

DRAFT PROPOSED: 2026 New England Fishery Management Council Priority List

Ref #	Plan/Topic	Category	Priority/Task	Estimated Timing
G1	Groundfish	Required	Complete and submit FW72	Complete early 2026
G2	Groundfish	Required	Set ABCs/ACLs necessary for groundfish stocks for FY2027-FY2031 and US/CA stocks for FY2027-2028	2026
G3	Groundfish	Required	FW to set management measures for FY2027-FY2031	2026
G4	Groundfish	Required	Groundfish Management Track Assessments (June - Georges Bank haddock; Sept - Gulf of Maine haddock, American plaice) and data updates (Halibut, Witch flounder, pollock)	2026
G5	Groundfish	Required	Updates for transboundary management (TMGC; cod, haddock, yellowtail flounder)	2026
G6	Groundfish	Paused	Review redfish sector exemption program	2026
G7	Groundfish	Paused	Complete development of metrics to be used in the review process that will evaluate the monitoring system, per Amendment 23	2026
G8	Groundfish	Delayed	Amendment 23 monitoring system review	2026
G9	Groundfish	Paused	In consultation with the SSC, continue work to revise ABC control rules for Northeast Multispecies stocks	2026, coordinated with IRA
G10	Groundfish	Paused	Develop a Transition Plan for Atlantic cod management units, including addressing allocation issues and considering potential new measures to protect spawning cod	Multiyear, initiated 2024
SC1	Scallop	Required	Complete and submit FW40	Complete early 2026
SC2	Scallop	Required	Set ABC/ACL for scallop stock with specifications for FY2027 (FY2028 default)	2026
SC3	Scallop	Required	FW to set management measures for FY2027	2026
SC4	Scallop	Required	LAGC IFQ program review (2016-2023)	Complete early 2026
SC5	Scallop	New	Develop new projection methods	2026

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SC6	Scallop	Ongoing	Scallop RSA Management (Share Day, Proposal Review)	Ongoing
HE1	Herring	Required	Set ABC/ACL for herring stock with specifications for FY2027-2031	2026
HE2	Herring	Required	Herring Management Track Assessment (June)	2026
HE3	Herring	PAUSED	Amendment 10 to minimize user conflicts, achieve OY, and support rebuilding of the herring resource; River Herring & Shad Management Measures (e.g., Catch Caps or Time/Area Closures; included in A10)	Multi-year, initiated in 2022
HE4	Herring	Ongoing	Coordination with MAFMC/ASMFC for river herring/shad issues	Ongoing
M1/SK1	Monkfish/Skate	Continued	Coordinate Committee and AP activities and review effectiveness of joint planning	Multiyear, initiated 2025, coordinated with IRA
D1	Dogfish	Required	Complete and submit Framework for specifications and Accountability measures	Complete early 2026
D2	Dogfish	Continued	Coordinate SSC activities and review effectiveness of joint planning	Multiyear, initiated 2025, coordinated with IRA
W1	Whiting	Required	Develop FY2027-2031 whiting fishery specifications based on Data Updates	2026
HA1	Habitat	Required	Habitat impacts of management actions (NEPA analyses)	Ongoing
HA2	Habitat	Required	Develop revised EFH designations for a subset of NEFMC-managed species through frameworks to one or more FMPs	Multiyear, initiated 2024
HA3	Habitat	Ongoing	Develop habitat and fishery related comments on non-fishing activities, including marine energy, aquaculture, mining	Ongoing
HA4	Habitat	Ongoing	Foster and contribute to habitat science and management partnerships, though participation in the CCC Habitat WG, ASMFC Habitat Committee, and Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership	Ongoing
HA5	Habitat	Ongoing	Collaborate on OSW science issues with ROSA, RODA, NMFS, BOEM, and others	Ongoing

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OD1	On-Demand WG	Continued	Joint action with MAFMC and GARFO to revise gear marking regulations across FMPs	Multiyear, initiated 2025
RP1	Risk Policy WG	Required	Simulation testing of revised Risk Policy Concept for some FMPs/species/stocks with SSC review	Multiyear, initiated 2024
RP2	Risk Policy WG	Required	Implementation of revised Risk Policy Concept for some FMPs/species/stocks, integrated with ABC control rule revisions	Multiyear, initiated 2025
SSC1	SSC	Required	Support Council activities including recommending OFLs and ABCs and review of scientific information	Ongoing
SSC2	SSC	Ongoing	Support SSC Social Science Sub-panel	Ongoing
EN1	Enforcement	Required	Reconstitute Committee; dissolve Advisory Panel	2026
EN2	Enforcement	Ongoing	Support ODWG by addressing enforcement questions related to gear marking and position transmission	Multiyear, initiated 2024
NT1	NTAP	Ongoing	Continue the Survey Contingency Working Group; Industry-Based Survey Planning	Ongoing
CE1	Climate and Ecosystem	Ongoing	Guidance for IRA initiatives, climate-resilient fisheries management, and ecosystem approaches	Ongoing
IA1	Inter-Agency	Required	CCC participation	Ongoing
IA2	Inter-Agency	Required	NRCC participation	Ongoing
IA3	Inter-Agency	Required	East Coast Coordination Group and Core Team	Ongoing
IA4	Inter-Agency	Required	CEFI Decision Support Team	Ongoing
IA5	Inter-Agency	Required	NROC Ocean Policy	Ongoing
IA6	Inter-Agency	Required	Sanctuary Advisory Committees (Stellwagen, Hudson Canyon)	Ongoing

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IA7	Inter-Agency	Required	International Fisheries Management (US/CA TMGC, Steering Committee, ICCAT, HMS, NAFO)	Ongoing
IA8	Inter-Agency	Required	Take Reduction Teams	Ongoing
IA9	Inter-Agency	Required	Protected species issues, including actions as necessary to implement Biological Opinion and implement NARW recovery plan	Ongoing