

## NEFMC, MAFMC, and SAFMC IRA workshops and events planned for 2026 and 2027

<b>Jan 6-7, 2026 (In person)</b>	<b>NEFMC Holistic Strategic Plan Workshop</b>
<p><i>Relevant Project(s):</i> NEFMC IRA 5</p> <p><i>Participants:</i> All NEFMC members, selected staff, and participants from GARFO, MAFMC, and ASMFC</p> <p><i>Purpose:</i> Develop key elements of a Holistic Strategic Plan.</p>	
<b>Jan 12,15,22, Feb 4,18, 2026 (5 Virtual Sessions)</b>	<b>SAFMC Ecosystems Data Workshop</b>
<p><i>Relevant Project(s):</i> SAFMC IRA 1, SAFMC IRA 3, SAFMC IRA Coordination Task</p> <p><i>Participants:</i> NEFSC, SEFSC, SAFMC, ASMFC, MAFMC, Gulf Council, Other State and Federal Partners</p> <p><i>Purpose:</i> The workshop will continue coordination and collaboration with regional partners to identify ecosystem data availability, prioritize information needs, and explore strategies to operationalize ecosystem indicator use in South Atlantic fisheries management decision-making processes.</p>	
<b>Feb 25-26, 2026 (In person)</b>	<b>NEFMC/MAFMC/SAFMC Staff-to-Staff Governance Workshop</b>
<p><i>Relevant Project(s):</i> NEFMC IRA 4 and IRA 5; MAFMC IRA 3; SAFMC IRA 1</p> <p><i>Participants:</i> Staff from the NEFMC, MAFMC, SAFMC, ASMFC, and facilitators.</p> <p><i>Purpose:</i> The primary goal of the staff-to-staff workshop is to prepare for a broader governance workshop by facilitating information sharing and idea generation among staff from different organizations.</p>	
<b>March 2026 Dates TBD</b>	<b>MAFMC Scup Gear Restricted Areas Preliminary Modeling Results</b>
<p><i>Relevant Project(s):</i> MAFMC IRA 2</p> <p><i>Participants:</i> Primarily Mid-Atlantic/New England fishing industry and Project Oversight Team</p> <p><i>Purpose:</i> Present preliminary results of data analysis and modeling efforts for industry feedback.</p>	

<b>March 2026 Date TBD (Virtual)</b>	<b>MAFMC Ecosystem Indicators Workshop II</b>
<p><i>Relevant Project(s):</i> MAFMC IRA 5</p> <p><i>Participants:</i> MAFMC, NEFMC, and ASMFC technical staff, Council members, advisory panel members, NEFSC partners, and SSC members</p> <p><i>Purpose:</i> Review draft indicators to support priority management decisions identified during workshop 1. Select a sub-set of indicators for further development and simulation and performance testing.</p>	
<b>June 1-2, 2026 (In person)</b>	<b>NEFMC Dynamic Reference Points Workshop</b>
<p><i>Relevant Project(s):</i> NEFMC IRA 3.2</p> <p><i>Participants:</i> All NEFMC SSC members, invited presenters from NEFSC, contracted facilitators</p> <p><i>Purpose:</i> Operationalize concepts and issues discussed at 2024 CINAR and SCS8 workshops, develop a work plan for integrating dynamic reference points into management.</p>	
<b>TBD, 2026</b>	<b>NEFMC Groundfish Management Transition Workshops / Outreach</b>
<p><i>Relevant Project(s):</i> NEFMC IRA 2</p> <p><i>Participants:</i> TBD, but likely including those involved in New England groundfish management, including industry members and recreational harvesters</p> <p><i>Purpose:</i> Specifics TBD, but to improve groundfish management</p>	
<b>TBD, 2026</b>	<b>MAFMC Data Uncertainty MSE Workshop</b>
<p><i>Relevant Project(s):</i> MAFMC IRA 6</p> <p><i>Participants:</i> MAFMC, NEFMC, ASMFC, NEFSC, SEFSC, SSC members, others TBD</p> <p><i>Purpose:</i> The workshop will focus on providing management and technical guidance to inform the focus of the management strategy evaluation and simulation model development. Participants will identify priority management objectives, strategies, and stocks/fisheries for evaluation, as well as offer feedback on model development and performance metrics.</p>	

<b>TBD, 2026</b>	<b>MAFMC River Herring Bycatch Avoidance</b>
<p><i>Relevant Project(s):</i> MAFMC IRA 1</p> <p><i>Participants:</i> Primarily Mid-Atlantic/New England fishing industry and Project Oversight Team</p> <p><i>Purpose:</i> Gather industry input on the potential utility of forecasts in their decision making; inform development of a bycatch prediction model.</p>	
<b>Summer 2026 (In person)</b>	<b>SAFMC Wreckfish AIM Design Workshop (x2)</b>
<p><i>Relevant Project(s):</i> SAFMC IRA 2</p> <p><i>Participants:</i> SAFMC staff, stakeholders, others TBD</p> <p><i>Purpose:</i> During these Wreckfish fishery stakeholder workshops, the decision support tools informed by the previous AIM workshop, will be introduced and used to develop a list of alternatives to be considered for managing the fishery.</p>	
<b>Fall 2026 (In person)</b>	<b>NEFMC/MAFMC/SAFMC Governance Workshop</b>
<p><i>Relevant Project(s):</i> NEFMC IRA 4; MAFMC IRA 3; SAFMC IRA 1</p> <p><i>Participants:</i> NEFMC, MAFMC, SAFMC, and ASMFC members and staff, governance project contractors and workshop facilitators. Others TBD.</p> <p><i>Purpose:</i> The aim is to have specific discussions about recommended process and governance changes, building on the staff-to-staff meeting, contractor work, and any other information gathered during/following the staff-to-staff workshop. Likely topic areas include the use and composition of Council advisory bodies, joint management agreements, use of Council liaisons, and other East Coast governance and coordination issues.</p>	
<b>Fall 2026 or Winter 2027</b>	<b>ECCG Leadership Planning Exercise</b>
<p><i>Relevant Project(s):</i> NEFMC IRA 4 and IRA 5; MAFMC IRA 3; SAFMC IRA 1</p> <p><i>Participants:</i> ECCG members</p> <p><i>Purpose:</i> Determine specific actions needed to implement recommendations made at the preceding governance workshop.</p>	

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TBD 2027	Greater Atlantic Regional Operating Agreements Workshop
<p data-bbox="224 270 1127 304"><i>Relevant Project(s):</i> NEFMC IRA 4 and IRA 5; MAFMC IRA 3; SAFMC IRA 1</p> <p data-bbox="224 333 1243 367"><i>Participants:</i> GARFO, NEFSC, NEFMC, MAFMC, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement</p> <p data-bbox="224 396 1390 497"><i>Purpose:</i> Discuss updates to the existing Operating Agreements between Greater Atlantic Fishery Management Councils and relevant NOAA Fisheries Offices. Note: SAFMC will review and may receive recommendations for changes to their OA as part of IRA 1a.</p>	