



#6
revised

New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
E.F. "Terry" Stockwell III, *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 26, 2014
TO: Council
FROM: Tom Nies, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Revised 2015 Possible Priorities List

Attached is a list of possible Council tasks for 2015, without regard to available resources. This replaces enclosure (2) of my memo to the Executive Committee dated September 23, 2014. It will be used during our discussion of priorities on October 2, 2014. Final decisions on priorities will be made at the November Council meeting.

The changes made to the earlier version are:

- Modified the 2015 scallop specifications action to reflect one year specifications, as voted by the Scallop Committee on September 24, 2014.
- Updated the source of several tasks.
- Corrected several typographical errors and cleaned up formatting.

26-Sep-14	This worksheet identifies possible priorities or tasks for 2015. This list has not been prioritized by the Ex Comm.					
Number		Priority/Task Title	Status	Multi_Year	Legal/Regulatory Requirement?	Source
	Groundfish					
1		Set specs for all groundfish stocks 2016-2018			Y	<i>Requirement</i>
2		Set specs for US/CA stocks for 2016			Y	<i>Requirement</i>
4		Complete Amendment 18 to consider fleet diversity and accumulation caps.	Ongoing	Y		<i>Priorities 2014</i>
5		Develop alternative strategies for setting catch advice for stability in ACLs	Ongoing	Y		<i>Priorities 2014</i>
6		EM	Ongoing			<i>Priorities 2014</i>
7		ACE Trading between scallop/groundfish fisheries				<i>2014 BTL</i>
8		Consider changes to spawning closures		Y		<i>2014 Priorities</i>
9		Consider trading of quota under US/CA Understanding/TMGC	Ongoing			<i>2014 Priorities</i>
10		Sector ACE carryover provisions				
11		Recreational management measures process				
12		Changes to trawl gear regulations				
13		Process for review of groundfish catch in other fisheries				
14		Cod Stock Structure Working Group		Y		<i>Jan 2012 SSC report</i>
15	<i>Staff</i>	Begin work on sector five-year review				<i>NMFS catch share strategy</i>
16	<i>Staff</i>	Operational Assessments/Updates				
17	<i>Staff</i>	TRAC/TMGC				
	Monkfish					
18		Continue Monkfish Amendment 6 for modifications to DAS program (including leasing) and catch shares (sectors and IFQs).	Ongoing	Y		<i>Unfinished 2014 priority</i>
19		Complete framework adjustment to address several issues that will be taken out of Amendment 6				
20	<i>Staff</i>	Monkfish RSA				

Number		Priority/Task Title	Status	Multi_Year	Legal/Regulatory Requirement?	Source
		Sea Scallops				
21		Prepare a framework to set FY 2016 (2017 default) specifications (i.e. setting DAS, access area trips, Northern GOM TAC, limited access general category IFQ allocations, potential modification of scallop access area boundaries, etc.). May include measures deferred from FW 26 in fall 2014.			Y	Requirement
22		Modify scallop access areas to be consistent with OA2 revised areas				Triggered by OHA2
23		Consider consistent rules for all vessels fishing in the NGOM (all catch applied against the NGOM TAC; same gear and possession limits for all permit types)				BTL 2014 priorities
24		Consider measures to improve management of inshore areas: improve YPR for those areas and address how areas are fished by all permit categories				Council discussion, June 2014
25	Staff	NMFS and PDT have new annual responsibilities related to estimating scallop and YT catch during the year (i.e. LA AM exception, re-evaluation of YT sub-ACL based on updated information).	Ongoing			
26	Staff	Staff and PDT participation on NEFSC peer review of sea scallop survey methods (Spring 2015)	Delayed			
27	Staff	Begin preparations for five year review of LAGC IFQ program			Y	
		Herring				
25		Herring Specs Action Herring ACL/Sub-ACLs 2016-2018 RSA etc. specs 2016-2018 RH/S catchcaps 2016-2018		Y		
26		Adjust herring management area boundaries Address fishing effort east of Cape Cod Adjust RSA program Modify haddock catch cap AMs Adjust overfishing definitions and ABC control rule Measures to protect spawning Atlantic herring in the GB/Nantucket Shoals area				
27		Prepare an amendment to consider river herring/shad as stocks in the fishery (TBD)	Ongoing			
28		Catch share alternatives for the limited access herring fishery				
29		MAFMC River Herring/Shad Management Coordination	Ongoing			MAFMC October 2013 motion
		SBRM				
		No action planned				
		Red Crab				
		No Action planned				
30		Consider allowing landing of female red crab and modify specs accordingly				BTL 2014

Number		Priority/Task Title	Status	Multi_Year	Legal/Regulatory Requirement?	Source
	Habitat					
31		Complete Omnibus Habitat Amendment (expected implementation 2015)	Ongoing	Y		
32		Continue Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment with range of alternatives already approved as part of the Omnibus EFH Amendment 2 process (some modification of alternatives may be necessary)	Delayed	Y		
		Wind power coordination with BOEM				
	RSC					
33		Continue to steer research to support NEFMC plans.	Ongoing			
	SSC					
34		Support SSC activities such as recommending ABCs and making recommendations in the FMP development process.	Ongoing		Y	
	Enforcement, Safety, VMS					
35		Continue to support enforcement, safety and VMS issues.	Ongoing			
	Whiting					
36		Prepare an Amendment for limited access/catch shares to the whiting fishery and other issues: groundfish AMs,	Pending			2014 Priorities
	Staff	PDT receives annual monitoring report from Regional Office and advise Council whether management adjustments are needed			Y	
	Skates					
37		Action to end overfishing on thorny, winter skates			Y	
38		Action for 2016-2017 skate specifications			Y	
39		Prepare an amendment to consider limited access in the skate fishery			Y	
40	Staff	Skate monitoring report				
	EBFM					
41		Continue to develop Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Plan: establish Goals and Objectives and prepare scoping document.	Ongoing	Y		
	Hagfish					
42		Prepare new Hagfish FMP				

Number	Priority/Task Title	Status	Multi_Year	Legal/Regulatory Requirement?	Source
	Observer Committee				
43	Industry funded monitoring amendment	Ongoing		Y	
	Risk Policy Working Group				
44	Review FMP risk policies for consistency with overall policy				
	Other: (Interspecies Type Actions)				
45	EM Working Group	Ongoing	Y		<i>2014 priorities</i>
46	Fishery dependent data projects				<i>NRCC</i>
47	NRCC SAW Working Group Participation	Ongoing	Y		
48	International Fisheries Management TMGC/TRAC/Steering Committee ICCAT HMS Advisory Panel/HMS FMP NAFO Commissioner	Ongoing	Y		
49	Protected Species issues	Ongoing			
50	Review/revise priority setting process	Ongoing	Y		<i>Executive Committee</i>
51	Collaborative Research Project	Ongoing			
52	Omnibus Permit Splitting Amendment				<i>Council motion September 2013;</i>
53	Omnibus Vesse Baseline Amendment Version 3				<i>January 2014 guidance;</i>