



New England Fishery Management Council

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John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 28, 2015
TO: Executive Committee
FROM: Tom Nies
SUBJECT: 2017 Council Priorities

1. The attached documents are to help the Executive Committee develop recommendations for 2017 Council priorities. I will update enclosure (1) for the Council meeting to reflect the Executive Committee recommendations.

- a. The first attachment lists identified possible tasks. Tasks are listed by FMP, with tasks that should be completed by the end of the year in the first column and multi-year tasks in the second column. Committee recommendations are identified with a checkmark. My advice for Executive Committee recommendations are marked with an “x”. Tasks that I do not recommend are also in italics. The list includes major staff tasks that are expected to occur. My recommendations assume that most multi-year tasks in progress will continue until completed, and that all regulatory requirements will be addressed.
- b. The second attachment summarizes the prioritization of the tasks by Council members. The prioritization and other issues are discussed below.

2. As a general comment, there are several committees who do not appear to have considered available resources when developing their recommendations. In particular, I do not believe all of the Scallop Committee recommendations can be accomplished without diverting resources from other FMPs. Three other tasks – RSA program reviews, a Council strategic plan, and a programmatic review of the Council – will also require significant staff involvement, even if some of the work is performed by a contractor.

Prioritization Exercise

3. In an effort to help the executive Committee allocate Council resources, each Council member was asked to rank each task as a high, medium, or low priority task. Fourteen of eighteen Council members replied, but some respondents did not rank every task. The ratings

were converted to a score (high=3, medium = 2, and low = 1), summed for each task, and the tasks ranked in order. The average score (31.7) and standard deviation (8.7) across all tasks was calculated. Given the standard deviation (SD), scores within a few points of each other do not reflect a difference in importance as evaluated by the Council. The SD for each task was also calculated. Lower SDs for a task could be interpreted as indicating more agreement on the task's ranking; higher SDs indicate less agreement on the task's importance. Perfect agreement would result in an SD of 0; an even distribution (4 high, 6 medium, 4 low) results in an SD of 0.78, and an even split (7 high, 7 low) results in an SD close to 1.

4. There are a few observations worth noting from this ranking exercise.
 - a. There is general agreement among Council members on the importance of the top eleven tasks. With a few exceptions, there is also general agreement on the relative importance of the bottom five or ten ranked tasks.
 - b. Tasks with the highest SD (over 0.8) include some that were ranked above average and some below average. This high SD indicates a wide divergence of opinion among Council members on the importance of these tasks. Above average tasks were the skate monitoring report (a regulatory requirement), the Cost Stock Structure Working Group, and modifying scallop fishery flatfish AMs. Below average tasks included coordination of fluke/BSB/scup management with the MAFMC, integrating findings from the Sea Scallop Survey Peer Review, and commenting on major project EFH consultations.
 - c. While Council members were asked to rank all tasks, some are not discretionary, even if ranked low.

Groundfish

5. The highest-ranked groundfish priorities are setting OFLs/ABCs for 2018 and the ASM amendment. ASM concerns will not be fully addressed by FW 55 this fall. There is little interest on the Council in pursuing party/charter limited entry, a GB cod sub-ACL for the recreational fishery, or the five-year sector review.

6. After every cod assessment, the issue of stock structure surfaces. Little formal progress has been made on it for over three years, but it appears that this year may see progress on this issue. At its October meeting, the NRCC outlined a tentative plan to address cod stock structure issues over the next year, leading to a peer review of stock structure in 2017. The Council might need to take action to address the results of the peer review in future years. However, this year Council member interest in addressing cod stock structure seems to have declined.

Monkfish

7. At its October meeting, the Monkfish Committee passed a motion suggesting that Amendment 6 be reinitiated. This task was not ranked by Council members. First started in 2010 to consider a catch share program for this fishery, the amendment was abandoned after progress stalled.

Sea Scallops

8. There is general agreement on the importance of the top four scallop tasks: specifications and management measures for 2018, modifying the access areas because of Omnibus Habitat Amendment 2 (OHA2), and NGOM management changes.

9. A related issue is that the Scallop Committee recommended only one year of specifications (with a second default year). We have fallen into the practice of adjusting scallop specifications each year even though the FMP and the regulations call for a two-year cycle. This inhibits the ability of the Committee and PDT to address other scallop management issues. It also increase uncertainty for the industry, as the annual adjustments cannot be determined until late fall. The Executive Committee may want to encourage the Council to revisit a biennial adjustment process. One idea that may be worth considering is a two-year cycle with an annual review to see if an adjustment is warranted.

10. At a recent meeting, the Scallop Committee developed a recommendation to hold a meeting to discuss the possibility of moving small scallops to areas better suited for growth and eventual harvest. Since this is a one-time event, it is not listed on this sheet, but if pursued it will require staff time to pursue.

Herring

11. The herring amendment to develop a new ABC control rule, and to address localized depletion, are the main tasks facing this committee. There was little Council interest in revising the RH/S white paper in advance of 2018.

12. At its October meeting, the Herring Committee suggested adding two tasks to the list. Neither was ranked by the Council. The first was to consider establishing a control date but the purpose of this was unclear. The second was to consider a measure that would allow GARFO to shift ACL between herring management areas during the season.

Habitat

13. Work will continue on the Deep-Sea Coral amendment and the framework that will consider surfclam vessel access to habitat management areas. Both should be completed this year. There is a need for the Council to pay closer attention to wind-power developments, a task best assigned to the Habitat Committee.

Whiting

14. Continued development of the whiting limited entry program and whiting specifications will compete for staff time with the EFBM fishery ecosystem plan. The Whiting Committee made minor modifications to what would be included in the whiting amendment and specifications packages.

Skates

15. Skate specifications and the skate limited entry program were ranked in the top half of Council tasks. At its October meeting, the Skate Committee suggested initiating an action to allow landing of barndoor skates. This task was not ranked by Council members.

EBFM

16. Work will continue on the fishery ecosystem plan.

Trawl Survey Advisory Panel

17. This AP was ranked below average by Council members.

SSC

18. This year the SSC submitted three recommendations for priorities. Two address groundfish assessments and projects, and one addresses a larger issue that often is an issue with groundfish. It may be possible to contract some of the analyses needed to support these topics but they would still place demands on PDT and Committee time to implement any changes in control rules. There is some overlap between these suggestions and the groundfish priority on catch advice stability. In addition, there is likely to be a national science meeting of the SSCs that will partially address these topics.

Grouping

19. Enclosure (1) does not group all tasks into management actions. This will be done after the Council makes its decisions, and there could be changes made to the suggestions enclosed.

Other

20. Two tasks were added by GARFO and were not ranked by Council members. The first would modify the SBRM to address the lobster trap fishing mode; GARO would take the lead on this action. The second would begin background work in preparation for development of an aquaculture FMP in 2018. GARFO would expect staff support but does not anticipate any other Council involvement this year.

Just Over The Horizon

21. While not an issue for this year's priorities, it may be helpful to note issues that may surface in the near future.

- a. Once again, the NRCC is exploring the possibility of changes to the assessment process. This could have implications on setting ABCs/ACLs in the future, and may require modifications to Council FMPs to adapt to a new system.
- b. The Marine Recreational Information Program will announce modifications to the way recreational effort is calculated in 2017. This is likely to result in revised

recreational catch estimates for all time series. This could affect stock assessments for GB cod, GOM cod, GOM haddock, GOM winter flounder, and SNE/MA winter flounder. The current plan is for updated assessments to be performed in the second half of 2018, which is later than expected last year.

Enclosures: (1) 2015 Priority Ranking
(2) 2015 Draft Priorities – Executive Director Recommendations

28-Oct-16 This worksheet identifies possible priorities or tasks for 2017. This list has not been prioritized by the Ex Comm.										Overall Average		31.7
Council ranking of tasks										St Dev		8.7
Yellow fill indicates ED recommendation										Priority		
Number	Plan	Overall Rank	Rank in Plan	Priority/Task Title	Status	Required	High	Medium	Low	Score	Row SD	
17	Sea Scallops	1	1	Prepare a specifications package to set FY 2018 and 2019 (2020 default) specifications (i.e. setting DAS, access area trips, Northern GOM TAC, limited access general category IFQ allocations, etc.). Clarification needed on whether this is for one or two year specifications.		Y	16			48	0.000	
29	Herring	2	1	Amendment 8: MSE for ABC control rule and measures to address localized depletion	Ongoing		15	1		47	0.250	
55	Skates	2	1	Specifications for 2018-2019		Y	15	1		47	0.250	
45	SSC	4	1	Support SSC activities such as recommending ABCs and making recommendations in the FMP development process	Ongoing	Y	14	2		46	0.342	
1	Groundfish	5	1	Set ABCs/ACLs for all stocks, and adjust rebuilding plans as required		Y	15			45	0.000	
36	Habitat	6	1	Continue Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment	Ongoing		12	4		44	0.447	
37	Habitat	6	1	Framework action to address surfclam access to HMAs	Ongoing		13	2	1	44	0.577	
3	Groundfish	6	2	ASM action (to include measures not addressed in FW 55; possibly to include EM)	Ongoing		12	4		44	0.447	
18	Sea Scallops	6	2	Framework action to modify scallop access areas to be consistent with OA2 revised areas			12	4		44	0.447	
52	Whiting	10	1	Develop 2018-2020 Specifications document for red, silver, and offshore hake stocks. Consider raising the 40,000 lbs. southern whiting limit to 50,000 lbs, consider revising the exemption area open season dates, possible changes to red hake AMs.		Y	11	4	1	42	0.619	
15	Groundfish:Staff	11	3	TRAC/TMGC			10	5	1	41	0.629	
59	Observer Committee	12	1	Develop policy for monitoring commercial fisheries to address multiple information needs; strategic approach to bycatch monitoring	Ongoing		10	5		40	0.488	
11	Groundfish	12	4	Revise Atlantic halibut management measures			8	8		40	0.516	
43	RSC	14	1	Continue to steer research to support NEFMC plans, including development of five year research priorities	Ongoing		8	7		38	0.516	
19	Sea Scallops	14	3	NGOM scallop management measure changes: such as changing opening date, consistent gear restrictions, possession limits, effort controls.			9	5	1	38	0.640	
24	Sea Scallops	14	3	Complete LAGC review (final report April 2017)		Y	8	6	2	38	0.719	
16	Monkfish	17	1	Action to address strategies for better utilization of the TAL for NFMA and SFMA			7	7	2	37	0.704	
31	Herring:Staff	17	2	EM Pilot Project	Ongoing		7	8		37	0.516	
46	SSC	17	2	Understand and resolve poor assessment model performance (primarily groundfish assessments)			10	3	1	37	0.633	
20	Scallops:Staff	17	5	NMFS and PDT have new annual responsibilities related to estimating scallop, YT, windowpane catch during the year (i.e. LA AM exception, re-evaluation of YT sub-ACL based on updated information).	Ongoing	Y	9	5		37	0.497	
25	Sea Scallops	17	5	RSA program review and modifications			7	7	2	37	0.704	
32	Herring:Staff	22	3	Preparation for 2018 benchmark			6	9		36	0.507	
63	Other:	23	1	NRCC Working Group Participation	Ongoing		9	4		35	0.480	

Number	Plan	Overall Rank	Rank in Plan	Priority/Task Title	Status	Required	High	Medium	Low	Score	Row SD
64	Other:	23	1	International Fisheries Management TMGC/TRAC/Steering Committee ICCAT HMS Advisory Panel/HMS FMP NAFO Commissioner	Ongoing	Y	7	7		35	0.519
51	Whiting	25	2	Develop final and preferred alternatives for Draft Amendment 22, limited entry; conduct public hearings	Ongoing		5	8	3	34	0.719
2	Groundfish	25	5	Develop alternative strategies for setting catch advice for stability in ACLs	Ongoing		5	8	3	34	0.719
56	Skates:Staff	27	2	Skate monitoring report		Y	6	6	3	33	0.775
62	Other:	27	3	Fishery dependent data projects: likely initiation of an Omnibus Amendment (GARFO lead) to adopt recommendations of GARFO/NEFSC	Ongoing		5	9		33	0.497
21	Sea Scallops	27	8	Measures to address high-grading of scallops and reduce discard mortality			4	9	3	33	0.680
22	Sea Scallops	27	8	Gear modifications to protect small scallops (extended link)			2	11	5	33	0.618
57	EBFM	31	1	Complete example Fishery Ecosystem Plan for Georges Bank and develop a Management Strategy Evaluation process to engage fishermen and other stakeholders while conducting testing and validation.	Ongoing		5	8	1	32	0.611
48	SSC	31	3	Consider modifications to groundfish ABC control rules			5	8	1	32	0.611
54	Skates	31	3	Prepare an amendment to consider limited access in the skate fishery	Ongoing		5	6	5	32	0.816
5	Groundfish	31	6	Cod Stock Structure Working Group	Ongoing		5	6	5	32	0.816
7	Groundfish	31	6	Adjust exemption areas as necessary (GenCat sea scallop, whiting, etc.; may be better addressed by other Committees)			4	8	4	32	0.730
26	Sea Scallops	31	10	Modify flatfish AMs			5	6	5	32	0.816
44	RSC:Staff	37	2	Support S-K program	Ongoing		4	8	3	31	0.704
47	SSC	37	4	Develop consistent guidelines for application of Plan B approaches			3	11		31	0.426
4	Groundfish	37	8	Process for review of groundfish catch in other fisheries			4	8	3	31	0.704
27	Scallops:Staff	37	11	Support annual scallop RSA process, including priority setting, and technical and management reviews.	Ongoing		5	7	2	31	0.699
28	Scallops:Staff	37	11	Integrate findings from Sea Scallop Survey Methods Peer Review (process TBD, but may include additional review of how surveys are combined for management advice)			6	5	3	31	0.802
61	Trawl Survey AP	42	1	Address issues identified in AP charter	Ongoing		7	4	1	30	0.674
39	Habitat:Staff	42	3	Wind power coordination with BOEM	Ongoing		4	7	4	30	0.756
40	Habitat:Staff	42	3	Habitat impacts of other management actions	Ongoing		4	7	4	30	0.756
73	Other:	42	4	Coordination of fluke/BSB/scup management with MAFMC			5	6	3	30	0.770
13	Groundfish	42	9	Electronic reporting for party/charter vessels			3	8	5	30	0.719
49	Enforcement, Safety, V	47	1	Continue to support enforcement, safety and VMS issues.	Ongoing		4	8	1	29	0.599
33	Herring:Staff	47	4	Coordination with MAFMC, ASMFC on various herring issues (RH/S, etc.)	Ongoing		3	8	4	29	0.704
72	Other:	47	5	Coordinated review of RSA programs in sea scallops, monkfish, and herring FMPs (see also RSA items above under scallop FMP)			3	9	2	29	0.616
9	Groundfish	47	10	Timing of recreational management measures			2	9	5	29	0.655
30	Herring	51	5	Update of RH/S white paper in preparation for reconsideration of RH/S as stocks in the fishery in 2018.			3	6	7	28	0.775
38	Habitat:Staff	51	5	Update and further development of the SASI model	Ongoing		1	11	3	28	0.516

Number	Plan	Overall Rank	Rank in Plan	Priority/Task Title	Status	Required	High	Medium	Low	Score	Row SD
71	Other:	51	6	Programmatic review of Council operations			3	8	3	28	0.679
6	Groundfish	51	11	Specify allocation review triggers			1	10	5	28	0.577
14	Groundfish:Staff	51	11	Sector five-year review			3	7	5	28	0.743
23	Sea Scallops	51	13	Specify allocation review triggers			1	10	5	28	0.577
65	Other:Staff	57	7	Protected Species issues	Ongoing		2	9	3	27	0.616
42	Habitat:Staff	58	6	Monitor and comment on EFH consultations for major projects, ,coordinated with GARFO HCD	Ongoing		4	4	6	26	0.864
66	Other:Staff	58	8	Support for NERP; implementation of Regional Ocean Plan; support to data portal	Ongoing		2	9	2	26	0.577
70	Other:	58	8	Council strategic plan development			4	4	6	26	0.864
12	Groundfish	58	13	Modifications to common pool regulations: trimester quota changes, HA exemptions from broad stock area provisions			1	8	7	26	0.619
8	Groundfish	62	14	Develop limited access program for the party/charter fishery			1	7	8	25	0.629
53	Whiting:Staff	63	3	PDT receives annual monitoring report from Regional Office and advise Council whether management adjustments are needed	Ongoing	Y	1	9	3	24	0.555
10	Groundfish	64	15	Possible recreational sub-ACL for GB cod			1	5	10	23	0.629
67	Other:	65	10	Modify permitting restrictions to allow permit splitting			2	4	8	22	0.756
41	Habitat:Staff	66	7	SBNMS advisory panel	Ongoing		1	5	8	21	0.650
50	Enforcement, Safety, Vi	67	2	Develop cod end certification program			2	5	3	19	0.738
68	Other:	67	11	Modify vessel upgrade restrictions: limit upgrades through restrictions on VHP and weight rather than VHP and length				5	9	19	0.497
58	EBFM:Staff	69		Assist in development of MREP EBFM module				7	4	18	0.505
69	Other:Staff	70	12	Identify high-carbon regulations				1	12	14	0.277
34	SBRM	71		No action planned			1		2	5	
60	Risk Policy Working Gro	72	1	No action planned	Ongoing			1	1	3	0.707
	Monkfish			Reinitiate Amendment 6							
	Herring			Establish control date							
	Herring			Action to allow in-season shift of ACLs within season							
	Skates			Action to allow landing bardnoor skates							
	SBRM			Amendment SBRM to address lobster fishing mode							
	Aquaculture:Staff			Begin preliminary work for aquaculture FMP							

10/28/2016	UNDERLINE: REGULATORY REQUIREMENT					<i>Italics: Not Recommended by Ex Comm</i>				
	ED Recommended Priorities for Ex Comm Review					Grey: Not approved				
FMP	Annual	Comm.	ExCom	Council	Rank	Multi-Year	Comm.	ExCom	Council	Rank
Groundfish										
	Set ABCs/ACLs for all stocks, and adjust rebuilding plans as required	✓	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		5	<i>Amendment to consider limited entry in the groundfish party/charter fishery</i>	✓			62
	Process for review of groundfish catch in other fisheries	✓			37	Develop alternative strategies for setting catch advice for stability in ACLs		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		25
	Timing of recreational management measures and possible sub-ACL for GB cod				47/64	ASM amendment (to include measures not addressed in FW 55; possibly to include EM)	✓	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		6
	Revise Atlantic halibut management measures	✓	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		12	Staff: Cod Stock Structure Workshop		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		31
	Modifications to common pool regulations: trimester quota changes, HA exemptions from broad stock area provisions				58					
	Adjust exemption areas as necessary due to OHA2 changes (GenCat sea scallop, whiting, etc.; may be better addressed by other Committees)	✓			31					
	Specify allocation review triggers				51					
	Electronic reporting for party/charter vessels				42					
	Operational assessment of all stocks		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		NR					
	Staff: Five year sector review				51					
	Staff: TMGC/TRAC		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		11					
Monkfish										
	Action to address strategies for better utilization of the TAL for NFMA and SFMA	✓			17	<i>Re-initiate Monkfish Amendment 6 to consider catch shares and DAS leasing</i>	✓			NR
	Staff: Research Set Aside		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							
Sea Scallops										
	Prepare a specifications package to set FY 2018 and 2019 (2020 default) specifications (i.e. setting DAS, access area trips, Northern GOM TAC, limited access general category IFQ allocations, etc.). Clarification needed on whether this is for one or two year specifications.	✓	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		1					
	Framework action to modify scallop access areas to be consistent with OA2 revised areas (including CAI carry-over trips in the north)	✓	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		6					

FMP	Annual	Comm.	ExCom	Council	Rank	Multi-Year	Comm.	ExCom	Council	Rank
	NGOM scallop management measure changes: such as changing opening date, consistent gear restrictions, possession limits, effort controls.	✓	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		14					
	<i>Complete LAGC review (final report April 2017)</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		14					
	Staff: Support annual scallop RSA process, including priority setting, and technical and management reviews.	✓	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		36					
	<i>Integrate findings from Sea Scallop Survey Methods Peer Review (process TBD, but may include additional review of how surveys are combined for management advice)</i>				43					
	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).	✓	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		17					
	<i>RSA program review and modifications</i>	✓			17					
	Modify flatfish AMs	✓	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		31					
	<i>Measures to address high-grading of scallops and reduce discard mortality</i>				27					
	Gear modifications to protect small scallops (extended link)	✓	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		27					
	<i>Specify allocation review triggers</i>				51					
Herring										
	<i>Update of RH/S white paper in preparation for reconsideration of RH/S as stocks in the fishery in 2018.</i>				51	Amendment to address ABC control rule, localized depletion	✓	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		2
	EM Pilot Project	✓	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		17					
	Set control date	✓			NR					
	<i>Consider measure that would move ACL from one area to another in-season</i>				NR					
	Staff: Preparation for 2018 benchmark		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		22					
	Staff: Coordination with MAFMC, ASMFC on various herring issues (RH/S, etc.)				47					
SBRM										
	<i>No Action Planned</i>									
	Amend SBRM to address lobster trap fishing mode (NMFS lead)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		NR					
Red Crab										

FMP	Annual	Comm.	ExCom	Council	Rank	Multi-Year	Comm.	ExCom	Council	Rank
	<i>No Action Planned</i>									
Habitat	<i>(No Committee recommendations)</i>									
	Complete Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment Framework action to address surfclam access to HMAs		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		6	Coordinate wind power issues with other agencies/spatial planning		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		42
	Staff: Update and further development of the SASI model		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		51					
	Staff: Habitat impacts of other management actions		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		42					
	<i>Staff: SBNMS Advisory Council</i>				66					
	<i>Staff: Monitor and comment on EFH consultations for major project, coordinated with GARFO HCD</i>				58					
	Staff: ASMFC Habitat Committee		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		NR					
Research Steering										
	Continue to steer research to support NEFMC plans.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		14					
	Staff: Support S-K program		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		37					
SSC										
	Support SSC activities such as <u>recommending ABCs</u> and making recommendations in the FMP development process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		4					
	Understand and resolve poor assessment model performance (primarily groundfish assessments)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		17					
	Develop consistent guidelines for application of Plan B approaches	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		37					
	<i>Consider modifications to groundfish ABC control rules</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			31					
Enforcement, Safety, VMS										
	Continue to support enforcement, safety and VMS issues.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		47					
	<i>Develop cod end certification program</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			67					
Whiting										

FMP	Annual	Comm.	ExCom	Council	Rank	Multi-Year	Comm.	ExCom	Council	Rank
	Develop final and preferred alternatives for Draft Amendment 22, limited entry; consider changes to possession limits for silver and offshore hake; conduct public hearings	✓	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		25					
	Develop 2018-2020 Specifications document for red, silver, and offshore hake stocks. Consider modifications to exemption area dates.	✓	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		10					
	Staff: PDT receives annual monitoring report from Regional Office and advise Council whether management adjustments are needed	✓	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		63					
Skates										
	Initiate action to allow landing of barndoor skates	✓	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		NR	Prepare an amendment to consider limited access in the skate fishery	✓	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		31
	Specifications for 2018-2019	✓	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		2					
	Staff: Annual monitoring report	✓	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		27					
EBFM										
	Assist in development of MREP EBFM module				69	Complete example Fishery Ecosystem Plan for Georges Bank and develop a Management Strategy Evaluation process to engage fishermen and other stakeholders while conducting testing and validation.	✓	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		31
Observer Committee										
						Develop policy for monitoring commercial fisheries to address multiple information needs; strategic approach to bycatch monitoring		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		12
Risk Policy Working Group										
	No Action Planned									
Trawl Survey AP										
	Address issues identified in AP charter	✓	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		42					
Other										
	NRCC Working Group Participation		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		23	Fishery dependent data (NERO lead)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		27

FMP	Annual	Comm.	ExCom	Council	Rank	Multi-Year	Comm.	ExCom	Council	Rank
	International Fisheries Management TMGC/TRAC/Steering Committee ICCAT HMS Advisory Panel/HMS FMP NAFO Commissioner		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		23	<i>Preliminary work on aquaculture FMP</i>				NR
	<i>Staff: Protected Species issues</i>				58					
	Support for NERP; implementation of Regional Ocean Plan; support to data portal		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		58					
	<i>Modify permitting restrictions to allow permit splitting</i>				65					
	<i>Modify vessel upgrade restrictions: limit upgrades through restrictions on VHP and weight rather than VHP and length</i>				67					
	<i>Staff: Identify high-carbon regulations</i>				70					
	<i>Council strategic plan development</i>				58					
	Programmatic review of Council operations		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		51					
	Coordinated review of RSA programs in sea scallops, monkfish, and herring FMPs (see also RSA items above under scallop FMP)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		47					
	Coordination of fluke/BSB/scup management with MAFMC		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		42					