

**New England Fishery Management Council Timelines**  
**October 27, 2016**

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## **Background**

Preliminary or draft timelines may be provided for actions for which Action Plans have not been formally approved; however, they will be revised as needed when Actions Plans are available. The Council, together with GARFO and the NEFSC, will develop action plans for all regulatory actions as soon as practicable.

Timelines are provided for actions until they have been approved or disproved by NMFS. They are updated only after review by the Executive Committee or at the direction of the Council Chair between Executive Committee meetings or as part of the process for updating action plans.

## SCALLOPS

### 1. Scallop Specifications / Framework Adjustment 28

OBJECTIVE: 2017-2018 Scallop Specifications (may be included in Framework Adjustment 28 or separate specifications package)

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Jonathon Peros

2016	
<b>JUN 16-18</b>	<b>NEFMC – Council initiates action</b>
JUL-SEP	Committee / PDT develop alternatives
<b>SEP 20 – 24</b>	<b>NEFMC – receive information on the development of specifications</b>
OCT 18	SSC recommends ABC for fishing year 2016 and default ABC for fishing year 2017
OCT-NOV	Committee and PDT complete documents
<b>NOV 15-17</b>	<b>NEFMC – Council takes final action</b>
DEC	Council staff submits decision draft completes presubmission
2017	
JAN	NFMS publishes proposed rule
JAN	Council staff completes presubmission
JAN	EA reviewed by NMFS
FEB	Staff completed final submission for NMFS review and approval
FEB	NMFS publishes final rule
APR 1	Target Implementation

### 2. Five-year review of LAGC IFQ fishery (preliminary timeline)

OBJECTIVE: Complete five-year review of this catch share program as required by the MSA

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Demet Haksever/Jonathon Peros/Deirdre Boelke

2016	
	Working Group development
<b>APR</b>	<b>Council reviews work plan</b>
JUN-JAN	Working Group prepares draft analyses
<b>NOV 15-17</b>	<b>Council receives update on progress</b>
JAN	Working Group completes draft report
FEB	Committee reviews draft analysis
<b>APR</b>	<b>Council reviews final report (timing depends on timing of FW 28 and FW 29)</b>

**3. Scallop Specifications for FY 2018 and 2019 Default**

OBJECTIVE: 2018-2019 Scallop Specifications (may be included in a Framework Adjustment or separate specifications package)

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Jonathon Peros

<b>2017</b>	
<b>JUN</b>	<b>NEFMC – Council initiates action</b>
JUL-SEP	Committee / PDT develop alternatives
<b>SEP</b>	<b>NEFMC – receive information on the development of specifications</b>
OCT 18	SSC recommends ABC for fishing year 2016 and default ABC for fishing year 2017
OCT-NOV	Committee and PDT complete documents
<b>NOV</b>	<b>NEFMC – Council takes final action</b>
DEC	Council staff submits decision draft completes presubmission
<b>2018</b>	
JAN	NFMS publishes proposed rule
JAN	Council staff completes presubmission
JAN	EA reviewed by NMFS
FEB	Staff completed final submission for NMFS review and approval
FEB	NMFS publishes final rule
APR 1	Target Implementation

**4. Scallop Framework Adjustment 29**

OBJECTIVE: Modify scallop access area boundaries consistent with Omnibus Habitat Amendment 2, consider measures to modify ACL structure in the scallop fishery, consider gear modifications to reduce impacts on small scallops

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Jonathon Peros

***Timeline to be developed based on implementation of  
Omnibus Habitat Amendment 2***

# GROUND FISH

## 1. Framework 56

PRELIMINARY TIMELINE (prior to development of an Action Plan) - FY 2017 Specifications for US/CAN stocks (GB yellowtail flounder); possibly witch flounder, management measures, and any further ASM adjustments that might not require an amendment.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Jamie Cournane

2016	
JUN	NEFMC – Initiate framework
JUL	TRAC assessments for US/CA stocks including GB yellowtail flounder, EGB cod, and EGB haddock
AUG 10	SSC meeting to recommend ABC for GB yellowtail flounder
SEP 7-9	TMGC meeting to recommend TACs for US/CA stocks
SEP 20 – 24	NEFMC – Receive an update on the development of the action, including discussing US/CA stocks
NOV 15-17	NEFMC – Final approval of preferred alternatives except for witch flounder specifications
NOV 29 – DEC 3	Benchmark assessment for witch flounder
2017	
JAN	SSC meeting to recommend ABC for witch flounder
JAN 31-FEB 1	NEFMC – Final approval of witch flounder specifications
FEB	Preliminary submission of documents for NMFS review
FEB	NMFS provides comments
MAR	Resubmission
MAY 1, 2017	Implementation

## 2. Ongoing Groundfish Priorities

ASM changes requiring an amendment rather than a framework adjustment
Recreational management measures process (possible inclusion in FW 56)
Process for review of groundfish catch in other fisheries (possible inclusion in FW 56)
Windowpane flounder management alternatives (possible inclusion in FW 56)
Staff: Cod Stock Structure Workshop
Staff: Five year sector review
Amendment to consider limited entry in the groundfish party/charter fishery
Develop alternative strategies for setting catch advice for stability in ACLs
Assist the Herring PDT and Committee in developing a haddock catch cap for the herring fishery (depends on timing of herring action)

### 3. Amendment 18 – Accumulation Limits & Fleet Diversity

OBJECTIVE: Amendment to consider accumulation limits; measures to preserve fleet diversity, measures to enable US-Canada quota trading, measures for permit banks; other measures.  
*The Council is waiting for guidance from NMFS about whether an EIS will be required.*

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Rachel Feeney

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: APR 2015

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: MAY 1, 2015

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. Staff completes draft Fleet Diversity, Allocation, and Excessive Shares whitepaper	SEP 2010	✓
2. NMFS publishes control date for A18	APR 2011	✓
3. Accumulation Limits Workshop	JUN 2011	✓
4. Committee approves scoping document	AUG 2011	✓
5. Council approves scoping document	SEP 2011	✓
6. Scoping hearings	NOV-DEC 2011	✓JAN 2012 <sup>1</sup> .
7. Council reviews scoping comments	<b>JAN 2012</b>	✓JUN 2012 <sup>2</sup> .
<b>8. Council considers fishery performance data and sets goals &amp; objectives for the amendment</b>	<b>MAR-JUN 2013 <sup>3</sup>.</b>	<b>✓JUN 2013</b>
9. Independent peer review of Compass-Lexecon report on excessive shares in the groundfish fishery	APR-MAY 2015	✓JUN 2015 <sup>4</sup> .
<b>10. Council partially approves range of alternatives for DEIS</b>		✓JUN 2015 <sup>5</sup> .
<b>11. Council approves remaining range of alternatives for DEIS</b>	<b>JAN 2015</b>	✓NOV 2014 <sup>6</sup> .
<b>12. Council approves DEIS &amp; selects preferred alternatives</b>	<b>APR 2015</b>	✓APR 2015
13. NMFS accepts DEIS	JUN 2015	✓ JUN 2015
14. Public hearings - 45-day comment period	JUL – AUG	✓ JUL-AUG 2015
<b>15. Council votes on final action</b>	<b>SEP 2015</b>	✓ <b>SEP 2015</b>
16. Amendment & FEIS submitted to NMFS (preliminary submission)	NOV 2015	✓ <b>OCT-30 -2015</b>
17. Revisions, final submission of amendment & FEIS, review, and deeming of proposed regulations. NMFS publishes NOA. 60-day public comment period	NOV 2015 - FEB 2015	<b>AUG 2016</b>
18. Implementation	TBD	

1. Delayed by additional time needed to complete Framework 47

2. Further delayed from April until June by Executive Committee decision on to extend the comment period by an additional 60 days

3. The Council revised Groundfish priorities for 2012 and put several actions ahead of the completion of Amendment 18.

4. The results of this review of the Compass Lexecon report will not be available until a later time.

5. The Council delayed approving the full range of alternatives to include measures that address fishing effort in the inshore Gulf of Maine.

6. The Council delayed approving the full range of alternatives because discussion about GOM cod management issues for FW53 and emergency action did not leave enough time at the Sep-Oct Council meeting.

# Herring

## 1. Framework 5 – GB haddock AMs for the Atlantic herring fishery

**OBJECTIVE:** Consider amending the herring fishery catch cap of Georges Bank haddock, associated accountability measures, and their implementation using approaches that may be implement through a framework adjustment, incentivize the midwater trawl fleet to minimize the incidental catch of haddock in the herring fishery.

**STAFF PROJECT MANAGERS:** Deirdre Boelke

<b>2016</b>	
<b>APR</b>	<b>Council initiation</b>
MAY	Develop alternatives with PDT and plan analyses
JUNE	AP/Committee – develop alternatives <b>NEFMC – approve range of alternatives</b>
JUL - AUG	Further develop alternatives and draft impact analyses
SEP 7-9	TMGC meeting to set GB Haddock TAC
<b>NOV (OR JAN)</b>	<b>AP/Cmte – Identify preferred alternatives NEFMC – Final action*</b>
DEC (OR FEB)	Preliminary submission of EA
JAN (or MAR)	Final submission EA
<b>2017</b>	
MAY 1 (or JUL)	Implementation of action

**2. Amendment 8 – EBFM based control rule for herring**

**OBJECTIVE:** To account for the role of Atlantic herring within the ecosystem including its role as forage (via revising the ABC control rule), to stabilize the fishery at a level designed to achieve OY, and to address localized depletion in inshore waters.

**STAFF PROJECT MANAGERS:** Deirdre Boelke/Rachel Feeney

<b>2015</b>	
<b>JAN</b>	<b>NEFMC - Review action plan and approve scoping document</b>
FEB-APR	NOI for developing an EIS is published – Scoping period
<b>JUN</b>	<b>NEFMC - Review EBFM Report and A8 scoping comments; revise goals and objectives; recommends peer review of Management Strategy Evaluation</b>
AUG-SEP	Supplemental scoping period regarding expanded scope of A8 (localized depletion)
DEC	Herring PDT reviews scoping comments, discusses technical analyses to support A8
<b>2016</b>	
<b>JAN</b>	<b>NEFMC - Review scoping comments, approve MSE approach to developing ABC control rule alternatives</b>
FEB - APR	Herring PDT, AP, Committee work to develop background information and alternatives regarding localized depletion. Planning for MSE workshop.
MAY	Public workshop on MSE.
<b>JUN</b>	<b>NEFMC – approve range of ABC control rule objectives, performance metrics and control rules to be evaluated. Continued development of localized depletion alternatives.</b>
JUL - NOV	MSE and localized depletion-related work continues
<b>NOV 15-17</b>	<b>Update</b>
DEC	Second Public Workshop on MSE work to develop alternatives
<b>2017</b>	
<b>JAN</b>	<b>NEFMC - Consider results of 2<sup>nd</sup> MSE workshop; consider approving range of alternatives for ABC control rules for analysis in Draft EIS</b>
SPRING	Impacts analysis and peer review of MSE (by SSC or other)
<b>TBD</b>	<b>NEFMC - Review/approve Draft EIS for public hearings, select preferred alternatives</b>
<b>TBD</b>	<b>NEFMC - Review public comments, select final preferred alternatives</b>
TBD	Preliminary submission of EIS
TBD	Final submission EIS
<b>2018</b>	
TBD	Implementation of action



## WHITING (Small Mesh Multispecies)

### 1. Amendment 22 – Limited Access (DRAFT TIMELINE)

OBJECTIVE: Develop Limited access program for Small Mesh Multispecies FMP which includes whiting.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Andrew Applegate

2015	
MAY-AUG	Draft scoping document
JUN-JUL	GARFO & NEFSC staff prepare small-mesh multispecies fishery monitoring report and red hake operational assessments
AUG-SEP	Whiting PDT finalizes annual monitoring report with management advice
<b>SEP 29-OCT 1</b>	<b>NEFMC - approve scoping document for Amendment 22 - receive annual monitoring report and decide whether additional whiting management action is needed – additional action may delay Amendment 22</b>
DEC -JAN	Staff conducts public hearings and summarizes comments
2016	
<b>JAN 26-28</b>	<b>Council reviews scoping comments and approve scope of amendment</b>
FEB-MAY	Whiting Committee/AP develop range of alternatives
MAR-JUNE	PDT prepares preliminary analysis of alternatives and potential effects
JUL-AUGUST	GARFO & NEFSC staff prepare small-mesh multispecies fishery monitoring report
AUG- SEPTR	Whiting PDT finalizes annual monitoring report with management advice
<b>SEP</b>	<b>NEFMC – Receive annual monitoring report &amp; consider action re N. red hake AMs</b>
<b>NOV</b>	<b>NEFMC - Committee report on limited access qualification criteria alternatives</b>
<b>JAN</b>	<b>NEFMC – Approve range of limited access alternatives for further analysis</b>
TBD	Whiting PDT analyzes range of alts in Am 22 and develops Draft EIS
TBD	Whiting AP/Committee review Draft Am22/DEIS, recommend preferred alternative
<b>TBD</b>	<b>NEFMC - Review draft amendment and select preferred alternatives</b>
TBD	Submit DEIS; NEPA comment period begins
TBD	GARFO and NEFSC prepare small-mesh multispecies fishery monitoring report
TBD	Staff conducts public hearings for Draft Amendment 22
TBD	Whiting PDT finalizes annual monitoring report with management advice
<b>TBD</b>	<b>NEFMC – Review public comments, committee recommendations and select final measures to submit for review and approval</b>
TBD	Whiting PDT develops Final EIS
TBD	Amendment 22 preliminary submission
TBD	Amendment 22 Final submission early 2017
TBD	Implementation

1. A control date for this action was published on November 28, 2012.

# HABITAT

## 1. Omnibus Essential Fish Habitat Amendment 2, Phases I & II

OBJECTIVE: Designate EFH, and HAPCs as necessary, for all managed species; minimize the adverse effects of fishing on EFH to the extent practicable in a consistent manner across all FMPs; evaluate and possibly modify system of groundfish closures.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Michelle Bachman

MILESTONES	PLANNED / REVISED COMPLETION DATE	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
3. Phase 1 scoping hearings	MAR 2004	✓
4. Council approves EFH designations (Phase 1)	JUN 2007	✓
5. Peer Review of Habitat Models	FEB 2011	✓
6. Committee develops alternatives to minimize, to the extent practicable, adverse effects of fishing on EFH (including coral alts)	MAY-JUN 2011	Through AUG 2011
7. PDT analyzes adverse effects minimization alternatives (including coral alts)	MAY-JUN 2011	✓MAY-SEP 2011
8. Habitat Committee finalizes adverse effects minimization options (=habitat options), forwards to joint process with groundfish	Winter 2011-2012	✓FEB 2012
9. Council approves deep-sea coral alternatives for analysis	<b>APR 2012</b>	✓
10. Council moves deep-sea coral alternatives into a separate action	<b>SEP 2012</b>	✓
11. Habitat Committee develops Designated Habitat Research Area (DHRA) options	n/a	✓
12. Groundfish CATT/PDT/AP/Committee develop options for groundfish areas	DEC-MAR 2013	✓DEC-MAR 2013 <sup>2</sup> .
<b>13. Council reviews groundfish options <sup>3</sup></b>	<b>APR 23-25 2013</b>	NA
14. Habitat and Groundfish Committees package habitat and groundfish options into alternatives <sup>4</sup>	MAR-APR 2013	✓MAY-JUN 2013
<b>15. Council approves packaged habitat /groundfish alternatives, including DHRAs, for analysis in DEIS</b>	<b>APR 2013</b>	✓JUN 2013
<b>16. Council approves Omnibus 2 draft EIS; selects preferred alternatives</b>	<b>JUN 2013</b>	✓FEB 2014 <sup>5</sup> .
17. Preliminary submission of DEIS	<i>added milestone</i>	✓MAY 2014
18. NMFS completes review of preliminary submission	<i>early JUL 2014</i>	✓JUL-SEP 2014
19. Final submission of Omnibus 2 DEIS (combining EFH and HAPC designations, habitat/groundfish alternatives, and DHRAs)	<i>JUN 2014 <sup>6</sup></i>	✓SEP-OCT 2015
20. NMFS publishes NOA, starts 45-day comment period	<i>JUL 2014 <sup>6</sup></i>	✓OCT 2014
21. Public hearings	<i>AUG 2014 <sup>6</sup></i>	✓ NOV 2014-JAN 2015
<b>22. Council reviews public comments, selects final alternatives</b>	<b>NOV 2014</b>	✓ <b>APR - JUN 2015 <sup>6</sup></b>
23. Preliminary submission of amendment and FEIS to NMFS	<i>JAN 2014</i>	✓ JAN 2016 <sup>7</sup> .
24. NMFS provide comments on submission		✓ APR 2016
25. Staff revisions submitted to NMFS	<b>MAY 2016 <sup>8</sup></b>	<b>AUG 2016</b>
26. Proposed rule published	<i>TBD</i>	
27. Final rule published	<i>TBD</i>	
28. Implementation	<b>JAN 2017</b>	

1. Planned completion dates for pending items are based on the November 2012 timeline.

OCT-27-2016

2. CATT convened in August 2012. Projected completion of this step was pushed back due to delay in Groundfish Framework 48 and complexity of technical issues and analyses.
3. Step added to January 2013 timeline for clarification.
4. Delayed from NOV 2013 because of Federal government shutdown and Council decision in DEC 2013 to request more complete analysis of alternatives
5. Revised as a result of alternatives added at Feb 25-26, 2015 Council meeting
6. Delayed because Council modified previously identified alternatives
7. Additional time required to analyze final preferred alternatives
8. Additional time required because extensive revisions were required to address comments

## 2. Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment

OBJECTIVE: Designate deep-sea coral protection zones in the Gulf of Maine, continental slope and canyons, and New England seamounts, and develop fishing restrictions to protect corals within those zones.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Michelle Bachman

COMMENTS: Work on the coral amendment was resumed because Omnibus EFH Amendment 2 is nearing completion.

<b>2008-2013</b>	
FEB 2008	Council directed PDT to evaluate information related to deep-sea corals and develop alternatives for deep-sea coral protection
2010-2012	Committee and PDT develop alternatives
<b>APR 2012</b>	<b>Council approves range of alternatives for analysis</b>
AUG 2012	Notice of intent to split habitat amendment
<b>SEP 2012</b>	<b>Council splits coral alternatives from Omnibus Habitat Amendment 2</b>
<b>JUN 2013</b>	<b>Council approves MOU to coordinate with MAFMC and SAFMC on coral protection</b>
<b>2015</b>	
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Council approves remaining aspects of OHA2</b>
<b>DEC 1-3</b>	<b>Council identifies coral amendment as 2016 priority</b>
DEC 4 AND 15	Habitat PDT meetings
<b>2016</b>	
MAR	Habitat Committee meeting
AUG-FEB 2017	PDT analysis, development of draft EA
<b>SEP</b>	<b>Council receives update</b>
<b>NOV</b>	<b>Council reviews preliminary impacts analysis; refine range of alternatives if appropriate</b>
<b>2017</b>	
<b>JAN</b>	<b>Council receives update</b>
<b>APR</b>	<b>Council finalizes range of alternatives including final zone boundaries, prior to hearings</b>
MAY-JUN	Public hearings
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Council takes final action on amendment</b>
TBD	Submission of Deep-Sea Coral Amendment and final EA
TBD	Implementation

**3. Habitat - Clam dredge exemption framework - PRELIMINARY TIMELINE**

OBJECTIVE: Identify possible exemption areas for hydraulic clam dredges within two management areas proposed in Omnibus EFH Amendment 2

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Michelle Bachman

<b>2015</b>	
<b>SEP 29-OCT 1</b>	<b>Council initiates framework</b>
NOV 23	Habitat PDT meeting
<b>DEC 1-3</b>	<b>Council Identifies as 2016 priority</b>
<b>2016</b>	
MAR	Habitat Committee meeting – PDT update
MAY-AUG	PDT/Committee work
<b>2017</b>	
<b>JAN</b>	<b>Council update</b>
<b>APR</b>	<b>Council selects range of alternatives for analysis <sup>1</sup></b>
MAY-JUN	PDT prepares draft EA
<b>SEP</b>	<b>Council takes final action on framework</b>
TBD	Submission of clam exemption framework
<b>2018</b>	
TBD	Implementation

1. This step may be delayed depending on the decision date for Omnibus Habitat Amendment 2, since this framework cannot be implemented until after that amendment is implemented.

# MONKFISH

## 1. Framework 10 - 2017-2019 Specifications

OBJECTIVE: The actions modifies will update the specifications and the DAS and trip limits for monkfish

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Fiona Hogan

2016	
JUN	Operational Assessment Reviewed
AUG	SSC develops catch advice for FY 2017-2019
<b>SEP</b>	<b>NEFMC – Council initiates framework</b>
OCT	Committee develops management alternatives
<b>NOV</b>	<b>NEFMC – Council approves framework</b>
<b>DEC</b>	<b>MAFMC approves framework</b>
2017	
JAN	Council deems proposed rule
JAN	Preliminary submission of document
MAR	NMFS comments on preliminary submission
APR	Final submission of framework to NMFS
TBD	Implementation

# SKATES

## 29. Amendment 5 – Limited Access (preliminary timeline – Action Plan has not been developed)

OBJECTIVE: Develop Limited access program for the Skate fishery

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Fiona Hogan

2016	
<b>NOV</b>	<b>Council approves scoping document</b>
2017	
JAN-FEB	Scoping hearings
<b>APR</b>	<b>Council reviews comments and initiates action</b>
MAY-SEP	Committee/PDT develop alternatives and preliminary analyses
<b>SEP</b>	<b>Council approves range of alternatives for analysis in draft EIS</b>
SEP-OCT	PDT completes DEIS
<b>NOV</b>	<b>Council approves draft EIS for public review</b>
2018	
JAN-FEB	Public hearings
<b>APR</b>	<b>Council takes final action</b>
TBD	Implementation

## 30. Skate priorities for which timelines have not been developed

Staff: Annual monitoring report
Staff: Monitor thorny skate ESA review

## Industry-funded Monitoring Amendment

OBJECTIVE: Develop an industry-funded monitoring program to meeting monitoring objectives for all FMPs

PROJECT MANAGERS:

Maria Jacob/Jamie Cournane – NEFMC Staff

Carly Bari/Carrie Nordeen - GARFO FMAT

2013	
FEB	FMAT begins work on action
NOV	NMFS provides NEFMC guidance on type of action required and possible funding mechanisms
2015	
<b>JAN / FEB</b>	<b>Councils approve draft coverage target range of alternatives of alternatives to be analyzed</b>
FEB–OCT <sup>1</sup> .	PDT/FMAT/Councils develop alternatives, draft EA
<b>APR 2 <sup>2</sup>.</b>	<b>Councils approve additional alternatives for inclusion in an Environmental Assessment</b>
2016	
<b>JAN<sup>3</sup>. JUN</b>	<b>Councils approve draft EA for public review</b>
OCT-NOV	Public hearing(s)
<b>DEC/JAN</b>	<b>Councils take final action</b>
SEP TBD	Final rule published
OCT TBD	Final rule effective

1. New timeline proposed by NMFS in response to comments at NEFMC and MAFMC meeting that the public and Councils would like more opportunity to provide input and consider the implications of the action.
2. Council added portside sampling alternative required additional analysis.
3. Delayed because Council added monitoring set-aside option to the IFM Amendment at its Sept-Oct 2015 meeting. The MAFMC tasked the PDT/FMAT with continuing to refine cost assumptions and economic analysis of mackerel coverage target alternatives.



## Ecosystems Based Management

OBJECTIVE: Phase II – Developed worked example of integrated EFBM for Georges Bank

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Andy Applegate

### *Timeline to be developed*

2017	
JAN	NEFMC - Georges Bank Example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP): receive committee report on working examples of Georges Bank Ecosystem Production Unit Operating Models and a draft ecosystem forage fish management policy for New England; provide feedback