

Holistic Strategic Plan Update

NEFMC Executive Committee

March 25, 2026



New England
Fishery Management
Council

Report to Executive Committee

- Status of the Holistic Strategic Plan and outlook for April Council Meeting
- Draft Goals, Objectives, Strategies
- Project timeline

No action required, update for planning purposes



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Process for Developing Mission, Vision, Goals

- Discovery and Analysis Phases – Report delivered in December 2025
- Workshop on Holistic Strategic Plan – January 2026
- Draft Vision, Mission, Strategic Goals shared with Council and public – January 2026
- Draft Goals, Objectives, and Strategies – February-March 2026
 - Project Oversight Team
 - Council staff and Parnin Group
 - Executive Committee (today)
- Delivery of Draft Strategic Plan to Council – April 15, 2026
- Finalize Strategic Plan and Implementation Plan – April-September 2026



Vision Statement

“We are a global leader in fisheries management and directly engage a broad array of stakeholders to provide a trusted, predictable, and well understood process that leads to successful and sustainable fisheries by applying flexible and efficient tools to address emerging and dynamic conditions.”

“We have enduring and abundant fishery resources that support:

- a) adaptive, profitable, and globally competitive fishing industries;
- b) thriving recreational opportunities; and
- c) robust fishing communities.”



Mission Statement

“The New England Fishery Management Council, one of eight regional councils established by federal legislation in 1976, is charged with conserving and managing fishery resources from three to 200 miles off the coasts of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut **to prevent overfishing and rebuild overfished stocks, and to protect, restore, and promote the long-term health and stability of the fisheries.**”



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Draft Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

Goal 1 - Build flexibility and adaptability into Fishery Management Plans and streamline the process of developing management measures

Goal 2 - Grow and strengthen partnerships between science, management, and fishing communities

Goal 3 – Improve accessibility, quality, and use of data to inform decisions

Goal 4 - Optimize capacity to reflect fishery resources and improve fishing efficiency and safety



Goal 1 - Build flexibility and adaptability into Fishery Management Plans and streamline the process of developing management measures

Example Objectives

- Optimize Council member, staff, and partner time for development of actions
- Increase ability to adjust management measures in a timely manner

Example Strategies

- Revise annual Priority Setting Process
- Set specifications through streamlined processes, decoupled from other management measures



Goal 2 - Grow and strengthen partnerships between science, management, and fishing communities

Example Objectives

- Increase participation from all user groups throughout the Council system and processes
- Ensure representative involvement in the development of science and management products

Example Strategies

- Increase opportunities for stakeholder input to scientific process and outputs
- Align science priority topics with management and fishing industry objectives



Goal 3 - Improve accessibility, quality, and use of data to inform decisions

Example Objectives

- Improve user understanding of data streams (collection methods, analysis tools, interpretation of results)
- Apply the Council's Risk Policy in catch setting

Example Strategies

- Expand collaborative pathways for application of fishery-dependent data
- Implement a Risk Policy that considers biological, environmental, and socioeconomic factors



Goal 4 - Optimize capacity to reflect fishery resources and improve fishing efficiency and safety

Example Objectives

- Build consensus for identified objectives related to fleet size and vessel characteristics, community dependence, diversity, and accessibility of permits, etc.

Example Strategies

- Consider capacity issues in a piecemeal approach with manageable steps
- Identify justified investment level for all stocks across Fishery Management Plans to reflect objectives and human resource capacity



What's Next?

