

New England Fishery Management Council Timelines
November 27, 2023

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Scallops

1. Framework 38 – Fishing Years 2024 specifications, 2025 default specifications

Scope: 2024 specifications, 2025 default specifications, measures to increase VMS ping rates to improve enforcement.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Jonathon Peros

2023	
JUN	NEFMC – Initiate
SEP	NEFMC – Council receives update on the development
OCT	SSC recommends ABC for FY2023 and FY2024
OCT-NOV	Committee and PDT complete documents
DEC	NEFMC – Council takes final action
DEC	Council staff complete decision draft
2024	
FEB	Council staff completes preliminary submission
FEB	NMFS publishes proposed rule
FEB	NMFS complete review of preliminary submission
MAR	Staff completes final submission for NMFS review and approval
APR 1	NMFS publishes final rule, Implementation

Groundfish

1. Framework 66 – Fishing Years 2024-2026 Specifications/Management Measures

Scope:

- Modify the rebuilding plan for white hake for FY2024 and FY2025
- Set FY2024-FY2025 total allowable catches for US/Canada management units of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod and Eastern GB haddock, and the GB yellowtail flounder stock,
- Set FY2024-FY2025 specifications for GB yellowtail flounder, white hake, and GOM haddock
- Set FY2024-FY2026 specifications for Acadian redfish, Northern windowpane flounder, and Southern windowpane flounder
- Removal of the management uncertainty buffer for sectors for white hake and GOM haddock until the next specifications cycle if the ASM target coverage rate is set at 90% or greater.
- Revise Atlantic halibut management to address impacts of large swings in Canadian halibut catch in US halibut management
- Include a temporary modification to the trigger for the scallop AM implementation policy for GB yellowtail flounder

STAFF PROJECT MANAGERS: Robin Frede / Jamie Cournane / Angela Forristall

2023	
APR	Groundfish Advisory Panel and Groundfish Committee meet, receive update
APR 18-20	Council receives an update
MAY 22	Assessment Oversight Panel meets (redfish, northern windowpane flounder, southern windowpane flounder)
JUN	Groundfish and Recreational Advisory Panels and Groundfish Committee meet, receive update
JUN 27-29	Council initiates action
JUL 11-13	TRAC assesses US/CA management units of EGB cod and EGB haddock, and the GB yellowtail flounder stock
AUG 10	SSC discusses white hake recruitment contract work
SEP	SSC recommends OFLs/ABCs for FY2024-FY2025 for GB yellowtail flounder and white hake, discusses rebuilding plan for white hake
SEP 11-13	TMGC/SC meets to recommend TACs for US/CA management units/stock
SEP 18-20	Peer Review – Management Track Assessments for redfish and northern windowpane flounder
SEP 21-22	Groundfish and Recreational Advisory Panels and Groundfish Committee meet, continue to develop alternatives
SEP 26-28	Council receives TMGC recommendations and reviews progress on developing draft alternatives
OCT 11	SSC recommends OFLs/ABCs for FY2024-FY2025 for GOM haddock
OCT 27	SSC recommends OFLs/ABCs for FY2024-FY2026 for redfish, northern windowpane flounder, and southern windowpane flounder
NOV 13	Groundfish and Recreational Advisory Panels and Groundfish Committee meet, select preferred alternatives
DEC 5-7	Council receives draft alternatives and takes final action

2024	
JAN	Preliminary submission of framework document to NMFS
FEB	Final submission of framework document to NMFS
MAY	Target implementation

2. Framework 68 – Acceptable Biological Control Rules

Scope: Modify/revise groundfish Acceptable Biological Control (ABC) control rules

STAFF PROJECT MANAGERS: Jamie Cournane/Robin Frede/Angela Forristall

2023	
MAY 5	Scientific and Statistical Committee meets to discuss challenges /approaches
JUN 20	Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP) and Recreational Advisory Panel (RAP) meets
JUN 21	Groundfish Committee meets
JUN 27-29	Council initiates action
AUG 17	Facilitated Session and Groundfish Committee meets to discuss goals/objectives
SEP 21	Joint meeting – GAP and RAP
SEP 22	Groundfish Committee meets
SEP 26-28	Council discusses goals and objectives, timeline and overlap with Risk Policy Working Group's work
NOV	RAP, GAP, and Committee meet
DEC 5-7	Council receives update
2024	
JAN	Council receives update
TBD	Council takes final action
TBD	Preliminary submission of framework document to NMFS
TBD	Final submission of framework document to NMFS
TBD	Target implementation

3. Develop Atlantic Cod Management Transition Plan

STAFF PROJECT MANAGERS: Jamie Cournane / Angela Forristall / Robin Frede

2023	
APR	Council provides feedback on work plan
APR-NOV	RAP, GAP, Committee discuss topics at each meeting – spawning, data, allocation, etc.
JUN	Council receives update
SEP	Council receives update
DEC	Council receives update

4. Develop Amendment 23 Review Metrics and Indicators

STAFF PROJECT MANAGERS: Robin Frede / Jamie Cournane / Angela Forristall

2022	
MAY-JUN	Groundfish PDT develops initial list of possible review metrics and indicators, input from Groundfish AP and Groundfish Committee
JUN 29	Council update
JUL-OCT	Groundfish PDT continues developing possible metrics and indicators
2023	
JAN	Groundfish PDT continues developing possible metrics and indicators, input from Groundfish AP and Groundfish Committee
JAN	Council update
MAR 29	SSC input on list of possible metrics and indicators
APR 19	Council update
MAY-DEC	Groundfish PDT continues developing metrics and indicators, conducts preliminary analyses
2024	
JAN-DEC	Groundfish PDT continues developing metrics and indicators, additional input from Groundfish AP and Groundfish Committee

Herring

1. Amendment 10: an action to minimize user conflicts related to the Atlantic herring fishery (formerly revisit A8 inshore midwater trawl closure)

Scope: To address spatial and temporal allocation and management of Atlantic herring at the management unit level to minimize user conflicts, contribute to optimum yield, and support rebuilding of the resource.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Jamie Cournane / Emily Bodell

2023	
APR 11	Advisory Panel (AP) meets
APR 12	Committee (CMTE) meets
APR	Council receives update
JUN 14	AP meets
JUN 21	Committee meeting
JUN	Council develops problem statement
AUG 31	AP and Committee meetings
SEP	Council receives update and begins Amendment 10
2024	
JAN	Council reviews draft scoping document and draft public hearing schedule

Monkfish

1. Framework 15 – Joint Framework with MAFMC to Reduce Sturgeon Bycatch in Monkfish and Spiny Dogfish Gillnet Fisheries

Scope: Measures to reduce bycatch of Atlantic sturgeon in the monkfish and spiny dogfish gillnet fisheries and to address recommendations of NOAA’s Action Plan to Reduce Atlantic Sturgeon Bycatch in Federal Large-Mesh Gillnet Fisheries by 2024.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGERS: Robin Frede/Jenny Couture – NEFMC
Karson Cisneros - MAFMC

2023	
MAR	Formation of FMAT/PDT
APR	NEFMC - initiates Framework
APR-JUN	FMAT/PDT and Joint Dogfish and Monkfish Committee develop range of alternatives; Joint Dogfish and Monkfish AP input
JUN	MAFMC – progress report
JUN	NEFMC - approved range of alternatives for monkfish only
SEP	Joint Monkfish/Dogfish Committee with OLE/Coast Guard to refine alternatives
SEP	NEFMC – approved refined range of alternatives for monkfish & dogfish
OCT	MAFMC – approved refined range of alternatives for monkfish & dogfish
OCT	ASMFC meeting on range of alternatives
OCT-JAN	FMAT/PDT begin analyzing alternatives
2024	
JAN	NEFMC – progress report
FEB	MAFMC – progress report
FEB- MAR	Joint AP meeting and joint Committee meeting to select preferred alternatives
APR	MAFMC – final action
APR	NEFMC – final action
TBD	Staff submits framework to NMFS
TBD	NMFS publishes proposed rule
TBD	NMFS publishes final rule/Implementation

2. Monkfish RSA Program Review

Scope: Measures to improve the Monkfish RSA program’s effectiveness, etc. –
Monkfish RSA Working Group

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Jenny Couture

2023	
MAR - APR	Staff draft work plan
APR	Update provided to NEFMC, MAFMC
APR - MAY	Establish work group
JUN - AUG	Work group meetings to discuss priority, potential improvements to RSA program
SEP - OCT	Present recommendations to NEFMC, MAFMC
OCT - NOV	Determine if any findings are appropriate for a 2024 priority
DEC	Council to consider implementation of recommendations as a priority

Whiting (Small-mesh Multispecies)

1. Specifications for Fishing Years 2024-2026

Scope: Adjustments to catch limits and potentially some measures for the 2024-2026 fishing years.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Andrew Applegate

2023	
AUG-SEP	PDT begins analysis and drafting of SAFE Report for fishing year 2022
SEP	Management track assessment
SEP	Council receives preliminary SAFE report (and initiates FW action if required)
SEP-OCT	PDT receives assessment data and updates SAFE Report; develops recommendations for 2024-2026 specifications
OCT 27	SSC receives draft SAFE Report, annual catch limit recommendations, and approves annual catch limit
NOV-DEC	Committee and Advisors meet to develop management alternatives; Staff and PDT begin development of specifications document
NOV	Committee identifies preferred alternatives
DEC	Council approves final specifications management alternatives
2024	
JAN	Staff submits preliminary document to NMFS
FEB	NOAA Fisheries returns comments to Council
FEB-MAR	Staff submits final document to NMFS
MAR	NMFS publishes proposed rule
TBD	FINAL rule published
MAY 1	Target Implementation

Skates

1. Framework Adjustment 12 - Specifications for 2024-2025

Scope: Adjustments to annual catch limits and possession limits for fishing years 2024 and 2025; consider revising barndoor and smooth skate possession restrictions

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Rachel Feeney

2023	
FEB	PDT preliminary work to support alternatives development
MAR	Committee and AP receive brief update
APR -SEP	Council meeting – updates; PDT and Committee continue work on action
JUN	Council initiates framework
SEP	Management track assessment for skates
OCT	SSC meeting to recommend ABC
NOV	PDT prepares action document; Final AP and Committee meetings to consider impact analysis and recommend preferred alternatives
DEC	Council takes final action
DEC/JAN	Preliminary submission of document to NMFS
2024	
JAN/FEB	NOAA Fisheries provides comments to Council
FEB-MAR	Staff submits final document to NMFS
MAY 1	Target Implementation

Deep-sea Red Crab

1. Fishing Years 2024-2027 Specifications

Scope: Set specifications for the Red Crab FMP for fishing years 2024-2027

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Chris Kellogg

2023	
JUN - JUL	PDT reviews data from the red crab fishery
JUN	Management track assessment reviewed
AUG	SSC develops ABC recommendation for FY 2020-2023
SEP	Council takes final action on specifications
OCT	Preliminary submission of document with supplemental information report
NOV	NMFS comments on preliminary submission
NOV 3	Final submission of specifications to NMFS
DEC	Council deems proposed rule
2024	
JAN	Final submission of specifications to NMFS
MAR	Target implementation

Habitat

1. Southern New England HAPC Framework

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Michelle Bachman

2022	
FEB	Council initiates Framework
FEB –APR	Committee and PDT develop range of HAPC designation alternatives including supporting information
APR	Council reviews draft alternatives
APR-JUN	Committee and PDT continue to refine range of HAPC designation alternatives including supporting information; AP review and input
JUN	Council final action
AUG	Staff submits framework to NOAA GARFO
2023	
MAR-APR	NOAA review and development of public notice
SEP-OCT	NOAA Proposed Rule - Public comment period (30 days: 9/26 – 10/26)
NOV-DEC	NOAA approval and implementation

2. Atlantic Salmon Aquaculture Framework

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Michelle Bachman

2022	
AUG	Committee discusses possibility of initiating Atlantic salmon framework action to authorize salmon aquaculture
SEP	PDT begins background work
SEP	NEFMC initiates Atlantic salmon framework action
OCT	PDT discusses scope of framework including background information and type of impact analyses required for action
NOV	Advisory Panel, Committee meet to discuss development of alternatives
DEC	Council update, PDT continues development
2023	
JAN	PDT meets to continue development, Council update
MAR	PDT finishes drafting framework, Committee recommends preferred alternatives
APR	NEFMC final action
MAY	Preliminary submission to NOAA GARFO
NOV	Comments expected from NOAA GARFO
NOV/DEC	Final submission to NOAA GARFO
TBD	Target implementation

3. Northern Edge Habitat-Scallop Framework

Scope: Develop a scallop rotational harvest program within and/or around the Closed Area II Habitat Closure Area (i.e., “habitat management area” or “HMA”) that avoids habitats important to juvenile cod, minimizes adverse effects to essential fish habitats, minimizes adverse biological and economic impacts to other managed fisheries, and contributes to optimum yield for the scallop fishery.

Note: The timeline for this action is intended to support preparation of scallop fishery specifications for FY2026. Final Council action in September/December 2024 with submission soon thereafter should allow the Council to develop FY2026 specifications with minimal need for contingencies.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGERS: Michelle Bachman / Jonathon Peros

2022	
DEC	Council prioritizes action
2023	
FEB/MAR	Kickoff meeting with PDTs, staff, as appropriate to define scope/goal and objectives
MAR	CTEs, APs review draft goal and objectives
APR	Council approves goal and objectives, initiates action
MAY-JUN	Assemble spatial and other data and information
JUN-AUG	PDTs draft range of alternatives
AUG-SEP	CTEs, APs review range of alternatives
SEP	Council update and revision of action timeline
OCT-DEC	PDTs evaluate spatial concepts; begin to develop alternatives
NOV	Habitat AP, CTE input
DEC	Council update
2024	
JAN	Council update
JAN-MAR	PDTs continue to develop alternatives and preliminary impacts analysis; Habitat and Scallop CTE and AP meetings
APR	Council reviews analysis of spatial concepts and other alternatives
MAY – SEP (SEP final action) or MAY-NOV (DEC final action)	PDTs, APs, and CTEs finalize range of alternatives and impacts analysis; APs and CTEs recommend preferred alternatives; staff complete impact analyses
APR SEP or DEC	Council final action
OCT-DEC (SEP final action)	Staff completes and submits action to NOAA Fisheries

2025	
JAN – FEB 2025 (DEC final action)	Staff completes and submits action to NOAA Fisheries
TBD	NOAA Fisheries Review
TBD	Implementation

4. Essential Fish Habitat Review

Scope: Review description and identification of EFH. Evaluate new scientific literature and information from other relevant sources including the Northeast Regional Habitat Assessment to see whether species-specific EFH description and identification, as written in the FMP as text and provided as maps, is appropriate and reflects best available information and methods. Suggest changes to EFH text or map designations as appropriate.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Michelle Bachman

2022	
DEC	Council prioritizes action
2023	
MAY	MAFMC EFH Fishery Management Action Team methods meeting, with participation by Habitat PDT members
JUN-AUG	Staff/PDT/FMAT work on designation methods; AP and Committee discuss action format/phasing
SEP	Council update
SEP	Joint NEFMC-MAFMC SSC sub-panel meeting to discuss EFH designation methods
OCT-NOV	Committee reviews sub-panel findings; discusses action format/phasing
2024	
JAN	Council initiates framework
	Remainder of timeline to be developed

Ecosystems Based Fishery Management

Scope: Phase III – Public engagement and Management Strategy Evaluation

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Andrew Applegate

2019	
SEP	Council receives complete eFEP framework; MSE Steering Committee progress report
DEC	MSE Steering Committee makes recommendations for an MSE process to evaluate Georges Bank Ecosystem Production Unit management procedures, including stakeholder engagement.
2020	
JAN-FEB	Staff develops RFP for EBFM science communicator and communicator begins contract
MAR– JUN	EBFM, staff, and the EBFM Committee work with GreenFinStudio to produce public information materials. Plan public meetings and contract with facilitators.
JUN	Council receives final draft outreach materials from GreenFinStudio
JUN-JUL	Council receives final outreach deliverables from GreenFinStudio
JUL-AUG	Committee develops recommendations for workshop format and framework, based on public outreach materials
AUG-SEP	Council staff solicits applications for facilitators and negotiates statement of work; organizes meetings
SEP	Council receives planning update on public outreach workshops
OCT	Council discussion of path for EBFM
DEC	Council discussion of path for EBFM continued
2021	
FEB	Council adds five stakeholder members to the MSE Steering Committee
MAR-MAY	MSE Steering Committee develops and recommends workshop plan
JUN	Council approves workshop plan
NOV-JAN	Hire needed contractors and schedule workshops
2022	
MAR-APR	Staff works with facilitator to develop engagement strategy and plan workshops; seek invited experts to give presentations and answer public questions
MAR-APR	Staff and PDT develop draft Prototype MSE plan
APR	Council approves Prototype MSE plan
APR-MAY	Council issues request for proposals for a contractor to conduct Prototype MSE and evaluates applicants
APR-JUN	Council conducts first phase of public outreach meetings and analysis (Facilitator)
MAY-JUN	Analyze and summarize workshops (Facilitator)
JUN	Advertises for contractor to develop and conduct Prototype MSE based on plan
JUN	Council receives outreach reports and continues preparing for public information workshops
JUL	Council hires contractor to develop and conduct Prototype MSE
OCT-NOV	Conduct six initial outreach workshops using the facilitator
OCT- FEB	Analyze Management Strategies (Contractor) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present initial strategies at workshops • Identify most viable strategies (MSE)

	Present results to SSC
OCT-NOV	EBFM Committee and Advisory Panel chairs (“stakeholders”) and EBFM PDT meet to develop management objectives, operating models, and candidate management procedures (Contractor)
NOV	SSC review of operating models and proposed Prototype MSE
DEC	Report: Summary of the initial outreach workshops Progress report: Prototype MSE development
2023	
JAN-MAR	MSE meetings reporting results to EBFM Committee and Advisory Panel chairs (“stakeholders”), EBFM PDT, and SSC
JAN	Council receives pMSE progress report
FEB	Contractor presents pMSE plan to the Scientific and Statistical Committee
FEB-MAR	pMSE contractor develops models and evaluates candidate management procedures and presents preliminary results to the stakeholders; staff develops and advertises request for proposals for deep-dive public information workshops
MAR-APR	Council publishes request for proposals for deep-dive workshop development and facilitation
APR	Council receives pMSE progress report (Contractor)
MAY	Staff reviews facilitator proposals and negotiates a contract to conduct workshops
JUN	Contractor completes Prototype MSE analysis and presents results to the EBFM Committee and SSC
JUN	Final report: Prototype MSE development (Contractor)
JUL	Council receives final Prototype MSE report (Contractor)
SEP	Committee considers how to digest pMSE results and engage stakeholders at deep-dive workshops; develops recommendations on how to proceed with EBFM in 2024.
SEP	Council considers EBFM Committee recommendations
OCT-DEC	Recruit and prepare presenters and panelists for deep-dive workshops
2024	
JAN-MAR	Conduct and facilitate deep-dive workshops (Contractor)
APR	Presentation: Summary of deep-dive workshops (Contractor)
APR	Council receives deep-dive workshop final report