

Final Motions
New England Fishery Management Council Meeting
September 15-17, 2026
Hotel 1620, Plymouth, MA
Hybrid meeting with remote participants

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Election of 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. Smith

Mr. Pierdinock

Ms. Odell

Mr. Lucey

Ms. Ware

Ms. Ware, Mr. Pierdinock and Ms. Odell were appointed by ballot election.

Herring Committee Report

1. Mr. Whelan moved on behalf of the Committee:
to select Alternative 3 as preferred for the 2027-2031 Atlantic herring specifications.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands (15/1/0).

2. Mr. Whelan moved and Mr. Alexander seconded:
to submit the 2027-2031 Atlantic herring specifications document to NOAA Fisheries.

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent with one abstention, Mr. Pentony.

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Vessel Baseline Evaluation

1. Ms. Griffin moved and Ms. Ware seconded:
that the Council accepts the final report on the vessel baselines evaluation as complete to satisfy the 2026 work priority.

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent.

Habitat Committee Report

2. Ms. Smith moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council adopts Alternative 2, updating essential fish habitat text and map designations, as the preferred alternative for the 2026 EFH Framework.

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent

3. Ms. Smith moved and Ms. Odell seconded:
that the Council submits the 2026 EFH Framework to NOAA Fisheries.

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent with one abstention, Mr. Pentony.

4. Ms. Griffin moved and Mr. Alexander seconded:
that the Council accepts the report on the Great South Channel Habitat Management Area Surfclam Exemption Program Review as complete to satisfy the 2026 work priority.

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent.

Scallop Committee Report

5. Ms. Griffin moved and Ms. Brawn seconded:
to take from the table, the Committee motion:
 - that the Committee recommend that the Council discontinue development of measures in Framework 42 to support regional management of Limited Access Days-at-Sea, while continuing development of Northern Gulf of Maine sub-management areas.

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent.

6. Ms. Griffin moved and Mr. Alexander seconded:
that the Council discontinue development of measures in Framework 42 to support regional management of Limited Access Days-at-Sea, while continuing development of Northern Gulf of Maine sub-management areas.

Yes: Ms. Aarsheim

No: Mr. Lucey, Mr. Hansen, Mr. Smith, Ms. Odell, Ms. Ware, Ms. Griffin Mr. Pentony, Mr. Pierdinock, Mr. Whelan, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Olszewski, Mr. Platz, Mr. Alexander and Ms. Brawn

Abstain:

The motion *failed* on a roll call (1/14/0).

7. Ms. Griffin moved and Ms. Brawn seconded:
to take from the table, the Committee motion:
 - to include the following as part of the 2027 work plan: the ability to limit DAS fishing time in closed areas as a time limiting access area management tool as expeditiously as possible.

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent.

8. Ms. Griffin moved and Mr. Smith seconded:
that the Council include the following as part of the 2027 work plan: the ability to limit days-at-sea fishing time in closed areas as a time limiting access area management tool as expeditiously as possible.

The motion *failed* on a show of hands (0/12/3).

2027 Council Priorities Report

9. Mr. Salerno moved and Ms. Griffin seconded:
that the Council approve the Executive Committee recommendations for Executive Order 14276 including amendments if any made today.
- 9a. Ms. Odell moved to amend and Mr. Alexander seconded:
that consistent with the July 2, 2026 letter, the Council will include “groundfish” under the Rescind Industry Funded Monitoring Requirement as an Executive Order 14276-NOAA priority EO3. The Council response to the July 2, 2026 letter should identify that decisions on next steps will be deferred to the December Council meeting as a Council and / or NOAA Fisheries priority in response to Executive Order 14276 in 2027. Revisions to the Amendment 23 monitoring program will be considered as a separate priority.

The motion was *withdrawn* by its maker.

- 9b. Ms. Aarsheim moved to amend and Mr. Platz seconded:
to add Northern Edge Scallop Access Area as a priority for 2027 instead of deferring until December 2026.

The motion was *withdrawn* by its maker.

- 9c. Mr. Smith moved to amend and Mr. Lucey seconded:
for EO3 Herring Industry Funded Monitoring (IFM) recommendation, to strike the Executive Committee recommendation and to add on its list of 2027 priorities initiation of an action to review and revise the Herring IFM program and recommend changes to improve its effectiveness and achieve the goals and objectives of the Fishery Management Plan.

The motion to amend *failed* on a show of hands (6/10/0).

- 9d. The main motion:
that the Council approve the Executive Committee recommendations for Executive Order 14276 including amendments if any made today.

Yes: Ms. Brawn, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Platz, Mr. Olszewski, Ms. Zobel, Mr. Whelan, Mr. Pierdinock, Ms. Ware, Mr. Gates, Ms. Aarsheim, Ms. Odell, Mr. Smith, Mr. Hansen, Mr. Lucey, Mr. Pentony and Ms. Griffin

No:

Abstain:

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

Thursday, September 17, 2026

Holistic Strategic Plan Initiative Report

1. Ms. Griffin moved and Mr. Lucey seconded:
that the Council approves the Holistic Strategic Plan, effective immediately, and begin implementation and tracking of Goal 1.

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent.