aquaculture Policy and coordination plan.		✓	✓	52						
	Participate on ASMFC habitat committee		✓	✓	59						
	Develop action to facilitate Atlantic salmon aquaculture proposals in the EEZ		✓	✓	82						
Research											
	Complete annual update to research priorities		✓	✓	52		Continue implementation of RSA Program review recommendations for the sea scallop, monkfish, and herring FMPs:				46
	Support S-K program		✓	✓	77						
	Review and adjust research priority process				79						
SSC											
	Support Council activities such as recommending ABCs and making recommendations in the FMP development process		✓	✓	11						

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	Consult with Council on development of ABC control rules for Northeast Multispecies stocks		✓	✓	9					
	Support review of Council Risk Policy				52					
Enforcement, Safety, VMS										
	Continue to support enforcement, safety and VMS issues.		✓	✓	42					
Whiting										
	<u>Approve and submit 2023-2025 Specifications Package</u>				9	Evaluate why the fishery is not achieving optimum yield and possibly develop a management action to address impediments caused by management regulations				82
	Consider modifying annual monitoring report requirement to match assessment/specifications cycle				42	Analyze the validity and impacts of current small-mesh multispecies regulations and exemption area boundaries on achieving optimum yield.	✓			89
	Retain AM for southern red hake because of high uncertainty in commercial discard estimates.				71					
	Analyze causes of bycatch in the small-mesh multispecies fishery and identify potential measures to reduce bycatch.	✓			59					
	Adjust ACL framework to account for recreational catch estimates				77					
	Staff: Whiting management track assessments (silver, red, offshore hakes) scheduled for 2022				21					
	<u>PDT receives annual monitoring report from Regional Office and advise Council whether management adjustments are needed</u>		✓	✓	31					
Skates										
	<u>Complete submission of specifications for 2022-2023</u>		✓	✓	4	PDT to consider improvements to the ABC calculation, specifications formula, and year-end catch accounting to better account for known sources of catch.	✓	✓	✓	96

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	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)	✓	✓	✓	46		An action to consider revising skate wing and bait possession limits, to be implemented for 2023 and beyond.	✓			71
	Staff: Prepare skate monitoring report	✓	✓	✓	38						
EBFM											
	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.	✓	✓	✓	52		Review and revised the Council's Risk Policy to formally take ecosystem status and effects into account when setting ABCs.	✓			52
	Conduct information and educational workshops on EBFM, focusing on potential application to Georges Bank eFEP	✓	✓	✓	59						
	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.	✓			89						
	Support EBFM activities (WGNARS, SOE, etc.)	✓			71						
Observer Committee											
	Appropriate observer protocols				79						
	Study issue of full retention/no discards.				82						
Risk Policy Working Group											
8	Review and revised the Council's Risk Policy to formally take ecosystem status and effects into account when setting ABCs.				59						
Trawl Survey AP											
0	Address issues identified in AP charter		✓	✓	52						
Inter-Organizational											
	CCC Working Group participation (EM, Legislative, CMOD, Communications, ABM)		✓	✓	21		Participate in NRCC Scenario Planning Exercise to develop governance approach for addressing climate change issues		✓	✓	31

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