Executive Order 14276
Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness

New England Fishery Management Council
Gloucester, MA & Webinar
September 23, 2025

New England
Fishery Management Council

Executive Order 14276
Recommendations from Councils

(i) “The Secretary of Commerce shall **request** that **each Regional Fishery Management Council**, within 180 days of the date of this order, provide the Secretary of Commerce with **updates to their recommendations submitted pursuant to Executive Order 13921**, to **reduce burdens on domestic fishing and to increase production**.

Building upon the earlier goals, identified actions should **stabilize markets, improve access, enhance economic profitability, and prevent closures**. The Regional Fishery Management Councils will **commit to a work plan** and a **schedule for implementation** to ensure these actions are prioritized.”

Gathering Input and Developing a Work Plan

- **Identify actions that would:**
  - Reduce burdens on domestic fishing,
  - Increase production,
  - Stabilize markets,
  - Improve access,
  - Enhance economic profitability, and
  - Prevent closures.

- **Commit to a work plan and a schedule for implementation**

Overview of Input Gathering Process

- The Council requested input from Plan Development Teams (PDTs) and Advisory Panel (AP) members on potential actions that address one or more of the EO's stated goals.
- Members of the public also submitted written comments to the Council.
- The Executive Committee reviewed a compilation of comments received by the Council from AP members and the public, and a compilation of comments sent directly to NOAA Fisheries, which includes input about the New England Council.
- A summary of PDT input was compiled following the Executive Committee meeting.
- Additional public input that was received after the Executive Committee meeting is provided in Council materials.

Timeline

April 17	EO 14276, signed by President Trump
June 24	Council receives update with proposed workplan to solicit input
July 21	Solicitation for input emailed to all current AP members; reminder email on August 8
July-August	PDTs provide input at scheduled meetings and through correspondence
August 15	Input from AP members due to Council staff
September 4	Executive Committee reviews all input and develops recommendations for the Council
September 23	Council considers Executive Committee recommendations and approves final list of actions
September 30	Council recommendations due to NOAA

Input Received: Advisory Panel Members

Submissions by Advisory Panel Members	
Advisory Panel	**Count**
Groundfish	0
Recreational	1
Scallop	4
Monkfish	0
Atlantic Herring	2
Habitat	2 (3)*
Skates	0
Small-Mesh (Whiting)	1
Enforcement	1
Total	**11**

Input requested from individual members.
One member is on both the Herring and Habitat APs.

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Input Received: Advisory Panel Members

Specific Examples from Members of APs

- **Recreational**: increase access to cod
- **Scallop**: reduce discards, allow access to Northern Edge, modify DAS or permit restrictions, tariffs on imports
- **Herring**: remove VMS landing requirement, maintain all management, increase research, re-establish IFM
- **Herring/Habitat:** rescind Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine Monument commercial fishing restrictions, moratorium on offshore wind, eliminate IFM, discontinue work on A10, realign S-K funds to original purpose
- **Habitat**: rescind all HAPCs, increase access for scallop and clam fisheries, incorporate new technology and modernize, expand EFP programs
- **Small-Mesh:** create subsidies for packaging and fuel, expand USDA program, seek fair-trade measures or slowdowns of Canadian imports to protect U.S. fishermen, assess closures and gear-restrictions
- **Enforcement**: encourage development of aquaculture

Input Received: Plan Development Teams

Specific Examples from PDTs*

- **Groundfish:** revise sector program, review possession limits, consider reclassifying some stocks as Ecosystem Component, remove outdated regulations
- **Scallops**: define management areas that could open or close based on a pre-defined trigger, modify VMS requirements, review groundfish/scallop possession regulations
- **Monkfish:** evaluate joint monkfish/skate single FMP, review permit categories and revise requirements

***This list is not exhaustive but meant to be representative of the discussions by each PDT. It does not represent consensus recommendations by each PDT.**

Input Received: Plan Development Teams

Specific Examples from PDTs*

- **Herring**: revise specifications formula, revise the harvest control rule, modify non-target (river herring/shad, haddock) measures, revise/remove outdated regulations
- **Habitat**: No suggested revisions (i.e., neutral / not commenting)
- **Skates**: Develop performance trigger to increase skate possession limits, consider/adjust timing of skate wing seasons, consider modifying bait OA
- **Whiting:** Evaluate/modify exemption areas, evaluate/standardize incidental species limits, consider removing LOA for exemption area, evaluate/remove AMs for red hake

***This list is not exhaustive but meant to be representative of the discussions by each PDT.**

It does not represent consensus recommendations by each PDT.

Input Received: Public Comment

Written Public Comments

Executive Committee: 5 letters

Council: 9 letters (additional 4 following Executive Committee meeting)

Public Comments in Order Received
Brian Pearce, F/V Gracelyn Jane
Wayne Reichle, Lund's Fisheries
Shaun Gehan, Gehan Law, on behalf of the Sustainable Fisheries Coalition
Todd Bragdon, Oneonta Fisheries, Inc
Ronald Smolowitz, Coonamessett Farm Foundation
Tom Dameron, Surfside Foods, LLC
Shaun Gehan, Gehan Law, on behalf of Intershell International Corporation
Timothy Brady, Stellwagen Bank Charter Boat Association
Rob Kramer, Wild Oceans and others

Input Received: Public Comment

Specific Examples from Written Public Comment by General Topic

- **Groundfish**: end sector leasing, reduce observe costs with AI, invest in communities, continue to support the recreational bioeconomic model
- **Herring**:
  - Remove slippage/consequence measures, remove requirements to carry observer in groundfish closed areas, eliminate IFM, and end work on A10
  - Do not change herring regulations in response to EO 14276 and restart/complete work on A10
- **Scallop**: access to Northen Edge HAPC, access to western side of the Channel, improve technology use around closure boundaries
- **Habitat**: allow dredging of surf clams and mussels in the Great South Channel HMA
- **Other**: simplify the Council system, reverse commercial fishing restrictions in Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument, moratorium on offshore wind, increase use of industry-based surveys, partner on data collection with industry, support CEFI

Executive Committee Recommendations

- The Executive Committee recommendations are based on received input, as well as availability of staff and budget resources.

- The recommendations are organized into four categories:
  1. Council Actions in the NOAA Fisheries Rulemaking Process
  2. Council Actions Currently Under Development
  3. Possible New Council Actions
  4. Non-Council Actions (Recommendations to Federal Agencies)

2. Council Actions Currently Under Development

2.1 Omnibus Management Flexibility Amendment

2.2 Actions to Set Specifications for Monkfish and Skates

2.3 Spiny Dogfish Framework Adjustment for Accountability Measures and Specifications

2.4 Sea Scallop Strategic Plan

2.5 Ecosystem Components Evaluation

2.6 Modernizing Approaches to Governance

3. Possible New Council Actions

3.1 Modifications to Vessel Baseline Restrictions

3.2 Atlantic Herring Slippage Measures

3.3 Monkfish Management Modifications

3.4 Revisions to Reactive Accountability Measures

3.5 Fishery Management Plan Revisions

1.Council Actions in the NOAA Fisheries Rulemaking Process

1.1 Northeast Multispecies Framework Adjustment 69

1.2 Atlantic Herring 2025-2027 Specifications

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3.1 Modifications to Vessel Baseline Restrictions

ISSUE Industry reports current restrictions too challenging to meet when replacing vessels/engines

ACTION In coordination with GARFO, evaluate current restrictions and consider joint action with MAFMC to explore modifications to requirements

RATIONALE Increase flexibility for permit holders seeking to upgrade or replace aging vessels within overall fleet capacity; safer and more efficient operations; reduce barriers to modernization

3.2 Atlantic Herring Slippage Measures

ISSUE Herring vessels must relocate 15 NM if releases any fish for specified reasons, but if for other reasons the vessel must terminate the trip and return to port

ACTION Evaluate the necessity and utility of this regulation and consider including a deregulatory measure in a future Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan action

RATIONALE Events triggering the "move-along" requirement are largely beyond the control of the vessel; need does not have a strong biological or operational basis; removal of slippage and consequence requirements supports more efficient fishing operations and reduce burdens that impose industry costs

3.3 Monkfish Management Modifications

ISSUE Days at Sea (DAS) for use in the northern and southern area are also bound to groundfish and scallop DAS, which can result in limiting the areas vessels can access in a single trip and increasing reporting requirements.

ACTION Develop a white paper to evaluate how the monkfish fishery interacts with other fisheries to consider approaches that may decouple monkfish from groundfish and scallop regulations

RATIONALE Modifications could reduce unnecessary restrictions, improve access to the fishery, and support more efficient resource use

3.4 Revisions to Reactive Accountability Measures

ISSUE "Pound-for-pound paybacks" result when annual catch limits are exceeded in one year by reducing the catch limit in a future year. If a stock is above its biomass target (>100% BMSY), paybacks could be considered unnecessary and overly burdensome to meet conservation and management goals.

ACTION Evaluate the effectiveness of pound-for-pound paybacks in preventing overfishing with consideration of the Spiny Dogfish Accountability Measures Framework Adjustment as an example to be applied across multiple Fishery Management Plans.

RATIONALE Modifications to reactive accountability measures could minimize negative socioeconomic disruptions while continuing to maintain sustainability of Council-managed resources

3.5 Fishery Management Plan Revisions

ISSUE Plans have outdated regulations. PDTs conducted an evaluation of existing regulations and identified several provisions that are no longer deemed necessary or effective, as well as regulations that could be streamlined.

ACTION Remove outdated and irrelevant regulations through planned Framework Adjustments, a standalone FMP action, or through a rule-making package.

RATIONALE Removing unnecessary and overly restrictive regulations could reduce burdens on the fishing industry, increase access, and enhance economic profitability.

4. Non-Council Actions (Recommendations to Federal Agencies)

4.1 Seafood Marketing and Promotion

4.2 Fisheries Monitoring and Scientific Programs

4.3 Recreational Bioeconomic Model

4.4 Changing Environment and Fisheries Initiative

4.5 Categorical Exclusions under the National Environmental Policy Act

Next Steps – After Letter Submitted to NOAA

- The Executive Committee requested the Executive Director to ask for guidance at the October Council Coordination Committee (CCC) meeting on next steps in the process and timeline for EO14276 responses and provide an update to the Council in December in coordination with the Council's priority setting process.

- The Executive Director noted a need for coordination with the Mid-Atlantic Council, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, and Northeast Fisheries Science Center if the Council adopts specific Executive Committee recommendations. The regional partners can begin discussions about workplans and timelines at the November Northeast Region Coordinating Council (NRCC).

- Additionally, NOAA Fisheries is directly accepting public comments about EO14276 until October 14th and is holding Public Listening Sessions on September 25th and October 1st.

Thank you.

Questions?

Additional Slides for Reference:
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
EO 14276 Recommendations

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

1. Council Actions in the NMFS Rulemaking Process

1.1 Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Species Separation Requirements Amendment

1.2 Summer Flounder Commercial Mesh Size Framework

1.3 Recreational Measures Setting Process Framework

2. Council Actions Under Development

2.1 Recreational Sector Separation Amendment

2.2 Spiny Dogfish Accountability Measures Framework

2.3 Recreational Tilefish Reporting Framework

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

3. New Council Actions and Initiatives

3.1 Evaluate current **vessel baseline restrictions** for federal limited access permit holders and consider initiating a joint management action with the New England Fishery Management Council to modify these requirements. (Evaluation + possible management action)

3.2 Consider initiating a management action to modify **multi-year specification** frequency for one or more FMPs. (Evaluation + possible management action)

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3. New Council Actions and Initiatives

3.3 Conduct a landings threshold analysis to examine how modifications to the **Winter I scup commercial quota period** possession limits and/or a change in the percentage threshold may alter landings patterns. Consider initiating a framework action to modify Winter I possession limit regulations if appropriate. (Evaluation + possible management action)

3.4 Consider modifications to the **scup Gear Restricted Areas (GRA)** based on the outcomes and recommendations from the scup GRA project currently in progress. (Framework)

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

3. New Council Actions and Initiatives

3.5 Develop a white paper that considers potential modifications to the Atlantic **surfclam/ocean quahog ITQ program** to address graying of the fleet and barriers to entry. (White paper)

3.6 Conduct an evaluation of alternative trip limits for butterfish and solicit advisory panel input on other measures that could improve **butterfish quota utilization**. (Evaluation)

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3. New Council Actions and Initiatives

3.7 Conduct a review of the deep sea coral broad zones established through Amendment 16 to the Mackerel/Squid/Butterfish FMP. (Evaluation)

3.8 Consider an alternative rebuilding approach for Atlantic mackerel that maintains at least a 50% probability of rebuilding by 2032 while allowing for more fishery yield in upcoming years relative to the current approach. (Framework)

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

4. Non-Council Actions (Recommendations to Federal Agencies)

4.1 Exempt U.S. squid products from USFWS user fee and inspection program

4.2 Promote US Seafood

4.3 Support and fund the Recreation Demand Model

4.4 Prioritize and fund Federal fisheries monitoring and scientific programs

4.5 Reopen Northeast Canyons & Seamounts Marine National Monument

4.6 Invest and support Changing Environment and Fisheries Initiative (CEFI)