

Council Planning Update

April 2026

New England Fishery Management Council

April 16, 2026

Portland, ME



**New England Fishery
Management Council**

UPDATED FORMAT

- Brief updates on topics not included on agenda
- Revisit of Management Timeline tables
- Updated items
- Preview of upcoming Council meeting
- Summary of upcoming activities



Scallops

- PDT met on Feb 26 and April 7 to begin development of management measures for NGOM sub-areas and regional DAS allocations
- Scallop AP and Committee will meet on June 2 and 3 to discuss 2027 management measures (FW42), RSA priorities, Strategic Plan updates
- Council executed contract with University of Massachusetts to develop new projection methods – update in June
- Upcoming events:
 - International Pectinid Workshop
 - RSA Share Day



Whiting

- PDT met on March 3 and 25 to begin development of management measures and consider available information to support updated specifications for FY2027-2031
- The PDT and AP met jointly for a Data Workshop on April 1 to discuss fishery performance and consider available data
- Whiting Committee will meet on May 19 to consider outcomes of the PDT/AP data workshop and begin formulating draft alternatives for specifications and other management measures



Habitat

- As noted under the ED Report, the 2025 EFH framework was submitted to the Regional Office on April 10, we anticipate the review process to take approximately a month
- PDT met on April 1 to:
 - Review EFH designation maps and related model outputs for 2026 groundfish and small mesh species
 - Review species distribution modeling for scallops
 - Discuss the Great South Channel HMA clam exemption evaluation



Climate and Ecosystem

- Steering Committee met March 27 ([materials](#), draft summary) to discuss:
 - Species distribution models
 - Ecosystem Component Species Analysis
 - On ramps for climate and ecosystem information to management
 - NEFSC's 2026 State of the Ecosystem Report
- The [meeting memo](#) also included updates on various IRA projects and other Council initiatives

















Executive Order – Vessel Baseline Evaluation

- A working group has been established including staff from GARFO, MAFMC, and NEFMC staff
- The working group is seeking AP input to inform the evaluation and has planned three AP webinars in late May
 - Staff will provide background and questions for consideration
 - Advisors and public opportunity for comment
- Council will receive an update at the June meeting



















2026 Priorities and Outlook – Management Topics

Topic	April	June	September	December	January	NEPA
Risk Policy						
Revised Concept & Weightings						FMP Specific
Holistic Strategic Plan						
Draft Plan and Report – Parnin Group	 					N/A
Implementation Plan, Final Plan, Outreach						N/A
Other Updates						
Risk Value Matrix						N/A
EO 14276 – Updated Response						FMP Specific
Vessel Baseline Evaluation						TBD
Inflation Reduction Act Initiatives						TBD


















UPDATES	DECISION / REVIEW	REPORT	INITIATE ACTION	FINAL ACTION
				



2026 Priorities and Outlook – Fishery Management Plans

FMP / Priority	April	June	September	December	January	NEPA
Groundfish 						
Redfish Sector Exemption Review						N/A
Amendment 23 Review						N/A
FW68 - ABC Control Rule						CE
FW74 – FY27-31 Specs and other measures						EA
Recreational Measures						NMFS
Scallops 						
FW 42 – FY27-28 Specs and other measures						EA
Develop new projection methods						N/A






UPDATES	DECISION / REVIEW	REPORT	INITIATE ACTION	FINAL ACTION
				

2026 Priorities and Outlook – Fishery Management Plans

FMP / Priority	April	June	September	December	January	NEPA
Monkfish & Skates 						
Monkfish CPUE Review						
Monkfish/Skate Listening Sessions						
White Paper on 2025 Joint Management						
Herring 						
FY27-31 Specs and river herring/shad measures						EA
Small-Mesh 						
FY27-31 Specs and other measures						EA or SIR
Habitat 						
EFH Framework 2						CE

UPDATES	DECISION / REVIEW	REPORT	INITIATE ACTION	FINAL ACTION
				

Outlook – June Meeting Preview

UPDATES 	DECISION / REVIEW 	REPORTS 	INITIATE ACTION 	FINAL ACTION 
Groundfish FW68 ABC CRs		Groundfish Amendment 23 Review	Groundfish – Specifications and Other Measures (FW74)	Risk Policy with Council Weightings
EFH Framework 2		Monkfish / Skate Listening Sessions	Small Mesh – Specifications and Other Measures	
Scallop Projection Methods			Scallop – Specifications and Other Measures (FW42)	
IRA Initiatives			Herring – Specifications and Other Measures	
Holistic Strategic Plan Implementation				
Vessel Baseline Evaluation				

Planned Activities and Meetings

- US/Canada Transboundary Management
 - TMGC Intersessional – 1st week of May
 - US/CA Steering Committee – May 13th
- CCC Meeting – Homer, AK: May 19-21
- NRCC Meeting – Providence, RI: May 27-28
- SSC Dynamic Reference Points Workshop – Boston, MA: June 1-2
- Council-GARFO Staff-to-Staff Event – Gloucester, MA: June 4

- 2026 Actions
 - Groundfish FW74
 - Scallop FW42
 - Herring Specs/RHS
 - Whiting Specs
 - EFH 2026
 - Risk Policy
 - Strategic Plan

