

Priorities

2021

12/15/2020	UNDERLINE: REGULATORY REQUIREMENT						Yellow: Council Approved				
							Dark Italics: Ex Comm Recommendation				
FMP	Annual	Comm.	Executive Committee Proposed	Council	Rank		Multi-Year	Comm.	Executive Committee	Council	Rank
Groundfish											
	Set ABCs/ACLs for half of groundfish stocks for FY2022-2024 and US/CA stocks for FY 2022; adopt additional measures to promote stock rebuilding; in consultation with the SSC, revise ABC control rules for Northeast Multispecies stocks		✓	✓	1; 44; 9		Begin adjustments to management measures needed as a result of revised understanding of cod stock structure		✓	✓	33
	Possible recreational sub-ACL for GB cod				89		Develop metrics to be used in the review process that will evaluate the monitoring system, as per Amendment 23	✓	✓	✓	23
	Consider sub-ACL of haddock for the small-mesh multispecies fishery				83		Amendment to adopt limited access for the party/charter fishery				79
	Consider adjustments to sector program suggested by sector catch share review				53		Consider a permitting and reporting requirement for groundfish recreational fishermen				62
	White paper on splitting multispecies permits from other limited access permits				86		Next phase of Catch Share Review should include a thorough examination of the self-management aspects if the sector system, and describe the trends in vessels that have not left the system, but instead have become no longer active	✓			NR
	Consider programs to facilitate access to the groundfish fishery for new entrants/young fishermen				83		Receive the party/charter limited entry strawman report and decide if an amendment should be initiated			✓	
	Explore Atlantic halibut industry-based resource survey and potentially RSA				72						
	Review sub-ACL allocations for GB YTF (scallops), GB YTF (small mesh), SNE/MA WINP (scallops), SNE/MA WINP (large mesh)				70						
	Improve access to healthy groundfish stocks for commercial and recreational groundfish fisheries				44						
	Allow groundfish sectors to operate more efficiently				72						
	Remove input controls for groundfish sectors				72						

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	Create a seafood marketing branch in NMFS- that encourages Americans to buy/cook American caught seafood (EO)		✓	✓	86						
	Groundfish operational assessments and haddock research track assessments		✓	✓	17						
	TRAC/TMGC		✓	✓	17						
Monkfish											
	Complete work recommended by the Council in June 2020 for including the 2019 discard information in the analysis of discard estimation methods undertaken in 2020. The work should be done in 2021 to be considered in the 2022 specification process		✓	✓	23		Evaluate whether the reactivation of latent effort from used permits is a potential problem in the monkfish fishery; consider allowing the leasing of monkfish DAS	✓			79; 72
	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.	✓			62						
	Consider a 12-inch minimum mesh size for monkfish gillnets	✓			70						
	Consider requiring VMS for the federal fishery, including evaluation of costs				44						
Sea Scallops											
	Complete ongoing actions (Amendment 21 & Framework 33)	✓	✓	✓	3		Support action for access to Northern Edge HMA (see Habitat), including development of access area program for modified area	✓			72
	Prepare a specifications package to set FY 2022 (2023 default) specifications (i.e. setting DAS, access area trips, Northern GOM TAC, limited access general category IFQ allocations, etc.); consider modifications to the method used to count LAGC IFQ access area trips	✓	✓	✓	3; 53		Develop limited access vessel DAS and access area trip leasing suggested by the Scallopers Campaign				91

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	Review and implement recommendations from 2015 scallop survey review panel (including impact of OSW on scallop surveys)		✓	✓	33						
	Modify RSA program as recommended by RSA Program Review (see below)		✓	✓	28						
	<i>Performance report for the LA component</i>				72						
	Evaluate rotational management program			✓	49						
	<i>Adjustments to scallop industry funded observer program (IFQ coverage vs. required SBRM coverage, etc.)</i>				79						
	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.	✓			62						
	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).	✓	✓	✓	9						
	Support annual scallop RSA process, including priority setting, and technical and management reviews.	✓	✓	✓	9						
	Online access area trip exchanges (EO)	✓	✓	✓	67						
	Modify LAGC closure noticing (EO)	✓	✓	✓	49						
	<i>Develop management and policy approaches for scallop seeding and grow out</i>				83						
	<i>Develop measures to improve enforceability of landings limits (bag tags)</i>				60						
Herring											
	Complete FW action that considers GB spawning closures;	✓	✓	✓	28						
	Develop formal rebuilding plan; review and potentially adjust herring AMs	✓	✓	✓	7; NR						
	Coordination with MAFMC, ASMFC on various herring issues (RH/S, etc.)	✓	✓	✓	9						

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Spiny Dogfish										
	Respond as necessary to monitoring or trip limit reports		✓	✓	40					
SBRM										
	No Action Planned			✓						
Red Crab										
	Initiate development of information for setting red crab specifications		✓	✓	53					
Habitat										
	Participate in -ROSA activities; collaborate with RODA and other offshore wind partners on fisheries issues	✓	✓	✓	7	Develop an action to revise Habitat Management Areas on Northern Edge of Georges Bank	✓	✓		60
	Develop Council policies on additional non-fishing activities (offshore energy policies adopted 2018)	✓	✓	✓	28	Co-chair Northeast Regional Habitat Assessment Inshore Work Team	✓	✓	✓	35
	-Develop a plan for how the Council can engage with NMFS on aquaculture planning and development (including coordination on establishment of Aquaculture Opportunity Areas)	✓	✓	✓	40	Assess the possibility of, and if possible, develop an action to revise Habitat Management Areas on Northern Edge of Georges Bank			✓	
	<u>Habitat impacts (NEPA analyses) of management actions</u>	✓	✓	✓	20					
	SBNMS Advisory Council and ASMFC habitat committee	✓	✓	✓	53					
	Develop habitat and fishery related comments on non-fishing activities, particularly wind power, in consultation with other agencies, (including NMFS, BOEM, and MAFMC). This includes addressing offshore energy development issues.	✓	✓	✓	9					

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Research										
	Complete annual update to research priorities		✓	✓	28	Continue implementation of RSA Program review recommendations for the sea scallop, monkfish, and herring FMPs:		✓	✓	9
	Support S-K program		✓	✓	35					
SSC										
	Support Council activities such as recommending ABCs and making recommendations in the FMP development process		✓	✓	1					
	Understand and resolve poor assessment model performance (primarily groundfish assessments)		✓	✓	23					
	Consult with Council on development of ABC control rules for Northeast Multispecies stocks		✓	✓	35					
Enforcement, Safety, VMS										
	Continue to support enforcement, safety and VMS issues.		✓	✓	27					
Whiting										
	Approve and submit 2021-2023 Specifications Package;	✓	✓	✓	3; 44					
	Analyze causes of bycatch in the whiting fishery; Identify potential measures to reduce bycatch	✓			35					
	PDT receives annual monitoring report from Regional Office and advise Council whether management adjustments are needed	✓		✓	40					
	Consider modifying annual monitoring report requirement to match assessment/specifications cycle									

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Skates										
	Prepare specifications for 2022-2023	✓	✓	✓	6	Develop an amendment to address the skate fishery problem statement adopted by the Council, including the measures that may be considered in the action.	✓	✓	✓	53
	Prepare skate monitoring report	✓			53					
	Support management track assessment	✓	✓	✓	20					
EBFM										
	Conduct information and educational workshops on EBFM and elicit stakeholder comments focusing on potential application to a Georges Bank Ecosystem Production Unit	✓		✓	62					
	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.	✓			72					
	Support EBFM activities (WGNARS, SOE, etc.)	✓	✓	✓	67					
Observer Committee										
	Appropriate observer protocols				53					
	Study issue of full retention/no discards.				62					
Risk Policy Working Group										
	Review implementation of Council Risk Policy				67					
Trawl Survey AP										
	Address issues identified in AP charter		✓	✓	49					

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Inter-Organizational										
	CCC Working Group participation (EM, Legislative, CMOD)		✓	✓	NR	Participate in NRCC Scenario Planning Exercise to develop governance approach for addressing climate change issues		✓	✓	28
	NRCC Working Group Participation		✓	✓	17					
	International Fisheries Management TMGC/TRAC/Steering Committee ICCAT HMS Advisory Panel/HMS FMP NAFO Commissioner		✓	✓	20					
	Participate in NROC Ocean Policy Committee and data portal activities		✓	✓	35					
Other										
	Review and implement Program Review recommendations		✓	✓	49					
	Support Regional Fishery Dependent Data Initiative (FDDI)		✓	✓	40					
	Protected Species issues, including actions as necessary to review Biological Opinion and implement NARW recovery plan		✓	✓	23					
	Participate on Large Whale and Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Teams		✓	✓	9					
	Adopt additional measures for fisheries if required by Northern Right Whale Biological Opinion		✓	✓	9					
	<i>Preliminary work on Aquaculture FMP, including consultations with GARFO on EO provisions</i>				82					
	<i>Dialogue meeting between Council, industry, and scientists to improve communications and cooperation</i>				44					
	Recommend establishing federal policy that imports of seafood, including HMS products, should meet or exceed the same standards of harvest, for example in terms of the gear used and impacts on protected species, and sustainability as fish landed in the U.S. (EO)		✓	✓	72					

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	<i>Consider examining length and horsepower restrictions on efficiency and whether permit-splitting may also be a tool to address these efficiency concerns.</i>				89						
	<i>Consider whether measures are necessary to address gear conflict issues between fixed and mobile gear</i>				60						