

Final Motions
New England Fishery Management Council Meeting
June 23-25, 2026
Hilton Hotel, Mystic, CT
Hybrid meeting with remote participants

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

Herring Committee Report

1. Mr. Whelan moved on behalf of the Committee:
to prioritize in the scope for the 2026 action to:

- 1) Set Atlantic herring specifications for fishing years 2027-2031

The Plan Development Team would continue working on:

- 2) Modify Atlantic herring management measures to avoid or minimize the catch of river herring and shad through time/area closures with and without the existing catch cap methodology
 - 3) Update the Atlantic herring specifications process
 - 4) Modify carryover provisions for unharvested catch

- 1a. Mr. Alexander moved to amend and Ms. Griffin seconded:
to set Atlantic herring specifications for fishing years 2027-2031 as a stand-alone action for final action in September.

In a separate action, for April 2027 final action target date, the Plan Development Team would continue working on:

- 1) Modify Atlantic herring management measures to avoid or minimize the catch of river herring and shad through time/area closures with and without the existing catch cap methodology
 - 2) Update the Atlantic herring specifications process
 - 3) Modify carryover provisions for unharvested catch

The motion to amend *carried* on a show of hands (16/0/0)

- 1b. The main motion as amended:
to set Atlantic herring specifications for fishing years 2027-2031 as a stand alone action for final action in September.

In a separate action, for April 2027 final action target date, the Plan Development Team would continue working on:

- 1) Modify Atlantic herring management measures to avoid or minimize the catch of river herring and shad through time/area closures with and without the existing catch cap methodology
 - 2) Update the Atlantic herring specifications process
 - 3) Modify carryover provisions for unharvested catch

The main motion as amended *carried* by consensus.

Monkfish and Skate Coordinated Committee Report

2. Mr. Olszewski moved and Mr. Gates seconded:

that the Council collaborate with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council to develop a letter to NMFS-GARFO requesting additional information on the effectiveness of current Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan measures and whether modifications could reduce negative socioeconomic impacts on relevant fisheries, consistent with concerns raised during the spring 2026 monkfish and skate listening sessions

The motion *carried* with one abstention, Mr. Pentony.

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

Scallop Committee Report

Scallop Research Set-Aside Priorities

1. Ms. Griffin moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council adopt the following Scallop Research Set-Aside priorities for 2027 and 2028, as recommended by the Scallop Committee in Document #5. The priority list is summarized in the table below.

#	High Priority		
1	Scallop Resource Surveys		
#	Medium Priority (2-6, equal importance)		
2	Scallop Biology	5	Bycatch
3	Commercial Fishing Gear	6	Scallop Resource Enhancement
4	Fishing in High Density Area		
#	General Research Needs (7-9, equal importance)		
7	Sea Turtles	9	Habitat Characterization and Fishery Impacts
8	Wind		

The motion *carried* by consensus.

2. Ms. Griffin moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council request that GARFO communicate the priority change for protected species research to the Office of Protected Resources and office of Science and Technology so that turtle research can be funded through that office going forward.

The motion *carried* with one abstention, Mr. Pentony.

Scallop Framework Adjustment 42

3. Ms. Griffin moved and Mr. Hansen seconded:
that the Council initiate:
 1. an action that will set fishery specifications for fishing year 2027 and default measures for 2028, and
 2. separately, Framework Adjustment 42, an action that will consider developing sub-management areas in the Northern Gulf of Maine, and region-specific Day-at-Sea allocations between the Mid-Atlantic and Georges Bank.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands (17/0/0).

Habitat Committee Report

4. Ms. Smith moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council supports the Habitat Advisory Panel and staff recommendations for elements to include in the Clam Exemption Program Review, and that there be flexibility to include other information as time allows and to focus the analysis as needed.

The motion *carried* by consensus.

5. Ms. Smith moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council requests administrative removal of the Georges Bank Dedicated Habitat Research Area.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands with one abstention, Mr. Pentony (12/4/1).

6. Ms. Smith moved and Mr. Pappalardo seconded:
that the Council recommends retention of the Stellwagen Dedicated Habitat Research Area.

The motion *carried* with one abstention, Mr. Pentony.

Groundfish Committee Report

Framework 74 / Specifications and Management Measures:

7. Mr. Pappalardo moved on behalf of the Committee:
to initiate Framework Adjustment 74 to include fishing year (FY) 2027-2031 specifications and management measures, as:
 - Revise status determination criteria, as appropriate,
 - Set FY2027 total allowable catches (TACs) for US/Canada management units of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod and Eastern GB haddock, and FY2027-FY2028 TACs for the GB yellowtail flounder stock,
 - Set FY2027 specifications for GB cod and GB haddock,
 - Set FY2027-FY2028 specifications for GB yellowtail flounder,
 - Set FY2027-FY2031 specifications for Gulf of Maine (GOM) haddock, American plaice, witch flounder, pollock, northern windowpane flounder, southern windowpane flounder, and Atlantic halibut,
 - Review sub-component analysis for stocks with revised specifications, and others as time permits,
 - Review GB haddock sub-ACL in the mid-water trawl/herring fishery, set the sub-ACL at a fixed percentage amount, and discontinue the review requirement,
 - Re-evaluate approach used for Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) yellowtail flounder scallop fishery sub-ACL,
 - Modify the criteria for the provision of the southern windowpane flounder accountability measures to reduce the size of the AM area for the groundfish fishery and large-mesh non-groundfish trawl fisheries,
 - Adjust administration of the B DAS Program and Closed Area II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock SAP to change the default status, and
 - Re-evaluate and potentially modify Atlantic halibut accountability measures (AMs).

- 7a. Ms. Griffin moved to amend and Ms. Ware seconded:

to initiate Framework Adjustment 74 to include fishing year (FY) 2027-2031 specifications and management measures, as:

- Revise status determination criteria, as appropriate,
- Set FY2027 total allowable catches (TACs) for US/Canada management units of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod and Eastern GB haddock, and FY2027-FY2028 TACs for the GB yellowtail flounder stock,
- Set FY2027 specifications for GB cod and GB haddock,
- Set FY2027-FY2028 specifications for GB yellowtail flounder,
- Set FY2027-FY2031 specifications for Gulf of Maine (GOM) haddock, American plaice, witch flounder, pollock, northern windowpane flounder, and southern windowpane flounder,
- Set FY2027-FY2031 specifications for Atlantic halibut, exploring sources of best available science to support catch setting methods,
- Review sub-component analysis for stocks with revised specifications, and others as time permits,
- Review GB haddock sub-ACL in the mid-water trawl/herring fishery, set the sub-ACL at a fixed percentage amount, and discontinue the review requirement,
- Re-evaluate approach used for Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) yellowtail flounder scallop fishery sub-ACL,
- Simplify the criteria for reducing the size of the southern windowpane flounder accountability measures area, and
- Adjust administration of the B DAS Program and Closed Area II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock SAP to change the default status.

The motion to amend *carried* by consensus.

7b. The main motion as amended:

to initiate Framework Adjustment 74 to include fishing year (FY) 2027-2031 specifications and management measures, as:

- Revise status determination criteria, as appropriate,
- Set FY2027 total allowable catches (TACs) for US/Canada management units of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod and Eastern GB haddock, and FY2027-FY2028 TACs for the GB yellowtail flounder stock,
- Set FY2027 specifications for GB cod and GB haddock,
- Set FY2027-FY2028 specifications for GB yellowtail flounder,
- Set FY2027-FY2031 specifications for Gulf of Maine (GOM) haddock, American plaice, witch flounder, pollock, northern windowpane flounder, and southern windowpane flounder,
- Set FY2027-FY2031 specifications for Atlantic halibut, exploring sources of best available science to support catch setting methods,
- Review sub-component analysis for stocks with revised specifications, and others as time permits,
- Review GB haddock sub-ACL in the mid-water trawl/herring fishery, set the sub-ACL at a fixed percentage amount, and discontinue the review requirement,
- Re-evaluate approach used for Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) yellowtail flounder scallop fishery sub-ACL,
- Simplify the criteria for reducing the size of the southern windowpane flounder accountability measures area, and
- Adjust administration of the B DAS Program and Closed Area II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock SAP to change the default status.

The main motion as amended *carried* by consensus.

Risk Policy Working Group Report (Part 1)

8. Ms. Ware moved and Ms. Brawn seconded:
that the Council approve the revised Risk Policy concept contained in Document 3 under Tab 15 of the meeting materials, effective immediately. Upon today's approval of the Risk Policy, the Council accepts that the RPWG has completed all Terms of Reference as tasked by the Council (June 8, 2023), and the working group shall conclude its activities under the 2026 priorities and will not be reconvened unless directed by the Council via the priority process.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands (17/0/0).

Thursday, June 25, 2026

Risk Policy Working Group Report (Part 2)

1. Ms. Ware moved and Ms. Griffin seconded:
that the Council approve the following weights for use in Risk Policy as averaged by all individual Council weights cast on June 24th, 2026:

	SSB/ Stock Status	Recruitment	Climate Vulnerability	Recreational	Commercial
Mean (0-4)	3.44	2.89	2.11	2.06	2.83
Normalized (add to 1)	0.26	0.22	0.16	0.15	0.21

The motion *carried* on a show of hands with one abstention, Mr. Platz (16/0/1).

Small-Mesh Multispecies (Whiting) Committee Report for June

2. Ms. Odell moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the 2026 small mesh whiting action include measures that would 1) set specifications for up to five years, 2027-2031 2) consider application of risk policy in catch setting process 3) consider a modification to red hake possession limit and AM trigger and 4) make various adjustments to Exemption Areas (boundaries, seasons, and consistency with bycatch thresholds) based upon analysis of large mesh-fishery catch ratios and other data.
- Measures to be considered are specifications that are adjusted for risk factors that the Council has identified, adjusting the northern red hake possession limit from 3,000 to 5,000 lbs. due to improved resource conditions, adjusting the southern red hake possession limit 600 to 1,000 lbs., adjusting the monkfish and lobster allowances for exemption area trips to be consistent with existing limits in other fisheries, consideration of exemption area expansion to the SW of the Cultivator Shoals Area and to the W of Small-Mesh Area II, and an extension of the raised footrope season to include January and February.

- 2a. Ms. Griffin moved to amend and Mr. Platz seconded:

that the 2026 small mesh whiting action include measures that would 1) set specifications for up to five years, 2027-2031 2) consider application of risk policy in catch setting process 3) consider a modification to red hake possession limit and AM trigger. Measures to be considered are specifications that are adjusted for risk factors that the Council has identified, adjusting the northern red hake possession limit from 3,000 to 5,000 lbs. due to improved resource conditions, adjusting the southern red hake possession limit 600 to 1,000 lbs., adjusting the monkfish and lobster allowances for exemption area trips in Cultivator Shoal and Southern New England exemption area to be consistent with existing limits in other fisheries.

Recommendation for consideration during Priorities discussion:

make various adjustments to Exemption Areas (boundaries, seasons, and consistency with bycatch thresholds) based upon analysis of large mesh-fishery catch ratios and other data. Example: consideration of exemption area expansion to the SW of the Cultivator Shoals Area and to the W of Small-Mesh Area II, and an extension of the raised footrope season to include January and February.

The motion to *amend* carried on a show of hands (17/0/0).

2b. The main motion as amended:

that the 2026 small mesh whiting action include measures that would 1) set specifications for up to five years, 2027-2031 2) consider application of risk policy in catch setting process 3) consider a modification to red hake possession limit and AM trigger. Measures to be considered are specifications that are adjusted for risk factors that the Council has identified, adjusting the northern red hake possession limit from 3,000 to 5,000 lbs. due to improved resource conditions, adjusting the southern red hake possession limit 600 to 1,000 lbs., adjusting the monkfish and lobster allowances for exemption area trips in Cultivator Shoal and Southern New England exemption area to be consistent with existing limits in other fisheries.

Recommendation for consideration during Priorities discussion:

make various adjustments to Exemption Areas (boundaries, seasons, and consistency with bycatch thresholds) based upon analysis of large mesh-fishery catch ratios and other data. Example: consideration of exemption area expansion to the SW of the Cultivator Shoals Area and to the W of Small-Mesh Area II, and an extension of the raised footrope season to include January and February.

The main motion as amended *carried* by consensus.