

**Final Motions**  
**New England Fishery Management Council Meeting**  
**June 27-29, 2023**  
**Hybrid meeting with remote participants**

**Tuesday, June 27, 2023**

**REPORTS ON RECENT ACTIVITIES**

1. The Council agreed by consensus to approve the proposed changes to the Operations Handbook to replace Chairman with Chair throughout Council documents.

**SKATE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Thorny Skate White Paper**

2. Mr. Olszewski moved and Mr. Salerno seconded:  
that the Council accepts the final white paper: “Update on Thorny Skate Rebuilding” as drafted by the Plan Development Team. The Council will not take additional action regarding thorny skate measures in 2023. The Council would like to see the results of the current stock assessment and postpone discussion until considering 2024 work priorities.

The Council agreed by consensus.

**2024-2025 Specifications**

3. Mr. Olszewski moved and Mr. Pappalardo seconded:  
that the Council initiate a framework adjustment action to the Northeast Skate Complex Fishery Management Plan to set 2024-2025 specifications and consider removing the partial possession prohibition of barndoor skates and allow the possession of smooth skates.

The Council agreed by consensus.

**HERRING COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Revisit Amendment 8 Inshore Midwater Trawl Closure**

4. Ms. Patterson moved on behalf of the Committee:  
that the Council adopt the following Atlantic Herring Action Problem Statement:  
The purpose of this action is to develop and implement management actions designed to attain optimum yield and improve the conservation status of Atlantic herring by accounting for its critically important role as a forage species in the ecosystem and minimizing user conflicts created by competing interests on the herring resource between the directed herring fishery and other important user groups, including commercial and

recreational fisheries, whale watching, and tourism.

This Council will explore a range of management alternatives to minimize user conflicts, including spatially and temporally explicit gear restrictions, area closures, and possession limits. The geographic scope of potential management measures will consider, but not be limited to, the spatial extent of the Midwater Trawl Restricted Area approved by the Council in Amendment 8, with a particular focus on areas not already subject to seasonal closures to midwater trawling.

Analyses conducted to support this action will also evaluate the changes in the incidental catch of shad and river herring that will likely result from the measures adopted to reduce spatial and temporal user conflicts.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Mr. Aarrestad, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Bellavance, Ms. Brawn, Ms. Patterson, Mr. Olszewski, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Pierdinock, Mr. Pentony, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Smith, Mr. Tracy and Mr. Whelan

No: Ms. Etrie, Mr. Hansen, Mr. Salerno, and Ms. Ware

Abstain:

The motion *carried* on a roll call vote (13/4/0).

5. Ms. Patterson moved and Mr. Smith seconded:  
to modify 2023 Council priorities for Herring to develop an action to address the Atlantic Herring Action Problem Statement adopted by the Council today.

Rationale: is to move work forward in this year's current Atlantic herring priorities addressing through problem statement that will not preclude/disprove any gear types.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Mr. Aarrestad, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Bellavance, Ms. Brawn, Mr. Hansen, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Ware, Mr. Olszewski, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Pierdinock, Mr. Pentony, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Smith, Mr. Tracy, and Mr. Whelan

No: Ms. Etrie and Mr. Salerno

Abstain:

The motion *carried* on a roll call vote (15/2/0).

### River Herring and Shad

6. Ms. Patterson moved on behalf of the Committee:  
that the Council consider, as a 2024 management priority, the development of shad/river herring time/area closure options and reconsideration of the basis for catch cap values to minimize catch of river herring and shad in the Atlantic Herring fishery. This would be for possible inclusion in the 2024 Atlantic herring specifications action for implementation in 2025.

The Council agreed by consensus.

**Wednesday, June 28, 2023**

## **GROUND FISH COMMITTEE REPORT**

### Framework Adjustment 66 / Specifications and Management Measures

1. Mr. Bellavance moved and Ms. Etrie seconded:  
that the Council modify 2023 Council priorities for Groundfish to include:
  - Revise FY2024 and FY2025 specifications for Gulf of Maine haddock
  - Extend the removal of the sector management uncertainty buffer for white hake and Gulf of Maine haddock until the next specifications cycle for these stocks, as contained under Framework 65

The Council agreed by consensus.

2. Mr. Bellavance moved on behalf of the Committee:  
to initiate Framework Adjustment 66 to include:
  - Status determination criteria
  - Revised rebuilding plan for white hake
  - FY2024-2025 US/CA total allowable catches for Eastern Georges Bank cod, Eastern Georges Bank haddock, and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder
  - FY2024-2025 specifications for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder, white hake, and Gulf of Maine haddock
  - FY2024-2026 specifications for redfish, northern windowpane flounder, and southern windowpane flounder
  - Alternatives to address large swings in Canadian halibut catch for US halibut management
  - Extend the removal of the sector management uncertainty buffer for white hake and Gulf of Maine haddock until the next specifications cycle for these stocks, as contained under Framework 65

The Council agreed by consensus.

### Framework Adjustment on ABC Control Rules

3. Mr. Bellavance moved on behalf of the Committee:  
that the Council initiate a Framework to consider adjustments to the Groundfish ABC control rules, including modifying or replacing the existing control rules. This work should consider the challenges identified in the decision document, ongoing revisions to the Council's Risk Policy, and recent updates to the National Standards guidance.

The Council agreed by consensus.

4. Ms. Griffin moved and Ms. Etrie seconded:  
that the Council request the facilitated meeting on ABC Control Rule, discuss draft goals and objectives for the ABC Control Rule that are consistent with National Standard 1, National Standard 1 guidelines and the Council's Risk Policy.

The Council agreed by consensus.

## **ATLANTIC STURGEON BYCATCH ACTION**

5. Ms. Etrie moved and Mr. Pappalardo seconded:  
that the Council approve the full range of monkfish alternatives with the understanding that alternatives will be further refined by the joint monkfish and dogfish committee with input from Office of Law Enforcement and the Coast Guard.

The Council agreed by consensus.

**Thursday, June 29, 2023**

## **ECOSYSTEM-BASED FISHERY MANAGEMENT (EBFM)**

1. Mr. Pappalardo moved on behalf of the Committee:  
that the Council postpone the deep-dive EBFM workshops until early 2024 in order to properly prepare presenters and presentation materials and to complete the Prototype Management Strategy Evaluation (pMSE) work. In addition, the committee believes that scheduling the workshops in early 2024 will improve stakeholder engagement.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Mr. Aarrestad, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Bellavance, Ms. Brawn, Mr. Hansen, Ms. Zobel, Mr. Salerno, Ms. Ware, Mr. Olszewski, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Pierdinock, Mr. Pentony, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Smith, Mr. Tracy, and Mr. Whelan

No:

Abstain: Ms. Etrie

The motion *carried* on a roll call vote (16/0/1).

## **SCALLOP COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **Longer Term RSA Surveys – Changes to the Scallop RSA Program**

2. Ms. Griffin moved on behalf of the Committee:  
that the Council request National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to modify the Scallop Research Set-Aside Program to allow regional scallop surveys used for stock assessments and specification setting to be funded for up to four-years, with an option for a one-year extension for completing grant reports and data analysis.

The Council agreed by consensus with one abstention (Mr. Pentony).

2024/2025 Scallop RSA Research Priorities

3. Ms. Griffin moved on behalf of the Committee: that the Council approve the Scallop research set-aside priorities for 2024/2025 as recommended by the Scallop Committee on pages 1 - 3 of document #3, (Tab 4). The priority list is summarized in the table below. Medium research priorities are not listed in priority order.

#	<b>HIGH PRIORITY (1)</b>		
1	Scallop Resource Surveys		
#	<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY (2-8) (equal importance)</b>		
2	Scallop Biology	3	Sea Turtle Research
4	Commercial Fishing Gear	5	Bycatch
6	Fishing in High Density Areas	7	Wind
8	Scallop Resource Enhancement		
#	<b>GENERAL RESEARCH (9)</b>		
9	Habitat Characterization and Fishery Impact Research		

The Council agreed by consensus.

Framework 38

4. Ms. Griffin moved and Mr. Hansen seconded: that the Council initiate Framework Adjustment 38, an action that will set fishery specifications for fishing year 2024 and default measures for 2025.

The Council agreed by consensus.