



## New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116  
John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

### MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** 9/09/2020  
**TO:** Executive Committee  
**FROM:** Tom Nies, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** **2022 Management Priorities**

1. The September Council meeting will include our first discussion of Council priorities for 2022. The goal of this first step is to identify the possible tasks. The actual selection of priorities will occur at the December meeting.
2. I've attached a first draft of the possible tasks for 2022. This list does not recommend any specific task. Several Oversight Committees will meet in September and before the Council meeting I will add in any additions that surface at those meetings. Any Executive Committee additions will also be added before the Council meeting. This list may also be expanded at the September Council meeting.
3. The staff will once again attempt to estimate the time needed for the various tasks. This information will be provided this year as well.

Enclosure: 2022 Priorities Task list for Executive Committee

Number	Priority/Task Title	Status	Multi_Year	Legal/Regulatory Requirement?	Source
8-Sep-21	<b>This worksheet identifies possible priorities or tasks for 2022. This list has not been prioritized by the Ex Comm.</b>				
9/8/2021					
	<b>Groundfish</b>				
1	<b>Groundfish</b> <u>Set ABCs/ACLs for roughly half of groundfish stocks for FY2023-2025 and US/CA stocks for FY 2023</u>			Y	Requirement
2	<b>Groundfish</b> Begin adjustments to management measures needed as a result of revised understanding of cod stock structure. This may require an amendment.				ACSSWG
3	<b>Groundfish</b> In consultation with the SSC, revise ABC control rules for Northeast Multispecies stocks	Ongoing	Y		
4	<b>Groundfish</b> Review commercial sector PSC allocation as per Council allocation review schedule.		Y		Council Operations Handbook; window 2018-2020
5	<b>Groundfish</b> <u>Adopt additional measures to promote stock rebuilding</u>	Ongoing		Y	
6	<b>Groundfish</b> Consider adjustments to sector program suggested by sector catch share review				
7	<b>Groundfish</b> <u>Revise rebuilding plans for GOM cod and SNE/MA winter flounder</u>			Y	MSA; GARFO letter 8/2021
8	<b>Groundfish</b> Establish sub-ACLs for party/charter				Public comment, September 2019
9	<b>Groundfish</b> Review sub-ACL allocations for GB YTF (scallops), GB YTF (small mesh), SNE/MA WINP (scallops), SNE/MA WINP (large mesh)				Council Allocation Review Policy (window 2021-2023)
10	<b>Groundfish</b> Develop metrics to be used on the review process that will evaluate the monitoring system, as per Amendment 23			Y	Council meeting, September 2021
11	<b>Groundfish:Staff</b> Research Track Assessments: Haddock, American Plaice, Atlantic Cod				
12	<b>Groundfish:Staff</b> Groundfish management track assessments				
13	<b>Groundfish:Staff</b> TRAC/TMGC				
	<b>Monkfish</b>				
14	<b>Monkfish</b> <u>Develop and submit action to adjust monkfish specifications for 2023-2025, incorporating revisions to consideration of discards as appropriate.</u>			Y	FMP
15	<b>Monkfish</b> Review the rationale for recent changes to IVR regulations; consider whether concerns can be addressed through revisions to administration of trip limits and/or DAS clocking/accounting regulations to increase efficiency and flexibility for vessels and to reduce monkfish discards.				Monkfish Committee, September 2020
16	<b>Monkfish</b> Consider a 12-inch minimum mesh size for monkfish gillnets				Monkfish Committee, September 2020

Number		Priority/Task Title	Status	Multi_Year	Legal/Regulatory Requirement?	Source
17	Monkfish	Review recommendations from the RSA program review and develop measures to improve the Monkfish RSA program's effectiveness.				Monkfish Committee, September 2020; RSA Program Review
18	Monkfish	Revisit use of RSA DAS and ability to flip to a directed RSA DAS while at sea				
19	Monkfish	Consider requiring VMS for the federal fishery, including evaluation of costs				Monkfish Committee, September 2020
20	Monkfish:Staff	Evaluate whether the reactivation of latent effort from used permits is a potential problem in the monkfish fishery.				Monkfish Committee, September 2020
	Monkfish:Staff	Monkfish management track assessment				
	Sea Scallops					
21	Sea Scallops	<u>Prepare a specifications package to set FY 2023 (2024 default) specifications (i.e. setting DAS, access area trips, Northern GOM TAC, limited access general category IFQ allocations, etc.).</u>			Y	Requirement
22	Sea Scallops	Support action for access to Northern Edge HMA ( see Habitat), including development of access area program for modified area		Y		2018 priority
23	Sea Scallops	Continue work of Scallop Survey Working Group	Ongoing			Part of scallop survey review panel 2020 priority
24	Sea Scallops	Evaluate rotational management program	Ongoing			Committee
25	Sea Scallops	Conduct scoping or listening sessions on a LA DAS and AA trips leasing program to assess the need for a leasing program and whether to move forward with developing an amendment.				Council letter, July 19, 2021
26	Sea Scallops	Develop limited access vessel DAS and access area trip leasing suggested by the Scallopers Campaign				Council letter, July 19, 2022
27	Sea Scallops	Complete ongoing actions (Framework 34)	Ongoing		Y	
28	Sea Scallops	Develop management and policy approaches for scallop seeding and grow out		Y		2021 RSA priorities; staff
29	Sea Scallops	5-Year LAGC IFQ program review (2016 to 2020)				NMFS PD on Catch Share Program
29	Sea Scallops	Support the review of scallop sub-ACLs for GB YT and SWP (Groundfish)				
30	Sea Scallops	Develop long-term plan for managing scallop fishery		Y		
31	Sea Scallops	Develop measures to improve enforceability of landings limits (bag tags)				Public comment, June 2020
32	Sea Scallops:Staff	Participate in Spring 2023 management track review of projection models (staff - 2022 calendar year)				

Number	Priority/Task Title	Status	Multi_Year	Legal/Regulatory Requirement?	Source
33	<b>Sea Scallops:Staff</b> NMFS and PDT have annual responsibilities related to estimating scallop, yellowtail, and windowpane catch during the year (i.e. LA AM exception, re-evaluation of YT sub-ACL based on updated information).	Ongoing		Y	
34	<b>Sea Scallops:Staff</b> Support annual scallop RSA process, including priority setting, and technical and management reviews.	Ongoing			
	<b>Herring</b>				
35	<b>Herring</b> Complete FW action that considers GB spawning closures	Ongoing			Herring Committee, September 2020
36	<b>Herring</b> <u>Complete submission of formal rebuilding plan</u> and potential adjustments to herring AMs (Framework 9)			Y	
37	<b>Herring</b> <u>Specifications for fishing years 2023-2025</u>				FMP
38	<b>Herring:Staff</b> Coordination with MAFMC, ASMFC on various herring issues (RH/S, etc.)				
39	<b>Herring:Staff</b> Participation in 2022 herring management track assessment				
	<b>SBRM</b>				
40	<b>SBRM</b> No action planned				
	<b>Red Crab</b>				
41	<b>Red Crab</b> Initiate development of information for setting red crab specifications				
	<b>Habitat</b>				
42	<b>Habitat</b> Assess the possibility of, and if possible, develop an action to revise Habitat Management Areas on Northern Edge of Georges Bank	Ongoing	Y		2015 Priorities; OHA2 follow-up
43	<b>Habitat</b> Participate in -ROSA activities; collaborate with RODA and other offshore wind partners on fisheries issues	Ongoing			
44	<b>Habitat</b> Comment and consult on aquaculture planning and development issues using the Council's Aquaculture Policy and coordination plan.	Ongoing			EO 13921
45	<b>Habitat:Staff</b> <u>Habitat impacts (NEPA analyses) of management actions</u>	Ongoing	Y	Y	
46	<b>Habitat:Staff</b> Participate on ASMFC habitat committee	Ongoing			
47	<b>Habitat:Staff</b> Develop habitat and fishery related comments on non-fishing activities, particularly wind power, in consultation with other agencies, (including NMFS and MAFMC).	Ongoing			
48	<b>Habitat:Staff</b> Co-chair Northeast Regional Habitat Assessment Inshore Work Team	Ongoing	Y		
	<b>Research</b>				
49	<b>Research</b> Continue implementation of RSA Program review recommendations for the sea scallop, monkfish, and herring FMPs (see Scallop and Monkfish items)				Executive Committee implementation recommendations for RSA Program review

Number		Priority/Task Title	Status	Multi_Year	Legal/Regulatory Requirement?	Source
50	<b>Research</b>	Complete annual update to research priorities				Council Policy
51	<b>Research</b>	Review and adjust research priority process				
52	<b>Research:Staff</b>	Support S-K program	Ongoing			
	<b>SSC</b>					
53	<b>SSC</b>	Support Council activities such as <u>recommending ABCs</u> and making recommendations in the FMP development process	Ongoing		Y	
54	<b>SSC</b>	Support review of Council Risk Policy				
55	<b>SSC</b>	Consult with Council on development of ABC control rules for Northeast Multispecies stocks				August 2019 SSC meeting
	<b>Enforcement, Safety, VMS</b>					
56	<b>Enforcement, Safety, VMS</b>	Continue to support enforcement, safety and VMS issues.	Ongoing			
	<b>Whiting</b>					
57	<b>Whiting</b>	<u>Approve and submit 2023-2025 Specifications Package</u>	Ongoing		Y	Triggered by scheduled 2022 management track assessments
58	<b>Whiting</b>	Consider modifying annual monitoring report requirement to match assessment/specifications cycle				
59	<b>Whiting</b>	Adjust ACL framework to account for recreational catch estimates				
60	<b>Whiting</b>	Retain AM for southern red hake because of high uncertainty in commercial discard estimates.				
61	<b>Whiting</b>	Evaluate why the fishery is not achieving optimum yield and possibly develop a management action to address impediments caused by management regulations				
62	<b>Whiting</b>	Analyze the validity and impacts of current small-mesh multispecies regulations and exemption area boundaries on achieving optimum yield.				
63	<b>Whiting</b>	Analyze causes of bycatch in the small-mesh multispecies fishery and identify potential measures to reduce bycatch.				
64	<b>Whiting:Staff</b>	<u>PDT receives annual monitoring report from Regional Office and advise Council whether management adjustments are needed</u>	Ongoing		Y	
65	<b>Whiting:Staff</b>	Whiting management track assessments (silver, red, offshore hakes) scheduled for 2022				NRCC Assessment Schedule
	<b>Skates</b>					
66	<b>Skates</b>	Continue development of action to address the skate fishery problem statement adopted by the Council, including the measures that may be considered in the action.	Ongoing	Y		2016 Priorities; modified by Council September 2020
67	<b>Skates:Staff</b>	Prepare skate monitoring report				

Number	Priority/Task Title	Status	Multi_Year	Legal/Regulatory Requirement?	Source
68	<b>Skates</b> <u>Complete submission of specifications for 2022-2023</u>			Y	
	<b>Spiny Dogfish</b>				
69	<b>Spiny Dogfish</b> Specifications 2023-2025 (MAFMC lead)			Y	
70	<b>Spiny Dogfish</b> Respond as necessary to monitoring or trip limit reports				
	<b>EBFM</b>				
71	<b>EBFM</b> Conduct information and educational workshops on EBFM, focusing on potential application to Georges Bank eFEP	Ongoing	Y		2020 priority; expect completion early in 2022 if in-person meetings can be held
72	<b>EBFM</b> Conduct initial stakeholder-engaged management strategy evaluation workshops and work with the NEFSC (or others) to develop operating models to evaluate management procedures and strategies for potential application to a Georges Bank Ecosystem Production Unit.	Ongoing	Y		
73	<b>EBFM</b> Develop and conduct a Beta management strategy evaluation to develop and test EBFM management strategies for the Georges Bank EPU, using example management objectives developed by the EBFM committee.				EBFM Committee, 9/3/2021
74	<b>EBFM</b> Review and revised the Council's Risk Policy to formally take ecosystem status and effects into account when setting ABCs.				EBFM Committee, 9/3/2021
75	<b>EBFM:Staff</b> Support EBFM activities (WGNARS, SOE, etc.)				
	<b>Observer Committee</b>				
76	<b>Observer Committee</b> Appropriate observer protocols				September 2018 Council Meeting
77	<b>Observer Committee</b> Study issue of full retention/no discards.		Y		September 2017 Council meeting
	<b>Risk Policy Working Group</b>				
78	<b>Risk Policy Working Group</b> Review Council's Risk Policy				
	<b>Trawl Survey AP</b>				
79	<b>Trawl Survey AP</b> Address issues identified in AP charter	Ongoing	Y		2015 Priorities
	<b>Inter-organization Activities</b>				
80	<b>Inter-organization Activities</b> CCC Working Group participation (EM, Legislative, CMOD, Communications)				
81	<b>Inter-organization Activities</b> NRCC Working Group Participation, including various WGs that support the stock assessment process	Ongoing	Y		NRCC

Number		Priority/Task Title	Status	Multi_Year	Legal/Regulatory Requirement?	Source
82	<b>Inter-organization Activities</b>	International Fisheries Management TMGC/TRAC/Steering Committee ICCAT HMS Advisory Panel/HMS FMP NAFO Commissioner	Ongoing	Y	Y	
83	<b>Inter-organization Activities</b>	Participate in NRCC Senario Planning Exercise to develop governance approach for addressing climate change issues	Ongoing	Y		Council 2021 Priority
84	<b>Inter-organization Activities</b>	Participate in NROC Ocean Policy Committee and data portal activities	Ongoing	Y		
85	<b>Inter-organization Activities</b>	SBNMS SAC		Y		
	<b>Other</b>					
86	<b>Other</b>	Review and implement Program Review recommendations	Ongoing	Y		
87	<b>Other:staff</b>	Support Regional Fishery Dependent Data Initiative (FDDI)	Ongoing	Y		NRCC
88	<b>Other:staff</b>	Protected Species issues, including actions as necessary to review Biological Opinion and implement NARW recovery plan	Ongoing	Y		
89	<b>Other</b>	Participate on Large Whale and Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Teams	Ongoing	Y		
90	<b>Other</b>	Adopt additional measures for fisheries if required by Northern Right Whale Biological Opinion		Y		September 2018 Council Meeting
91	<b>Other</b>	Dialogue meeting between Council, industry, and scientists to improve communications and cooperation				September 2018 Council Meeting
92	<b>Other</b>	Consider examining length and horsepower restrictions on efficiency and whether permit-splitting may also be a tool to address these efficiency concerns.				Monkfish Committee September 2021
93	<b>Other</b>	Outreach to underserved communities				