

Council Planning Update September 2026

New England Fishery Management Council

September 17, 2026

Plymouth, MA



**New England Fishery
Management Council**

Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) Update

- Framework 74 - specifications and management measures
 - Revise SDCs and set catch specifications for 2027-2031 with Management Track Assessments and Data Updates, US/CAN transboundary stocks
 - Analysis of management measure alternatives
 - Revise Southern windowpane Accountability Measures
 - Adjust administration of B DAS and YT/Haddock SAP programs
- Recent and Upcoming Meetings
 - PDT: Jul 30, Sep 10, Sep 28, Oct 8
 - SSC: Oct 7 & 27-28
 - Committee/AP: Aug 25, Oct 19, Nov 16 (Polling For RAP)
 - Council: December final approval



Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) Update

- Framework 68/ABC Control Rules:
 - The goal of FW68 is to modify/replace the existing groundfish ABC CRs to better address the goals and objectives of the FMP considering increasing uncertainty/variability in stock assessments, changing environmental conditions, and National Standard Guidelines
 - Consideration of Phased-in ABC, ABC Carryover, Constant ABCs
 - Contractors from University of Maine working to simulate options for ABC Control Rules that are integrated with the Risk Policy
- Final Action in 2027



Small-Mesh Multispecies (Whiting) Update

- Action to set specifications and adjust management measures
 - Catch specifications for 2027-2031 with a Data Update
 - Risk factor analysis, risk policy matrix, and fishery performance report
 - Analysis of management measure alternatives
 - Northern and southern red hake possession limit options
 - Cultivator Shoals Area possession limit options
- Recent and Upcoming Meetings
 - PDT: Jul 28 and Sep 3, Oct 15
 - SSC: Oct 27-28
 - Committee/AP: Nov 19
 - Council: December final approval



Small-Mesh Multispecies (Whiting) Update

- PDT analysis to date:
 - Reviewed a draft fishery performance report including 2025 information
 - Final 2025 fishing year data will be updated
 - Presently, the catches did not exceed the annual catch limits
 - Developing recommendations for 2027-2031 specifications
 - Conducted risk factor scoring using the information in the fishery performance report
 - When additional data becomes available, final risk factor scores for the four stocks will be reviewed
 - Z-scores will be generated and made available to the SSC with revised risk policy matrices



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Outlook of Management Timelines by Council Meeting

	2026			2027		
FMP / Priority	June	September	December	February	April	June
Groundfish 						
Redfish Sector Exemption Review			 2027+ Priorities			
Amendment 23 Review			 2027+ Priorities			
FW68 - ABC Control Rule						
FW74 – FY27-31 Specifications, other measures						
Recreational Measures						
Scallops 						
FY27-28 Specifications						
FW 42 – NGOM and DAS area management						
Develop new projection methods						

Outlook of Management Timelines by Council Meeting

	2026			2027		
Topic	June	September	December	February	April	June
Small Mesh 						
FY27-31 Specifications				SUBMISSION TO  NOAA FISHERIES 		
Habitat 						
EFH Framework 2			SUBMISSION TO  NOAA FISHERIES 			
GSC Clam Exemption Area Review		REPORT 	 2027+ Priorities			
Other Updates						
Holistic Strategic Plan & Implementation						
Regional Stock Prioritization		REPORT 				
Ecosystem Component Species			 2027+ Priorities			
Vessel Baseline Evaluation		REPORT 	 2027+ Priorities			
Inflation Reduction Act Initiatives						

Outlook of Management Timelines by Council Meeting

	2026			2027		
FMP / Priority	June	September	December	February	April	June
Monkfish & Skates 						
Monkfish/Skate Listening Sessions						
Herring 						
FY27-31 Specifications			SUBMISSION TO  NOAA FISHERIES 			
River Herring and Shad, other measures						SUBMISSION TO  NOAA FISHERIES 
Risk Policy						
Revised Concept & Weightings						

Management Timelines will be updated after the 2027 Priorities Discussion in December.

There are several cross-FMP priorities that may be taken up, including:

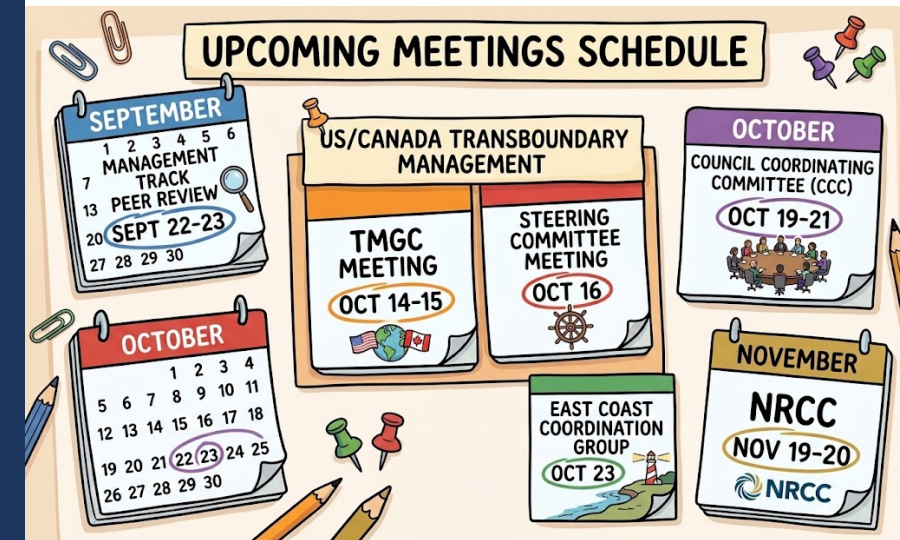
Revisions to Exemption Areas (EO11), Revisions to Accountability Measures (EO9)

Outlook – December Meeting Overview

UPDATES	DECISION / REVIEW	REPORTS	INITIATE ACTION	FINAL ACTION
				
	2027 Priority Setting			Scallop FY27-28 Specifications
				Groundfish FW42 FY27-31 Specifications
				Small-Mesh FY27-31 Specifications

Planned Activities and Meetings

- Management Track Peer Review – Sept 22-23
- US/Canada Transboundary Management
 - TMGC Meeting – Oct 14-15
 - Steering Committee Meeting – Oct 16
- Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) – Oct 19-21
- East Coast Coordination Group – Oct 23
- NRCC – Nov 19-20



2026-2027 New England Council

