		DRAFT	PROPOSED: 2026 New England Fishery Management Council Priority List			
Ref#	Plan/Topic	Category	Priority/Task	Estimated Timing	Coordination	Staff Months
G1	Groundfish	Required	Complete and submit FW72	Complete early 2026		2
G2	Groundfish	Required	Action to set ABC/ACL for groundfish stocks for FY2027-FY2031; US/CA stocks for FY2027; additional management measures	2026	IRA3, RP2/3, EO5	10
G3	Groundfish	Required	Groundfish Management Track Assessments (June - Georges Bank haddock; Sept - Gulf of Maine haddock, American plaice) and data updates (halibut, witch flounder, pollock)	2026		1
G4	Groundfish	Required	Updates for transboundary management (TMGC; cod, haddock, yellowtail flounder)	2026		2
G5	Groundfish	Paused	Review redfish sector exemption program	2026		3
G6	Groundfish	Paused	Amendment 23 monitoring system review including complete development of metrics	2026		6
G7	Groundfish	Paused	Continue work to revise ABC control rules for Northeast Multispecies stocks	2026	IRA1, RP2/3	8
G8	Groundfish	Paused	Transition Plan for cod management units, including allocation issues and new spawning protections	Multiyear, initiated 2024	IRA2/4	0.5
SC1	Scallop	Required	Complete and submit FW40	Complete early 2026		3
SC2	Scallop	Required	LAGC IFQ program review (2016-2023)	Complete early 2026		1
SC3	Scallop	Required	Action to set ABC/ACL for scallop stock with specifications for FY2027 (FY2028 default); additional management measures	2026	IRA3, RP3, EO5	10
SC4	Scallop	New	Develop new projection methods	2026		4
SC5	Scallop	New	Scallop Strategic Plan Menu Items	Multiyear	IRA5	~
SC6	Scallop	Ongoing	Scallop RSA Management (Share Day, Proposal Review)	Ongoing		1
SC7	Scallop	CTE Proposal	Modification to the in-shell scallop possession limits in NGOM	Single year		2
SC8	Scallop	CTE Proposal	Develop sub-management units in NGOM	Single year		2
SC9	Scallop	CTE Proposal	Develop regional allocations of Limited Access DAS and analyze carryover DAS provisions	Single year		4
SC10	Scallop	CTE Proposal	Resume development of a scallop rotational area on the Northern Edge	Multiyear		12
SC11	Scallop	CTE Proposal	Measures to address efficiency and over capitalization, including but not limited to stacking and leasing	Multiyear		12
HE1	Herring	Required	Action to set ABC/ACL for herring stock for FY2027-FY2031; additional management measures	2026	IRA3, RP3, EO2	10
HE2	Herring	Required	Herring Management Track Assessment (June)	2026		1
HE3	Herring	Paused	Amendment 10: minimize user conflicts, achieve OY, and support rebuilding of the herring resource; River Herring & Shad Management Measures (e.g., Catch Caps or Time/Area Closures)	Multi-year, initiated in 2022		8
HE4	Herring	Ongoing	Coordination with MAFMC/ASMFC for river herring/shad issues	Ongoing	IRA4	1

Ref #	Plan/Topic	Category	Priority/Task	Estimated Timing	Coordination	Staff Months
M/SK1	Monkfish/Skate	CTE Proposal	Peer review of the monkfish Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) RSA project work with TORs to evaluate use of CPUE indices in monkfish assessment and management	2026		0.5
M/SK2	Monkfish/Skate	CTE Proposal	Explore options for skate possession limits based on DAS charged to replace trip-based limits	Single year	EO5	3
M/SK3	Monkfish/Skate	CTE Proposal	Create a skate wing RSA program	Multiyear		4
M/SK4	Monkfish/Skate	CTE Proposal	Develop a 3-season approach for the skate wing fishery	Single year		2
M/SK5	Monkfish/Skate	CTE Proposal	Explore options to reduce latent effort in the monkfish fishery	Multiyear	EO5	6
M/SK6	Monkfish/Skate	CTE Proposal	Revise the Southern New England Skate Bait Trawl Exemption Area	Multiyear		4
M/SK7	Monkfish/Skate	CTE Proposal	Create skate wing DAS to replace groundfish DAS	Multiyear		8
M/SK8	Monkfish/Skate	CTE Proposal	Create a DAS leasing program for monkfish and skate wing fisheries	Multiyear	IRA4, EO5	8
M/SK9	Monkfish/Skate	CTE Proposal	Create an IFQ/sector management program for monkfish and skate wing fisheries	Multiyear	IRA4, EO5	8
W1	Whiting	Required	Action to set ABC/ACL for small-mesh stocks for FY2027-2031; additional management measures	2026	IRA3, RP3, EO5	6
HA1	Habitat	Required	Develop revised EFH designations for groundfish, small mesh, and scallops	2026		4
HA2	Habitat	Required	Habitat impacts of management actions (NEPA analyses)	Ongoing		1
НА3	Habitat	Ongoing	Develop habitat and fishery related comments on non-fishing activities, including offshore energy	Ongoing		1
HA4	Habitat	Ongoing	Contribute to habitat and ocean planning science and management partnerships, though the CCC Habitat WG, ASMFC Habitat Committee, Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership, and RODA	Ongoing	IRA3/4	0.5
HA5	Habitat	Ongoing	Continue to advance Fishing Effects Model analyses, integrate habitat information into Council initiatives, maintain expertise, and share habitat products with regional partners.	Ongoing	IRA3/4	1
OD1	On-Demand WG	Postponed	Joint action with MAFMC and GARFO to revise gear marking regulations across FMPs	Multiyear, initiated 2025		3
RP1	Risk Policy WG	Required	RPWG TOR #3: Communication strategies for revised Risk Policy	2026	IRA6	2
RP2	Risk Policy WG	Required	Simulation testing of revised Risk Policy Concept for some FMPs/species/stocks with SSC review	Multiyear, initiated 2025	IRA1/3, G2/7	2
RP3	Risk Policy WG	Required	Implementation of revised Risk Policy Concept for some FMPs/species/stocks, integrated with ABC control rule revisions	Multiyear, initiated 2025	IRA1/3, G2/7, SC3, HE1, W1	6
SSC1	SSC	Required	Support Council activities including recommending OFLs and ABCs and review of scientific information	Ongoing		5
SSC2	SSC	New	Support SSC Social Science Sub-panel	Ongoing		1
EN1	Enforcement	Required	Reengage Committee; Q1 Committee meeting	2026		0.25
EN2	Enforcement	Ongoing	Address issues related to development and implementation of ropeless/on-demand gear	Multiyear, initiated 2024		0.25

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NT1	NTAP	Ongoing	Continue the Survey Contingency Working Group; Industry-Based Survey implementation	Ongoing		0.25
CE1	Climate and Ecosystem	New	Spring and fall meetings of the Climate and Ecosystem Steering Committee; guidance for IRA initiatives, climate-resilient fisheries management, and ecosystem approaches	Ongoing	IRA1-6, RP1-3	3
IA1	Inter-Agency	Required	CCC participation	Ongoing		3
IA2	Inter-Agency	Required	NRCC participation	Ongoing		3
IA3	Inter-Agency	Required	East Coast Coordination Group and Climate Core Team	Ongoing		2
IA4	Inter-Agency	Required	CEFI Decision Support Team	Ongoing		0.25
IA5	Inter-Agency	Required	NROC Ocean Policy	Ongoing		0.25
IA6	Inter-Agency	Required	Sanctuary Advisory Committees (Stellwagen, Hudson Canyon)	Ongoing		0.25
IA7	Inter-Agency	Required	International Fisheries Management (US/CA TMGC, Steering Committee, ICCAT, HMS, NAFO)	Ongoing		1
IA8	Inter-Agency	Required	Take Reduction Teams	Ongoing		1.5
IA9	Inter-Agency	Required	Protected species issues, including actions as necessary to implement Biological Opinion and implement NARW recovery plan	Ongoing		0.25
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IRA1	IRA	Required	Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rules for Northeast Multispecies	Multiyear, completion 2027	G7, RP2/3	3
IRA1 IRA2	IRA IRA	Required Required	Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rules for Northeast Multispecies Atlantic cod management transition	2027 Multiyear, completion 2027	G8	0.5
				2027 Multiyear, completion	, ,	·
IRA2	IRA	Required	Atlantic cod management transition	2027 Multiyear, completion 2027 Multiyear, completion	G8 G2, SC3, HE1, W1, HA4/5,	0.5
IRA2	IRA IRA	Required Required	Atlantic cod management transition Operationalizing ecosystem approaches in NE fisheries management	2027 Multiyear, completion 2027 Multiyear, completion 2027 Multiyear, completion	G8 G2, SC3, HE1, W1, HA4/5, RP2/3	0.5
IRA2 IRA3 IRA4	IRA IRA	Required Required Required	Atlantic cod management transition Operationalizing ecosystem approaches in NE fisheries management Operationalizing the East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning Initiative	2027 Multiyear, completion 2027 Multiyear, completion 2027 Multiyear, completion 2027 Multiyear, completion	G8 G2, SC3, HE1, W1, HA4/5, RP2/3 G8, HE4, M/SK8/9, HA4/5	0.5 4 6
IRA2 IRA3 IRA4 IRA5	IRA IRA IRA	Required Required Required Required	Atlantic cod management transition Operationalizing ecosystem approaches in NE fisheries management Operationalizing the East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning Initiative Holistic strategic plan for climate resilient NE fisheries management	2027 Multiyear, completion 2027	G8 G2, SC3, HE1, W1, HA4/5, RP2/3 G8, HE4, M/SK8/9, HA4/5 SC5	0.5 4 6 3
IRA2 IRA3 IRA4 IRA5	IRA IRA IRA	Required Required Required Required	Atlantic cod management transition Operationalizing ecosystem approaches in NE fisheries management Operationalizing the East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning Initiative Holistic strategic plan for climate resilient NE fisheries management	2027 Multiyear, completion 2027	G8 G2, SC3, HE1, W1, HA4/5, RP2/3 G8, HE4, M/SK8/9, HA4/5 SC5	0.5 4 6 3
IRA2 IRA3 IRA4 IRA5 IRA6	IRA IRA IRA IRA	Required Required Required Required Required	Atlantic cod management transition Operationalizing ecosystem approaches in NE fisheries management Operationalizing the East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning Initiative Holistic strategic plan for climate resilient NE fisheries management Enhancing participatory processes for climate resilient fisheries	2027 Multiyear, completion 2027	G8 G2, SC3, HE1, W1, HA4/5, RP2/3 G8, HE4, M/SK8/9, HA4/5 SC5	0.5 4 6 3
IRA2 IRA3 IRA4 IRA5 IRA6	IRA IRA IRA IRA EO14276	Required Required Required Required Required Required	Atlantic cod management transition Operationalizing ecosystem approaches in NE fisheries management Operationalizing the East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning Initiative Holistic strategic plan for climate resilient NE fisheries management Enhancing participatory processes for climate resilient fisheries Modifications to Vessel Baseline Restrictions	2027 Multiyear, completion 2027 Multiyear Completion 2027	G8 G2, SC3, HE1, W1, HA4/5, RP2/3 G8, HE4, M/SK8/9, HA4/5 SC5	0.5 4 6 3
IRA2 IRA3 IRA4 IRA5 IRA6 EO1 EO2	IRA IRA IRA IRA EO14276	Required Required Required Required Required New New	Atlantic cod management transition Operationalizing ecosystem approaches in NE fisheries management Operationalizing the East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning Initiative Holistic strategic plan for climate resilient NE fisheries management Enhancing participatory processes for climate resilient fisheries Modifications to Vessel Baseline Restrictions Atlantic herring slippage measures	2027 Multiyear, completion 2027 Multiyear Completion 2027	G8 G2, SC3, HE1, W1, HA4/5, RP2/3 G8, HE4, M/SK8/9, HA4/5 SC5	0.5 4 6 3
IRA2 IRA3 IRA4 IRA5 IRA6 EO1 EO2 EO3	IRA IRA IRA IRA EO14276 EO14276	Required Required Required Required Required New New	Atlantic cod management transition Operationalizing ecosystem approaches in NE fisheries management Operationalizing the East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning Initiative Holistic strategic plan for climate resilient NE fisheries management Enhancing participatory processes for climate resilient fisheries Modifications to Vessel Baseline Restrictions Atlantic herring slippage measures Monkfish management modifications	2027 Multiyear, completion 2027 Multiyear Multiyear Multiyear	G8 G2, SC3, HE1, W1, HA4/5, RP2/3 G8, HE4, M/SK8/9, HA4/5 SC5	0.5 4 6 3