

Final Motions
New England Fishery Management Council Meeting
September 23-25, 2025
Beauport, Gloucester, MA
Hybrid meeting with remote participants

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Election of 2025-2026 Officers

Chair nomination:

Mr. Salerno

Mr. Salerno was appointed by acclamation.

Vice-Chair nomination:

Ms. Griffin

Ms. Griffin was appointed by acclamation.

Executive Committee nominations:

Mr. Pierdinock

Ms. Ware

Mr. Platz

Mr. Pappalardo

Mr. Smith

Ms. Ware, Mr. Pappalardo and Mr. Pierdinock were selected by ballot.

Executive Order 14276 Report

1. Ms. Griffin moved and Ms. Odell seconded:
that the Council adopts the Executive Committee's recommendations for Executive Order 14276 *Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness* (as detailed in the September 12, 2025, Executive Committee Memo to the Council).
- 1a. Mr. Lucey moved to amend and Mr. Smith seconded:
to remove from the EO 14276 *Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness* list the consideration of the herring slippage measures.

Yes: Mr. Aarrestad, Mr. Lucey, Ms. Zobel, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Pierdinock, Mr. Smith and Mr. Whelan

No: Ms. Brawn, Ms. Odell, Mr. Hansen, Ms. Ware, Mr. Olszewski, Mr. Pentony, Mr. Platz and Mr. Dangelo

Abstain: Mr. Salerno

The motion to amend ***failed*** on a roll call with a lack of majority (8/8/1)

- 1b. Mr. Platz moved to amend and Mr. Olszewski seconded:
to amend the EO 14276 *Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness* list to add work with the MAFMC to consider developing an action to change the season for the Southern New England Dogfish Gillnet Exemption Area to be expanded from May 1 through October 31 to April 1 through November 31, and add to the allowable species possession list, bluefish and black seabass.

Yes: Mr. Whelan, Mr. Dangelo, Mr. Platz, Mr. Pentony, Mr. Pierdinock, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Olszewski, Ms. Griffin Ms. Zobel, Mr. Hansen, Ms. Odell, Ms. Brawn and Mr. Aarrestad

No: Ms. Ware, Mr. Smith and Mr. Lucey

Abstain:

The motion to amend ***carried*** on a roll call vote (13/3/0).

- 1c. Ms. Odell moved to amend and Ms. Griffin seconded:
to add to the EO 14276 *Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness* list under section 4.1, seafood marketing and promotion, that the council include support for USDA purchasing programs.

The motion to ***amend*** carried by unanimous consent.

- 1d. Mr. Platz moved to amend
to request that the species of the skate complex be separated and managed as individual species in the most appropriate FMP based on landing data and biomass distribution and range.

The motion to amend ***failed*** with a lack of second.

- 1e. Main motion as amended:
to move that the Council adopts the Executive Committee's recommendations for EO 14276 *Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness* list as amended today to include the following:

- to work with the MAFMC to consider developing an action to change the season for the Southern New England Dogfish Gillnet Exemption Area to be expanded from May 1 through October 31 to April 1 through November 31, and add to the allowable species possession list, bluefish and black seabass.
- Under section 4.1, seafood marketing and promotion, that the Council include support for USDA purchasing programs.

The main motion as amended ***carried*** with one abstention, Mr. Pentony.

Management Flexibility Action Report

2. Ms. Griffin moved and Mr. Pentony seconded:
to select as the preferred alternative for Action 1 – Specifications Frequency as
Alternative 2 – Specification Frequency.

Yes: Mr. Aarrestad, Ms. Brawn, Mr. Hansen, Mr. Lucey, Ms. Ware, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Olszewski, Ms. Odell, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Pierdinock Mr. Pentony, Mr. Platz, Mr. Smith, Mr. Dangelo, Mr. Whelan and Mr. Dangelo

No:

Abstain:

The motion *carried* unanimously on a roll-call vote (16/0/0).

3. Ms. Griffin moved and Ms. Ware seconded:
to select as the preferred alternative for Action 2 – Specifications Setting Process as
Alternative 2 – Specification Setting Process.

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent.

4. Ms. Griffin moved and Ms. Ware seconded:
to select as the preferred alternative for Action 3 – In-Season Adjustment Authority as
Alternative 2 – In-Season Adjustment Authority, Option B – Allowance for adjustments
to specifications and measures identified under specifications actions by FMP.

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent.

5. Ms. Griffin moved and Ms. Ware seconded:
to select as the preferred alternative for Action 4 – Annual Review/Report as Alternative
2 – Remove the requirement to prepare an annual review/report.

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent.

6. Ms. Griffin moved and Ms. Ware seconded:
to select as preferred: Action 5 – List of Framework Adjustment Items to add all Actions
1-4.

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent.

7. Ms. Griffin moved and Ms. Ware seconded:
to submit the Omnibus Management Flexibility Amendment to NOAA Fisheries.

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

Monkfish and Skate Committees Report

8. Mr. Gates moved and Mr. Olszewski seconded:
that the Council recommends that the OFL for northern and southern monkfish management areas remain unknown. The Council recommends a northern monkfish ABC of 6,224 mt for FY 2026-2030, and a southern monkfish ABC of 5,861 mt for FY 2026-2028 and 3,766 mt for FY 2029-2030.

- 8a. Mr. Platz moved to substitute and Ms. Odell seconded:
that the Council recommends that the OFL for northern and southern monkfish management areas remain unknown. The Council recommends a northern monkfish ABC of 6,224 mt for FY 2026-2028, and a southern monkfish ABC of 5,861 mt for FY 2026-2028.

Yes: Ms. Odell, Mr. Hansen, Mr. Lucey, Ms. Ware, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Pierdinock, Mr. Pentony, Mr. Platz, Mr. Smith, Mr. Dangelo and Mr. Whelan

No: Mr. Gates Ms. Brawn, Ms. Zobel and Mr. Olszewski

Abstain:

The motion to substitute *carried* on a roll call (12/4/0).

9. Main motion:
that the Council recommends that the OFL for northern and southern monkfish management areas remain unknown. The Council recommends a northern monkfish ABC of 6,224 mt for FY 2026-2028, and a southern monkfish ABC of 5,861 mt for FY 2026-2028.

The main motion as substituted *carried* by unanimous consent.

10. Mr. Gates moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council adopt: 1) status quo monkfish effort controls (Monkfish DAS and possession limits) for the northern and southern monkfish management areas, and 2) to revisit effort controls in two years (in 2027) considering fishery performance.

- 10a. Ms. Ware moved to amend and Ms. Griffin seconded:
that the Council adopt: 1) status quo monkfish effort controls (Monkfish DAS and possession limits) for the northern and southern monkfish management areas, and 2) to revisit effort controls in three years (in 2028) considering fishery performance.

The motion to amend *carried* by unanimous consent.

- 10b. Main Motion:
that the Council adopt: 1) status quo monkfish effort controls (Monkfish DAS and possession limits) for the northern and southern monkfish management areas, and 2) to revisit effort controls in three years (in 2028) considering fishery performance.

The main motion as amended *carried* by unanimous consent.

11. Mr. Gates moved and Mr. Platz seconded:

that the Council approves Monkfish Framework Adjustment 17 for submission to NOAA Fisheries.

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

12. Mr. Olszewski moved and Ms. Brawn seconded:
that the Council recommends the following proposed action for Northeast skate complex specifications: 1) for FY 2026-2027: OFL = Unknown, ABC = ACL = 41,282 mt, Federal TAL = 20,966 mt; 2) for FY 2028-2030: OFL = Unknown, ABC = ACL = 37,154 mt, Federal TAL = 18,800 mt.

- 12a. Mr. Platz moved to amend and Ms. Odell seconded:
that the Council recommends the following proposed action for Northeast skate complex specifications: 1) for FY 2026-2027: OFL = Unknown, ABC = ACL = 41,282 mt, Federal TAL = 20,966 mt; 2) for FY 2028: OFL = Unknown, ABC = ACL = 37,154 mt, Federal TAL = 18,800 mt.

Yes: Mr. Whelan, Mr. Smith, Mr. Platz, Mr. Pentony, Mr. Pierdinock, Mr. Pappalardo, Ms. Griffin, Ms. Ware, Ms. Zobel, Mr. Lucey, Mr. Hansen, Ms. Odell and Mr. Gates

No: Mr. Olszewski and Ms. Brawn

Abstain: Mr. Dangelo

The motion to amend *carried* on a roll call vote (13/2/1).

- 12b. Main Motion:
that the Council recommends the following proposed action for Northeast skate complex specifications: 1) for FY 2026-2027: OFL = Unknown, ABC = ACL = 41,282 mt, Federal TAL = 20,966 mt; 2) for FY 2028: OFL = Unknown, ABC = ACL = 37,154 mt, Federal TAL = 18,800 mt.

The main motion as amended *carried* by unanimous consent.

13. Mr. Olszewski moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council recommends the following proposed action for Northeast Skate Complex possession limits: 1) an increase in skate wing possession limits for trips fishing on a Days-At-Sea by 500 lb for each season, to 4,500 lb for Season 1 and to 6,500 lb for Season 2 (wing weight), and 2) to revisit possession limits in two years (in 2027) considering fishery performance.

- 13a. Ms. Griffin moved to amend and Ms. Ware seconded:
that the Council recommends the following proposed action for Northeast skate complex possession limits: 1) an increase in skate wing possession limits for trips fishing on a DAS by 500 lb for each season, to 4,500 lb for Season 1 and to 6,500 lb for Season 2 (wing weight), and 2) to revisit possession limits in three years (in 2028) considering fishery performance.

Yes: Mr. Gates, Ms. Brawn, Mr. Hansen, Mr. Lucey, Ms. Zobel Ms. Ware, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Olszewski, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Pierdinock, Mr. Dangelo, Mr. Whelan, Mr. Platz and Mr. Smith

No: Ms. Odell and Mr. Pentony

Abstain:

The motion to amend *carried* on a roll call (14/2/0).

13b. Main motion:

that the Council recommends the following proposed action for Northeast skate complex possession limits: 1) an increase in skate wing possession limits for trips fishing on a DAS by 500 lb for each season, to 4,500 lb for Season 1 and to 6,500 lb for Season 2 (wing weight), and 2) to revisit possession limits in three years (in 2028) considering fishery performance.

The main motion as amended *carried* by unanimous consent.

14. Mr. Olszewski moved on behalf of the Committee:

that the Council recommends the following proposed action for Northeast skate complex possession limits: 1) an increase in the skate bait possession limit by 5,000 lb to 30,000 lb (whole weight) for all three bait seasons, and 2) to revisit possession limits in two years (in 2027) considering fishery performance.

Yes: Mr. Smith, Mr. Platz, Mr. Pierdinock, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Olszewski, Ms. Griffin, Ms. Odell and Ms. Brawn

No: Mr. Whelan, Mr. Pentony, Ms. Ware, Ms. Zobel, Mr. Lucey, Mr. Hansen and Mr. Gates

Abstain: Mr. Dangelo

The motion *carried* with a roll call vote (8/7/1).

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

that the Council approves the Skate Specifications for FY 2026-2028 for submission to NOAA Fisheries.

15a. Ms. Ware moved to postpone and Mr. Lucey seconded:

the submission motion until the previous motion is resolved.

The motion to postpone *carried* by unanimous consent.

16. Ms. Brawn moved to reconsider and Mr. Smith seconded:

that the Council recommends the following proposed action for Northeast skate complex possession limits: 1) an increase in the skate bait possession limit by 5,000 lb to 30,000 lb (whole weight) for all three bait seasons, and 2) to revisit possession limits in two years (in 2027) considering fishery performance.

The motion to reconsider *carried* by unanimous consent.

- 16a. Ms. Brawn moved to amend and Ms. Ware seconded:
that the Council recommends the following proposed action for Northeast skate complex possession limits: 1) an increase in the skate bait possession limit by 5,000 lb to 30,000 lb (whole weight) for all three bait seasons, and 2) to revisit possession limits in three years (in 2028) considering fishery performance.

The motion to *amend* carried by unanimous consent.

- 16b. Main Motion:
that the Council recommends the following proposed action for Northeast skate complex possession limits: 1) an increase in the skate bait possession limit by 5,000 lb to 30,000 lb (whole weight) for all three bait seasons, and 2) to revisit possession limits in three years (in 2028) considering fishery performance.

The main motion as amended *carried* by unanimous consent.

17. Mr. Olszewski moved and Mr. Gates seconded:
that the Council approves the Skate Specifications for FY 2026-2028 for submission to NOAA Fisheries.

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

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Scallop Committee Report

1. Mr. Hansen moved and Ms. Griffin seconded:
that the Council add to the scope of Framework 40 consideration of allocating Limited Access days-at-sea (DAS) separately for Georges Bank and the Mid-Atlantic, using 71°W as the demarcation line.

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent.

2. Ms. Ware moved and Ms. Brawn seconded:
that the Council add to the scope of Framework 40 consideration of allocating two Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) sub areas. Specifically, Stellwagen North and (NGOM)-Other, and to prioritize other PDT tasks beforehand.

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent.

3. Ms. Griffin moved on behalf of the Scallop Committee:
that the Council send a letter to NOAA Headquarters urging the immediate publication of the 2026 Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

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

Groundfish Committee Report

Revised Amendment 25

4. Mr. Salerno moved on behalf of the Committee:

to approve and submit the revised Amendment 25 to GARFO, with the cod-specific measures as previously approved and submitted under Framework 69, including:

- Incorporating the four revised Atlantic cod stock units of Eastern Gulf of Maine (EGOM) cod, Western Gulf of Maine (WGOM) cod, Georges Bank (GB) cod, and Southern New England (SNE) cod into the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP),
- Status determination criteria for the four new cod stocks,
- Fishing Year (FY) 2026-2027 specifications for EGOM cod, WGOM cod, and SNE cod, and FY2026 specifications for GB cod,
- WGOM cod and SNE cod recreational sub-ACLs,
- WGOM cod ABC apportionment,
- Management uncertainty buffers for the four cod stocks,
- Common pool accountability measures (trimester TAC distributions and closure areas and baseline trip limits) for the four cod stocks,
- SNE cod recreational measures,
- Regulatory process for the Regional Administrator to adjust recreational measures for EGOM cod and GB cod

4a. Ms. Griffin moved to amend and Ms. Ware seconded:

to approve and submit the revised Amendment 25, as recommended by NOAA Fisheries, with the cod-specific measures as previously approved and submitted under Framework 69, including:

- Incorporating the four revised Atlantic cod stock units of Eastern Gulf of Maine (EGOM) cod, Western Gulf of Maine (WGOM) cod, Georges Bank (GB) cod, and Southern New England (SNE) cod into the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP),
- Status determination criteria for the four new cod stocks,
- Fishing Year (FY) 2026-2027 specifications for EGOM cod, WGOM cod, and SNE cod,
- FY2026 specifications for GB cod, as a placeholder value to be replaced by specifications in a future action (i.e., Framework 72) based on 2026 TMGC recommendations and considerations by the SSC,
- WGOM cod and SNE cod recreational sub-ACLs,
- WGOM cod ABC apportionment,
- Management uncertainty buffers for the four cod stocks,
- Common pool accountability measures (trimester TAC distributions and closure areas and baseline trip limits) for the four cod stocks,
- SNE cod recreational measures,
- Regulatory process for the Regional Administrator to adjust recreational measures for EGOM cod and GB cod

Yes: Mr. Aarrestad, Ms. Brawn, Ms. Odell, Mr. Hansen, Mr. Lucey, Ms. Zobel, Ms. Ware, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Olszewski, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Pierdinock, Mr. Platz, Mr. Smith, Mr. Dangelo and Mr. Whelan

No:

Abstain: Mr. Pentony

The motion to amend *carried* on a roll call with one abstention, Mr. Pentony (15/0/1).

4b. Main Motion as amended:

approve and submit the revised Amendment 25, as recommended by NOAA Fisheries, with the cod-specific measures as previously approved and submitted under Framework 69, including:

- Incorporating the four revised Atlantic cod stock units of Eastern Gulf of Maine (EGOM) cod to, Western Gulf of Maine (WGOM) cod, Georges Bank (GB) cod, and Southern New England (SNE) cod into the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP),
- Status determination criteria for the four new cod stocks,
- Fishing Year (FY) 2026-2027 specifications for EGOM cod, WGOM cod, and SNE cod,
- FY2026 specifications for GB cod, as a placeholder value to be replaced by specifications in a future action (i.e., Framework 72) based on 2026 TMGC recommendations and considerations by the SSC,
- WGOM cod and SNE cod recreational sub-ACLs,
- WGOM cod ABC apportionment,
- Management uncertainty buffers for the four cod stocks,
- Common pool accountability measures (trimester TAC distributions and closure areas and baseline trip limits) for the four cod stocks,
- SNE cod recreational measures,
- Regulatory process for the Regional Administrator to adjust recreational measures for EGOM cod and GB cod

Yes: Mr. Olszewski, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Pierdinock, Mr. Platz, Mr. Smith, Mr. Dangelo, Mr. Whelan, Mr. Aarrestad, Ms. Brawn, Mr. Lucey, Ms. Zobel, Ms. Ware and Ms. Griffin

No: Ms. Odell

Abstain: Mr. Pentony and Mr. Hansen

The main motion as amended *carried* on a roll call with two abstentions, Mr. Pentony and Mr. Hansen (13/1/2).

Habitat Committee Report

5. Ms. Smith moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council recommends Alternative 2, Updated EFH Designations, as preferred for the 2025 EFH Designation Framework.

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent.

6. Ms. Smith moved and Mr. Aarrestad seconded:
to submit the 2025 EFH Designation Framework, which includes updated EFH designations for Atlantic cod, Atlantic herring, monkfish, and the seven species in the skate complex, to NOAA Fisheries.

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

Thursday, September, 2025

On-Demand Fishing Gear Conflict Working Group

1. Mr. Pierdinock moved and Ms. Odell seconded:
That the Council accept the On-Demand Gear Conflict Working Group's report on Term of Reference 3b and confirm that the Working Group has completed all Terms of Reference as tasked by the Council in October 2023.

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent.

2. Mr. Platz moved and Mr. Smith seconded:
that the Council postpone final action on the Alternative Gear Marking framework until additional information on ropeless gear and visualization technology, as solicited through a NMFS Request for Information, is available to inform stakeholder input and Council decision-making.

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent.