



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 20, 2018
TO: Executive Committee
FROM: Tom Nies
SUBJECT: 2019 Council Priorities

1. The attached documents are to help the Executive Committee develop recommendations for 2019 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. My advice for Executive Committee recommendations are marked with a checkmark. 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. While in some cases tasks are grouped into packages, these are tentative and can be changed once priorities are established.
- b. The second attachment summarizes the prioritization of the tasks by Council members. The prioritization and other issues are discussed below.

2. Not all Committees have had an opportunity to identify their preferred priorities for 2019.

Resource Use

3. The results of the priority exercise guide how the Council uses its resources, so it may be useful to look the previous year's expenditures. Figure 1 below summarizes our resource use from 1 October 2017 through 30 September 2018. Meeting and contract expenses were summarized by topic, Council costs were allocated to topics by the amount of actual time spent on each topic (last year's report used scheduled time), and personnel costs were assigned based on staff tasking.

Figure 1 – Summary of resource allocation from October 2017 through September 2018. Numbers in parentheses reflect last year’s ranking if it differs from this year.



2018 Resource Allocation

Meetings	Council Time	Personnel Costs	Overall
Groundfish (2)	Groundfish (2)	Scallops	Scallops
Scallops (3)	Misc. Policy (1)	Groundfish (3)	Groundfish
Herring (1)	Herring	Herring (4)	Herring
Habitat (NR)	Habitat	Whiting (2)	Habitat (5)
SSC (5)	Reports	Habitat (4)	SSC (NR)
EBFM (4)	Misc. Admin.(NR)	Skates (NR)	EBFM

Prioritization Exercise

4. 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. Seventeen 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 (36.2) and standard deviation (SD) (7.4) across all tasks was calculated. Given the standard deviation, 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 0.82, and an even split (8 high, 8 low) results in an SD close to 1.

5. 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 fifteen 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 divergence of opinion among Council members on the importance of these tasks.
 - c. The above average task with the greatest divergence of opinion was Whiting Amendment 22. This was similar to last year’s evaluation of this task.
 - d. Several tasks with a below average score had high SD, indicating a strong divergence of opinion on their importance. The most polarizing task was the consideration of a Recreational Committee. Consideration of party/charter limited entry, the multispecies sector five year review, harvest of slow-growing scallops in the NLCA, and whiting exemption area adjustments also showed a divergence of opinions.

- e. While Council members were asked to rank all tasks, some are not discretionary, even if ranked low.

Groundfish

- 6. The highest-ranked groundfish priorities are ASM amendment and annual specifications. 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.
- 7. After every cod assessment, the issue of stock structure surfaces. The Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Working Group has been meeting this year, but Council member interest in the topic is waning.
- 8. Recreational issues generally did not rank highly, but I recommend allocation issues raised by MRIP be addressed, consistent with Amendment 16.

Monkfish

- 9. Specifications for 2020-2022 need to be specified this year.

Sea Scallops

- 10. While there is general agreement on the importance of the top scallop task (specifications and management measures for 2020) there is more divergence of opinion on the other tasks.
- 11. The second-ranked scallop task was “Action to modify scallop access areas to be consistent with OHA2 revised areas.” I do not recommend pursuing this task as it has already been addressed through a recent framework action. Perhaps additional clarification is needed on what the Committee means this task to address.
- 12. The Scallop Committee added a possible task: “Action to mitigate impacts on yellowtail flounder.” This was not ranked by Council members.
- 13. As in all recent years, 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 and adjustments may not be implemented by the start of the fishing year. 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.

Herring

14. Staff will be completing Amendment 8 early in the year. There will also be an action for specifications for 2020 and beyond.

15. ASMFC asked the Council to consider developing spawning closures on Georges Bank. This request was received after the September Council meeting and was not ranked by Council members.

Habitat

16. Staff will be working early in the year to complete two recent actions: the Deep Sea Coral Amendment and the Surf Clam framework.

17. Revisiting the Habitat Management Areas on the Northern Edge of Georges Bank drew little enthusiasm from Council members and was ranked in the bottom third of possible tasks. If the Council decides to pursue this action, the impacts on scallop priorities will need to be considered.

18. Addressing offshore energy issues place steadily increasing demands on the staff. We are expecting a rapid succession of proposals that the Council will wish to comment on. There is also Council interest in a joint NEFMC/MAFMC win energy workshop, but it is not clear what the workshop would be designed to accomplish. Staff is discussing this idea with the MAFMC but it not ready to make a recommendation.

Whiting/Small Mesh Multispecies

19. Completion of the whiting limited entry program will compete for staff time with the EFBM fishery ecosystem plan early in the year. There is general support for addressing southern red hake rebuilding requirements and several other small-mesh issues.

Skates

20. Much like last year, the Council shows little interest in developing a limited entry program for the skate fishery. The Executive Committee may want to discuss whether to continue this project. The Council has initiated a flurry of skate frameworks in recent years to address management concerns that arguably are related to the lack of a limited entry system. Skate specifications will also need to be completed this year.

EBFM

21. Work will continue on the fishery ecosystem plan. The Executive Committee may want to discuss the pace of this action. The last EBFM Committee meeting was in June 2018, and the next one will not be until January 2019. The slow development and lack of Council discussion suggests a discussion of the Council's interest is warranted.

Trawl Survey Advisory Panel

22. Unlike last year, this AP was ranked above average by Council members. Because the panel is staffed by the MAFMC with funding from the NEFSC, participation does not tax Council staff.

SSC

23. The SSC will continue to advise the Council on OFLs/ABCs. It may be helpful if the SSC continues its effort to develop a consistent approach to Plan B assessments (i.e. catch advice when analytic assessments fail).

Other

24. The Council ranking exercise revealed little appetite for two tasks delegated by NMFS: the five year review of the Northeast Multispecies sector program and the identification of allocation review triggers. These are important tasks that cannot be delayed indefinitely. The Executive Committee will bring forward a recommendation on Allocation Review Triggers at the January Council meeting. Council and NMFS staff have been coordinating efforts on the sector five year review and progress is expected this year.

25. There are several lawsuits pending that could trigger future Council action. It appears doubtful any of these suits will be resolved early in the year.

26. Review and implementation of the NEFMC Program Review recommendations will be discussed at the Executive Committee meeting and should be considered as priorities are reviewed.

Grouping

27. Enclosure (1) does not group all tasks into management actions. There could be changes made to these suggestions after the Council makes its decisions.

Enclosures: (1) 2019 Draft Priorities – Executive Director Recommendations
(2) 2019 Priority Ranking

UNDERLINE: REGULATORY REQUIREMENT						<i>Italics: Not Recommended by Ex Comm</i>				
11/20/2018	ED Recommendations									
FMP	Annual	Comm.	Executive Committee	Council	Rank	Multi-Year	Comm.	Executive Committee	Council	Rank
Groundfish										
	<u>Set ABCs/ACLs for all groundfish stocks for FY2020-2022 and US/CA stocks for FY 2020</u>	✓	✓		9	Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring (including Fishery Data for Stock Assessment Working Group and possible workshops)	✓	✓		1
	Staff: TRAC/TMGC		✓		12	<i>Address SDC issue when analytic assessments fail (changed to multi-year 6/2018)</i>				40
	<i>Explore alternative ways to manage yellowtail flounder for the groundfish and scallop fisheries</i>				18	<i>Consider results of public listening sessions for possible initiation of an amendment to develop a limited access program for the party/charter fishery</i>				67
	Groundfish operational assessments		✓		45	Staff: Cod Stock Structure Workshop		✓		72
	Address commercial/recreational allocation issues if raised by new MRIP data	✓	✓		50					
	<i>Modify the GF control rule for stocks without analytical models – i.e., empirical and index-based</i>				50					
	<i>US/CA Trading Provisions</i>				50					
	<i>Get input on different ways to manage recreational fishery in light of highly variable catch estimates: for example, consideration of catch error estimates under MRIP, and errors in bioeconomic model used to determine measures</i>				53					
	<u>Staff: Sector five-year review</u>		✓		58					
	<i>Evaluate electronic reporting for recreational fishery</i>				60					
	<i>Consider sub-ACL of haddock for the small-mesh multispecies fishery</i>				67					
	Specify allocation review triggers		✓		75					

FMP	Annual	Comm.	Executive Committee	Council	Rank	Multi-Year	Comm.	Executive Committee	Council	Rank
	<i>Possible recreational sub-ACL for GB cod</i>				81					
Monkfish										
	<u>Monkfish specifications for 2020-2022</u>		✓		8					
Sea Scallops										
	<u>Prepare a specifications package to set FY 2020 (2021 default) specifications (i.e. setting DAS, access area trips, Northern GOM TAC, limited access general category IFQ allocations, etc.).</u>	✓	✓		2	NGOM scallop management measure changes: such as changing opening date, consistent gear restrictions, possession limits, effort controls.	✓	✓		24
	Staff: Support annual scallop RSA process, including priority setting, and technical and management reviews.		✓		18	<i>Scoping/exploratory process for harvester cooperatives</i>				80
	Evaluate rotational management program	✓	✓		32					
	<i>Adjustments to scallop industry funded observer program (NGOM coverage, etc.)</i>				34					
	<u>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).</u>		✓		34					
	<i>Action to modify scallop access areas to be consistent with OA2 revised management areas</i>	✓			40					
	LAGC IFQ Trip Limits	✓	✓		45					
	<i>Evaluate options for harvesting slow growing scallops in Nantucket Light Ship-South Deep</i>	✓			67					
	<i>Measures to address DAS and IFQ carryover</i>				72					
	<i>Gear modifications to protect small scallops (extended link)</i>				75					
	<u>Specify allocation review triggers</u>		✓		77					
	<i>Action to mitigate impacts on yellowtail flounder</i>	✓			NR					
Herring										

FMP	Annual	Comm.	Executive Committee	Council	Rank	Multi-Year	Comm.	Executive Committee	Council	Rank
	<u>Specifications for 2020-2021: revise reference points; consider different methods for RH/S catch caps; and potentially other measures</u>	✓	✓		4	Submit A8: ABC control rule and measures to address potential localized depletion and user conflicts	✓	✓		5
	<u>2019 specifications development (if needed)</u>	✓	✓		16	<i>Consider spawning closures on Georges Bank</i>				NR
	Staff: Coordination with MAFMC, ASMFC on various herring issues (RH/S, etc.)		✓		45					
	Workshop to solicit feedback on MSE process	✓	✓		74					
	<i>Consider increase in herring incidental possession limit in the range of 2,000-40,000 pounds</i>				77					
SBRM										
	<i>No Action Planned</i>									
Red Crab										
	<u>Specifications for 2020-2023</u>		✓		40					
Habitat	<i>(No Committee recommendations)</i>									
	Complete framework action to address surfclam access to HMAs		✓		12					
	Develop habitat and fishery related comments on non-fishing activities, in consultation with other agencies, (including BOEM)		✓		12					
	<i>NEFMC-MAFMC Workshop on offshore wind fisheries issues</i>				16					
	<i>Develop Council policies on additional non-fishing activities (offshore energy policies adopted 2018)</i>				18					
	Brief HC and Council on 2017-18 updates to SASI model and identify next steps		✓		34					
	<u>Staff: Habitat impacts of other management actions</u>		✓		40					

FMP	Annual	Comm.	Executive Committee	Council	Rank	Multi-Year	Comm.	Executive Committee	Council	Rank
	<i>Initiate action to revise habitat management areas on Northern Edge of Georges Bank</i>				60					
	Staff: SBNMS advisory panel and ASMFC habitat committee		✓		67					
Research Steering										
	<i>Continue to steer research to support NEFMC plans</i>				18					
	<i>Improve RSC priority process</i>				34					
	<i>Staff: Support S-K program</i>				39					
SSC										
	<u>Support Council activities such as recommending ABCs and making recommendations in the FMP development process</u>		✓		5					
	<i>Understand and resolve poor assessment model performance (primarily groundfish assessments)</i>				18					
	Develop consistent guidelines for application of Plan B approaches		✓		24					
	<i>Consider modifications to groundfish ABC control rules (see Groundfish)</i>				58					
Enforcement, Safety, VMS										
	Continue to support enforcement, safety and VMS issues.		✓		24					
Whiting										
	Submit final preferred alternatives with FEIS for Amendment 22, limited entry		✓		24					
	<u>Address overfished condition/develop rebuilding plan for southern red hake; modify northern red hake AM</u>		✓		9, 32					

FMP	Annual	Comm.	Executive Committee	Council	Rank	Multi-Year	Comm.	Executive Committee	Council	Rank
	AM for small-mesh multispecies catches of haddock (if sub-ACL adopted)		✓		45					
	<i>Consider whiting exemption area adjustments</i>				63					
	Staff: PDT receives annual monitoring report from Regional Office and advises Council whether management adjustments are needed		✓		67					
Skates										
	Skate specifications for 2020-2021		✓		2	Prepare an amendment to consider limited access in the skate fishery		✓		53
	Staff: Annual skate monitoring report		✓		53					
EBFM										
	Support EBFM activities (WGNARS, SOE, etc.)				77	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.		✓		45
Observer Committee										
	Study issue of full retention/no discards.				34	Develop a policy and strategic approach to monitor commercial fisheries to address multiple information needs		✓		5
	Policy and procedures for NEFOP "no sail" list; appropriate observer protocols		✓		24,40					
Risk Policy Working Group										
	Review implementation of Council Risk Policy				63					
Trawl Survey AP										
	Address issues identified in AP charter		✓		24					
Other										

FMP	Annual	Comm.	Executive Committee	Council	Rank	Multi-Year	Comm.	Executive Committee	Council	Rank
	Participate on Large Whale and Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Teams		✓		9	Fishery dependent data projects: FMAT to begin development of omnibus amendment				60
	International Fisheries Management TMGC/TRAC/Steering Committee ICCAT HMS Advisory Panel/HMS FMP NAFO Commissioner		✓		12	Preliminary work on aquaculture FMP				82
	Adopt additional measures for fisheries if required by Northern Right Whale Biological Opinion		✓		23					
	NRCC Working Group Participation		✓		24					
	Complete review of RSA programs in sea scallops, monkfish, and herring FMPs		✓		24					
	Staff: Protected Species issues		✓		53					
	<i>Consider creation of a Recreational Committee</i>				53					
	Review and implement Program Review recommendations		✓		63					
	<i>Dialogue meeting between Council, industry, and scientists</i>				63					
	NROC Ocean Policy Committee		✓		NR					

2019 Council Priorities Ranking
(ED recommendations highlighted in yellow)

Yellow highlight: ED recommendations							Mean:	SD:	
11/20/2018							36.2	7.4	
Row	Original Number	Subject	Priority/Task Title	High	Medium	Low	Score	Rank	Row SD
1	2	Groundfish	Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring (including Fishery Data for Stock Assessment Working Group and possible workshops)	17			51	1	0.000
2	19	Sea Scallops	Prepare a specifications package to set FY 2020 (2021 default) specifications (i.e. setting DAS, access area trips, Northern GOM TAC, limited access general category IFQ allocations, etc.).	16	1		50	2	0.243
3	63	Skates	Skate specifications for 2020-2021	16	1		50	2	0.243
4	33	Herring	Specifications for 2020-2021: revise reference points; consider different methods for RH/S catch caps; and potentially other measures	15	2		49	4	0.332
5	32	Herring	Submit A8: ABC control rule and measures to address potential localized depletion and user conflicts	15	1		47	5	0.250
6	50	SSC	Support Council activities such as <u>recommending ABCs</u> and making recommendations in the FMP development process	15	1		47	5	0.250
7	67	Observer Committee	Develop a policy and strategic approach to monitor commercial fisheries to address multiple information needs	13	4		47	5	0.437
8	18	Monkfish	<u>Monkfish specifications for 2020-2022</u>	14	2		46	8	0.342
9	1	Groundfish	<u>Set ABCs/ACLs for all groundfish stocks for FY2020-2022 and US/CA stocks for FY 2020</u>	15			45	9	0.000
10	57	Whiting	<u>Address overfished condition/develop rebuilding plan for southern red hake</u>	13	3		45	9	0.403
11	80	Other	Participate on Large Whale and Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Teams	13	3		45	9	0.403
12	17	Groundfish:staff	TRAC/TMGC	12	4		44	12	0.447
13	41	Habitat	Complete framework action to address surfclam access to HMAs	14		2	44	12	0.683
14	46	Habitat:staff	Develop habitat and fishery related comments on non-fishing activities, particularly wind power, in consultation with other agencies, (including BOEM)	12	4		44	12	0.447
15	75	Other	International Fisheries Management TMGC/TRAC/Steering Committee ICCAT HMS Advisory Panel/HMS FMP NAFO Commissioner	13	2	1	44	12	0.577
16	37	Herring:staff	2019 specifications development (if needed)	12	3	1	43	16	0.602
17	47	Habitat	NEFMC-MAFMC Workshop on offshore wind fisheries issues	12	2	3	43	16	0.800
18	12	Groundfish	Explore alternative ways to manage yellowtail flounder for the groundfish and scallop fisheries	9	7	1	42	18	0.624
19	31	Sea Scallops:staff	Support annual scallop RSA process, including priority setting, and technical and management reviews.	11	4	1	42	18	0.619

2019 Council Priorities Ranking
(ED recommendations highlighted in yellow)

Row	Original Number	Subject	Priority/Task Title	High	Medium	Low	Score	Rank	Row SD
20	43	Habitat	Develop Council policies on additional non-fishing activities (offshore energy policies adopted 2018)	10	5	2	42	18	0.717
21	47	RSC	Continue to steer research to support NEFMC plans	10	5	2	42	18	0.717
22	51	SSC	Understand and resolve poor assessment model performance (primarily groundfish assessments)	10	5	2	42	18	0.717
23	81	Other	Adopt additional measures for fisheries if required by Northern Right Whale Biological Opinion	9	7		41	23	0.512
24	21	Sea Scallops	NGOM scallop management measure changes: such as changing opening date, consistent gear restrictions, possession limits, effort controls.	9	5	3	40	24	0.786
25	52	SSC	Develop consistent guidelines for application of Plan B approaches	8	7	2	40	24	0.702
26	54	Enforcement, Safety, VMS	Continue to support enforcement, safety and VMS issues.	9	6	1	40	24	0.632
27	56	Whiting	Submit final preferred alternatives with FEIS for Amendment 22, limited entry	11	2	3	40	24	0.816
28	68	Observer Committee	Policy and procedures for NEFOP "no sail" list	8	7	2	40	24	0.702
29	72	Trawl Survey AP	Address issues identified in AP charter	10	4	2	40	24	0.730
30	74	Other	NRCC Working Group Participation	10	4	2	40	24	0.730
31	79	Other	Complete review of RSA programs in sea scallops, monkfish, and herring FMPs	9	6	1	40	24	0.632
32	25	Sea Scallops	Evaluate rotational management program	8	6	3	39	32	0.772
33	58	Whiting	Modify northern red hake AM (framework or specifications action)	7	8	2	39	32	0.686
34	28	Sea Scallops	Adjustments to scallop industry funded observer program (NGOM coverage, etc.)	7	7	3	38	34	0.752
35	30	Sea Scallops	NMFS and PDT have 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).	9	5	1	38	34	0.640
36	42	Habitat:staff	Brief HC and Council on 2017-18 updates to SASI model and identify next steps	5	11	1	38	34	0.562
37	48	RSC	Improve RSC priority process and RSC role/mission	7	8	1	38	34	0.619
38	70	Observer Committee	Study issue of full retention/no discards.	6	9	2	38	34	0.664
39	49	RSC:staff	Support S-K program	6	8	3	37	39	0.728
40	7	Groundfish	Address SDC issue when analytic assessments fail	4	11	2	36	40	0.600
41	20	Sea Scallops	Action to modify scallop access areas to be consistent with OA2 revised management areas	5	10	1	36	40	0.577
42	39	Red Crab	Specifications for 2020-2023	9	4	1	36	40	0.646206173
43	44	Habitat:staff	Habitat impacts of other management actions	6	8	2	36	40	0.683

2019 Council Priorities Ranking
(ED recommendations highlighted in yellow)

Row	Original Number	Subject	Priority/Task Title	High	Medium	Low	Score	Rank	Row SD
44	69	Observer Committee	Appropriate observer protocols	7	6	3	36	40	0.775
45	16	Groundfish:staff	Groundfish operational assessments	8	5	1	35	45	0.650
46	27	Sea Scallops	LAGC IFQ Trip Limits	6	7	3	35	45	0.750
47	36	Herring:staff	Coordination with MAFMC, ASMFC on various herring issues (RH/S, etc.)	6	8	1	35	45	0.617
48	60	Whiting	AM for small-mesh multispecies catches of haddock (if sub-ACL adopted)	5	8	4	35	45	0.748
49	65	EBFM	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.	5	8	4	35	45	0.748
50	8	Groundfish	Address commercial/recreational allocation issues if raised by new MRIP data	5	7	5	34	50	0.791
51	9	Groundfish	Modify the GF control rule for stocks without analytical models – i.e., empirical and index-based (see SSC list below, item 7 above)	3	11	3	34	50	0.612
52	13	Groundfish	US/CA trading provisions	4	9	4	34	50	0.707
53	10	Groundfish	Get input on different ways to manage recreational fishery in light of highly variable catch estimates: for example, consideration of catch error estimates under MRIP, and errors in bioeconomic model used to determine measures	4	8	5	33	53	0.748
54	62	Skates	Prepare an amendment to consider limited access in the skate fishery	5	7	4	33	53	0.772
55	64	Skates:staff	Skate monitoring report	3	11	2	33	53	0.574
56	76	Other:staff	Protected Species issues	5	8	2	33	53	0.676
57	82	Other	Consider creation of a Recreational Committee	8		9	33	53	1.029
58	15	Groundfish:staff	Sector five-year review	5	6	5	32	58	0.816
59	53	SSC	Consider modifications to groundfish ABC control rules (see Groundfish)	3	10	3	32	58	0.632
60	14	Groundfish	Evaluate electronic reporting for recreational fishery	4	7	5	31	60	0.772
61	40	Habitat	Initiate action to revise habitat management areas on Northern Edge of Georges Bank	5	6	4	31	60	0.798808637
62	73	Other	Fishery dependent data projects: FMAT to begin development of omnibus amendment	4	8	3	31	60	0.704
63	59	Whiting	Consider whiting exemption area adjustments	4	6	6	30	63	0.806
64	71	Risk Policy Working Group	Review implementation of Council Risk Policy	5	6	3	30	63	0.770
65	77	Other	Review and implement Program Review recommendations	3	9	3	30	63	0.655
66	83	Other	Dialogue meeting between Council, industry, and scientists	5	7	1	30	63	0.630
67	5	Groundfish	Consider results of public listening sessions for possible initiation of an amendment to develop a limited access program for the party/charter fishery	4	4	9	29	67	0.849

2019 Council Priorities Ranking
(ED recommendations highlighted in yellow)

Row	Original Number	Subject	Priority/Task Title	High	Medium	Low	Score	Rank	Row SD
68	11	Groundfish	Consider sub-ACL of haddock for the small-mesh multispecies fishery	3	6	8	29	67	0.772
69	26	Sea Scallops	Evaluate options for harvesting slow growing scallops in Nantucket Light Ship-South Deep	4	5	7	29	67	0.834
70	45	Habitat:staff	SBNMS advisory panel and ASMFC habitat committee	3	7	6	29	67	0.750
71	61	Whiting:staff	PDT receives annual monitoring report from Regional Office and advise Council whether management adjustments are needed	3	10		29	67	0.439
72	3	Groundfish	Cod Stock Structure Working Group	3	6	7	28	72	0.775
73	22	Sea Scallops	Measures to address DAS and IFQ carryover		11	6	28	72	0.493
74	35	Herring	Workshop to solicit feedback on MSE process	2	6	8	26	74	0.719
75	4	Groundfish	Specify allocation review triggers	1	8	6	25	75	0.617
76	23	Sea Scallops	Gear modifications to protect small scallops (extended link)	1	7	8	25	75	0.629
77	24	Sea Scallops	Specify allocation review triggers	3	6	3	24	77	0.739
78	34	Herring	Consider increase in herring incidental possession limit in the range of 2,000-40,000 pounds	1	6	9	24	77	0.632
79	66	EBFM:staff	Support EBFM activities (WGNARS, SOE, etc.)	1	8	5	24	77	0.611
80	29	Sea Scallops	Scoping/exploratory process for harvester cooperatives	2	2	11	21	80	0.737
81	6	Groundfish	Possible recreational sub-ACL for GB cod		4	12	20	81	0.447
82	78	Other	Preliminary work on Aquaculture FMP	1	3	10	19	82	0.633
83	38	SBRM	No action planned						