

Executive Order 14276

NOAA Request to Rescind Herring IFM Program

New England Fishery Management Council

June 23, 2026

Mystic, CT



**New England Fishery
Management Council**

Executive Order 14276 – Reminder

- (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.”



Council Process for EO 14276 Response

- Request for 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
- Public comment submitted directly to the Council and to NOAA Fisheries
- Executive Committee reviewed all public comments and provided recommendations to the Council
- Council considered Executive Committee recommendations for priority topics and workplan; response submitted to NOAA on Sept. 30, 2025
- NOAA reopened the public comment period for December 1 – 15, 2025
- NOAA shared the additional public comments with Councils in January, and Council confirmed workplan in a letter submitted on April 23, 2026
 - Council did not recommend changes to Herring IFM Program



NOAA Letter to Council – May 1, 2026

- Request that the Council reconsider the decision to not revisit the Herring IFM program under EO 14276
- Rationale for request:
 - Remove unused provisions that are not achieving intended goals
 - Accurate estimates of catch (retained and discarded)
 - Accurate estimates for incidental species with catch caps (haddock and river herring/shad)
 - Affordable monitoring for the herring fishery
 - Since implementation, insufficient IFM coverage to support evaluation
 - January 2020 - since approval never implemented at intended coverage (50% of trips)
 - November 2022 – program suspended due to lack of resources for implementation
 - Unlikely that NMFS will have resources necessary to support the program
 - Herring IFM regulations are subject of litigation
 - Removing the Herring IFM requirements is an important step to end litigation



Executive Committee Input – June 9, 2026

- The Executive Committee noted the following:
 - Herring IFM Program is distinct from other NEFMC IFM programs (e.g., scallop/groundfish)
 - Other IFM programs are meeting intended objectives and should not be rescinded
 - Related issues of herring monitoring coverage levels and catch cap management measures
 - Inability to effectively monitor the Georges Bank haddock and river herring/shad catch caps
 - Related issues of herring monitoring coverage and accountability for slippage events
 - Inability to monitor vessel's compliance with move-on rules if slippage occurs
- The Executive Committee discussed options for:
 - Including an action to rescind the Herring IFM Program in 2027 Council priorities
 - Including rescinding the Herring IFM Program in a combined action with RHS measures
 - Including removal of slippage move-on provisions and Georges Bank haddock bycatch caps in an action that considers rescinding the Herring IFM Program



Next Steps

- TODAY:
 - Council input on NOAA's request for an action to rescind the Herring IFM Program
- FOLLOW-UP:
 - Staff submit response to NOAA immediately following June meeting
 - Any revisions to work plan identified by Council today
 - Council consider inclusion of 2027 priority to rescind Herring IFM Program
 - Possibly combined with other measures
 - RHS time/area measures
 - Removal of haddock bycatch cap and slippage move-on rules

