

# Thoughts on EBFM in New England

## Overview

Below are some NEFSC thoughts on a high-level plan (adapted from conversations at the NEFMC and from [NOAA](#) and [NEFSC](#) EBFM Roadmaps). The plan sketches out key activities necessary to implement EBFM for New England. Realistically, the plan will take approximately 4-5 years and will require buy-in, cooperation, and accountability from NEFMC, NEFSC, and GARFO.

## Proposed Project Plan

1. **Introduction and education** with Council and stakeholders (as defined by the Council). EBFM concepts (e.g., indicators, risk assessment, management strategy evaluation, and other analyses) are likely not clear to all interested parties. A part of this process should include a *post mortem* evaluation of the herring MSE. A more informed pool of participants will align expectations and improve the successful execution of the whole process. (Duration 3-6 months)
2. **Scoping** with stakeholders (as defined by the Council) can help to identify priority questions and to create bounds on expectations as codified goals (big picture) and objectives (specific products). This stage is integral for success and would be enhanced with Council relationships and resources. (Duration 6-12 months)
3. Create **Conceptual Diagrams** that describe important processes and relationships that comprise the socio-ecological system can help identify how to prioritize and answer questions. Builds directly from deliverables from the preceding Scoping step. (Duration 3-6 months)
4. **Identify and/or create tools** necessary to address the questions identified during scoping with processes and relationships identified in conceptual diagrams. It is very likely that multiple analytical tools will be required to properly address objectives. (Duration 6-12 months)
5. Develop and conduct **Analyses** to explore alternative EBFM strategies. Decision support tools including Management Strategy Evaluation will evaluate the performance of each management strategy under different uncertainties and scenarios. (Duration 1-2 years)
6. Council discusses and decides **implementation** plan. (Duration 6-12 month)