NRCC 2026 Fall Meeting

NEFSC Updates on Previous Action Items

	Action Items	DUE	COMPLETE?	Details
7	Communicate clarification of data update categories	June Council meetings	✓	• Information posted to NRCC website and assessment schedules • Further discussion with assessment schedules • Future discussions with AWG
8	Share 2027 assessment schedule with MRIP	June 3, 2026	✓	• Information provided via email to MRIP • NEFSC assessment leads received MRIP FES recalibrated data on August 30 when it was released publicly
10	NEFSC/NEFMC will discuss multistock area sampling opportunities	August 1, 2026	✓	• MADMF approach promising but not scalable • NEFSC launching pilot project aimed at increasing at-sea cod biological data collection • NEFSC investigating model-based approaches
13	NEFSC will discuss witch flounder and mackerel assessments	June 15, 2026	✓	• 2027 witch flounder assessment will use empirical approach • 2027 mackerel assessment will use WHAM • 2027 white hake assessment will use WHAM
14	NEFSC/ASMFC will discuss state-Federal port sampling workshop recommendations	June 15, 2026	✓	• Report posted online

Assessment Working Group

NRCC Meeting
November 2026

Assessment Working Group - Topics

1. **Transition from ASAP to WHAM**
2. **Assessment Schedule for 2027 and 2028**
    a. Species Specific Research Track Assessments 2027/2028
    b. Topic Research Track Assessment Projections 2027/2028
3. **Recommendation for Developing 5-Year Assessment Schedule**

1. Transition from ASAP to WHAM

Update

1. Transition from ASAP to WHAM

2026 Spring NRCC: *The NRCC discussed that management track assessments can be used to transition stocks from ASAP to WHAM.*

1. Transition from ASAP to WHAM

- 14 stocks have transitioned to WHAM via species-focused RTs and 2 transitioned following State Space RT (SSRT) case studies
- Two additional stocks (Acadian redfish, Atlantic mackerel) eligible to transition to WHAM based on case studies during the SSRT
- AWG subgroup developed guidelines to manage ASAP to WHAM
  - Bridge run sequencing
  - Recommended limits on the scope of WHAM feature implementation
  - Diagnostics & robust peer review

1. Transition from ASAP to WHAM

- **Five stocks eligible to transition from ASAP > WHAM via MT**
  - **White hake** – planned implementation for 2027 MT (first use under the new process approved by NRCC in Spring 2026)
  - **Pollock** – provisionally scheduled for MT in 2028; priority for transitioning out of ASAP
  - **Scup** – 2027 MT will focus on integrating recalibrated MRIP data; priority to advance from ASAP in next MT (likely 2030)
  - **Summer flounder** – 2027 MT will focus on integrating recalibrated MRIP data; priority to advance from ASAP in next MT (likely 2030)
  - **SNE/MA winter flounder** – not on draft schedule for MT and no plans to implement in WHAM (could revisit if management objectives shift)

1. Transition from ASAP to WHAM

- Revisit timing of WHAM transitions, determine decision needs and timing
  - Discuss implications of previous decision that stocks may transition during management track

2. Assessment Schedule for 2027 and 2028

2. Assessment Schedule for 2027

2026 Spring NRCC: The NRCC discussed the proposed 2027 stock assessment schedule, but requested clarification around potential models for witch flounder and mackerel.

2. Assessment Schedule for 2027

- **Witch flounder** – 2027 MT use current empirical approach
- **Atlantic mackerel** – 2027 MT implement WHAM based on SSRT case study
- **White hake** – 2027 MT transition ASAP->WHAM based on new NRCC process
- **Additional Changes for 2027 as Discussed w/AWG**
  - Move mackerel to September to deconflict scup/summer flounder and data provision
  - Remove projection update for golden tilefish per MAFMC
  - Add data update for GB haddock to support TMGC

2. Assessment Schedule for 2027

- **2027 Management Track Assessments**

Spring	Fall
GB Atlantic Cod	Atlantic Mackerel
Black Sea Bass	EGOM Atlantic Cod
Bluefish	WGOM Atlantic Cod
Scup	SNE Atlantic Cod
Summer Flounder	White Hake
TMGC Management Support	Witch Flounder
	Scallop Management Support

2. Assessment Schedule for 2027

- **2027 Data Updates**

Atlantic Deepsea Red Crab	Northern Shortfin Squid
Atlantic Surfclam	Ocean Pout
Butterfish	Ocean Quahog
Chub Mackerel	Spiny Dogfish
Golden Tilefish	GOM Winter Flounder
GB Haddock	Wolffish
Longfin Inshore Squid	

2. Assessment Schedule for 2027

- **2027 Projection Updates***

Acadian Redfish	CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder
GB Winter Flounder	GB Yellowtail Flounder
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder

**includes data update*

2. Assessment Schedule for 2027

- Does NRCC agree to the schedule for 2027 with the new changes?
  - Move mackerel to September to deconflict scup/summer flounder and data provision
  - Remove projection updates for golden tilefish
  - Add data update for GB haddock
  - Continue ‘pause’ on Assessment Oversight Panel – all 2027 MT assessments will post assessment plans to web and receive peer review

2. Assessment Schedule for 2028

2026 Spring NRCC Meeting: *NRCC will review a proposed 5-year assessment schedule (2028-2032) at its Fall 2026 meeting, with the goal of approving a schedule for 2028, at a minimum.*

2. Assessment Schedule for 2028

- 2028 assessment schedule developed by AWG members based on management objectives and regional capacity
- Goal to utilize 2027/2028 scheduling to form basis for return to normalized schedule

2. Assessment Schedule for 2028

- **2028 Management Track Assessments**

Spring	Fall
Atlantic Herring	GOM Haddock
Atlantic Sea Scallop	Pollock
GB Haddock	Spiny Dogfish
Northern Shortfin Squid	Scallop Management Support
TMGC Management Support	

2. Assessment Schedule for 2028

• 2028 Data Updates

- Atlantic Surfclam
- Barndoor Skate
- Butterfish
- Clearnose Skate
- GB Cod
- Little Skate
- Longfin Inshore Squid
- Monkfish North
- Monkfish South
- Ocean Quahog
- Rosette Skate
- Smooth Skate
- Thorny Skate
- Winter Skate

**no projection updates on 2028 schedule*

2. Assessment Schedule for 2028

- Does NRCC agree to the schedule for 2028?

2. Assessment Schedule for 2027 and 2028

A. Species Specific Research Track Assessments 2027/2028
B. Topic Research Track Assessment Projections 2027/2028

A. Research Track Assessments 2027/2028

- **Striped Bass** – currently underway, ASMFC leads; peer review spring 2027
- **Sturgeon** – forming now, ASMFC leads; peer review 2028
- **Lobster** – forming 2028, ASMFC leads; peer review 2030
- **Shad** – forming 2029, ASMFC leads; peer review 2031

B. Research Track Assessment Projections 2027/2028 - Proposal

- Existing TORs capture current priorities
  - Case studies can be utilized under individual TORs as appropriate
- Brief period to reconfirm WG availability, targeted replacement if necessary
- If work resumes this winter, target timeline for peer review in late 2028/ early 2029

B. Research Track Assessment Projections 2027/2028 - Proposal

Terms of Reference

1. Evaluate the past performance (accuracy and bias) of stock assessment projections in the Northeast over short (1-4 year) and medium (5-10 year) time spans.
2. Determine the most important sources of error in the projections (e.g., growth, maturity, historical catch, and selectivity).
3. Establish guidelines for projecting recruitment.
4. Examine methods for projecting biological rates (e.g., growth, maturity, and natural morality).
5. Establish procedures for determining when to incorporate ecosystem drivers into projections.

Working Group Members

Ed Camp, U Florida, Chair
Liz Brooks, NEFSC
Gavin Fay, U Mass
Jay Hermsen, GARFO
Chris Legault, NEFSC
Paul Nitschke, NEFSC
John Wiedenmann, Rutgers
Charles Perretti, NEFSC, Lead
Jamie Cournane, NEFMC
Amanda Hart, NEFSC
Lisa Kerr, U Maine
Tim Miller, NEFSC
Nathan Vaughan, SEFSC

2. Assessment Schedule for 2027 & 2028

A. Species Specific Research Track Assessments 2027/2028
B. Topic Research Track Assessment Projections 2027/2028

- Does the NRCC agree on the resumption of Projections RT?
  - Maintain TORs established in 2025
  - Reaffirm Projections Working Group Membership
  - Confirm peer review late 2028/early 2029
    - **If work begins during winter 2026-2027
- Continue ‘pause’ on Research Track Steering Committee for 2027

3. Recommendation for Developing 5-Year Assessment Schedule

2026 Spring NRCC Meeting: *NRCC will review a proposed 5-year assessment schedule (2028-2032) at its Fall 2026 meeting.*

3. Recommendation for Developing 5-Year Assessment Schedule

- AWG developed schedule through 2032 based on regular assessment intervals to support strategic planning for regional partners.
- Changes can be negotiated to address emerging science/management issues – or if resource levels change.

3. Recommendation for Developing 5-Year Assessment Schedule

- **Proposed Assessment Intervals**

NEFMC Leads	Frequency	NEFMC Leads	Frequency	MAFMC Leads	Frequency
Scallop	1	SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	4	Summer Flounder	3
Herring	2	Windowpane North	4	Scup	3
Red Crab	10	Windowpane South	4	Black Sea Bass	3
EGOM Cod	3	Ocean Pout	4	Bluefish	3
GB Cod	3	Wolffish	4	Atlantic Mackerel	2
SNE Cod	3	Monkfish North	4	Butterfish	3
WGOM Cod	3	Monkfish South	4	Illex	4
GB Haddock	3	Barndoor Skate	4	Longfin Squid	4
GOM Haddock	3	Clearnose Skate	4	Golden Tilefish	4
White Hake	3	Little Skate	4	Spiny Dogfish	4
Plaice	3	Rosette Skate	4	Atlantic Surfclam	6
Pollock	3	Smooth Skate	4	Ocean Quahog	6
Redfish	3	Thorny Skate	4		
Witch Flounder	4	Winter Skate	4		
Halibut	4	Red Hake North	4		
GB Winter Flounder	4	Red Hake South	4		
GOM Winter Flounder	4	Silver Hake North	4		
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	4	Silver/Offshore Hake South	4		
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	4	TMGC Mgmt Support	1		
GB Yellowtail Flounder	4				

Draft 5 Year Schedule

MT = Management Track
DU = Data Update
RT = Research Track
MS = Management Support

2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
Scallop MT	Scallop MS	Scallop MS	Scallop MT	Scallop MS
Herring MT	Plaice MT	Herring MT	GB Cod DU	Herring MT
GB Cod DU	Redfish MT	EGOM Cod MT	GB Haddock MT	Red Crab DU
GB Haddock MT	GB Cod DU	GB Cod MT	GOM Haddock MT	Plaice MT
GOM Haddock MT	GB Haddock DU	SNE Cod MT	Pollock MT	Redfish MT
Pollock MT	GB Winter Flounder MT	WGOM Cod MT	Witch Flounder MT	GB Cod DU
Monkfish North DU	GOM Winter Flounder MT	GB Haddock DU	Ocean Pout DU	GB Haddock DU
Monkfish South DU	SNE/MA Winter Flounder DU	White Hake MT	Wolffish DU	GB Winter Flounder DU
Skates DU	CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder MT	Halibut MT	Red Hake North DU	GOM Winter Flounder DU
Butterfish DU	GB Yellowtail Flounder DU	Monkfish North MT+	Red Hake South DU	SNE/MA Winter Flounder DU
Illex MT	SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder DU	Monkfish South MT+	Silver Hake North DU	CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder DU
Longfin Squid DU	Windowpane North DU	Summer Flounder MT	Silver/Offshore Hake South DU	GB Yellowtail Flounder DU
Spiny Dogfish MT	Windowpane South DU	Scup MT	Mackerel MT	SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder DU
Quahog DU	Red Hake North DU	Black Sea Bass MT	Butterfish DU	Skates MT
Surfclam DU	Red Hake South MT	Bluefish MT	Ilex DU	Summer Flounder DU
Sturgeon RT	Silver Hake North MT	Butterfish DU	Longfin Squid DU	Scup DU
Projections RT	Silver Hake South MT	Illex DU	Tilefish MT	Black Sea Bass DU
TMGC MS	Summer Flounder DU	Longfin MT	Surfclam MT	Bluefish DU
	Scup DU	Spiny Dogfish DU	TMGC MS	Butterfish MT
	Black Sea Bass DU	Lobster RT	Shad RT* (to be confirmed)	Illex MT
	Bluefish DU	TMGC MS		Longfin Squid DU
	Mackerel MT			Spiny Dogfish MT
	Butterfish MT			Quahog DU
	Ilex DU			Surfclam DU
	Longfin Squid DU			TMGC MS
	Ocean Quahog MT			
	Tilefish DU			
	River Herring MT			
	TMGC MS			

Draft Assessment Schedule 2029

Management Track	Data Update	Management Support
American Plaice	GB Cod	Scallop
Acadian Redfish	GB Haddock	TMGC
GB Winter Flounder	SNE/MA Winter Flounder	
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	GB Yellowtail Flounder	
Red Hake South	SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	
Silver Hake North	Windowpane North	
Silver Hake South	Windowpane South	
Atlantic Mackerel	Red Hake North	
Butterfish	Summer Flounder	
Ocean Quahog	Scup	
River Herring	Black Sea Bass	
	Bluefish	
	Illex Squid	
	Golden Tilefish	

Draft Assessment Schedule 2030

Management Track	MT+	Data Update	Mgmt Support	Research Track
Atlantic Herring	Monkfish North	GB Haddock	Scallop	Lobster
EGOM Cod	Monkfish South	Butterfish	TMGC	
GB Cod		Illex Squid		
SNE Cod		Spiny Dogfish		
WGOM Cod				
White Hake				
Atlantic Halibut				
Summer Flounder				
Scup				
Black Sea Bass				
Bluefish				
Longfin Squid				

Draft Assessment Schedule 2031

Management Track	Data Update	Magmt Support	Research Track
Scallop	GB Cod	TMGC	Shad (*to be confirmed)
GB Haddock	Ocean Pout		
GOM Haddock	Wolffish		
Pollock	Red Hake North		
Witch Flounder	Red Hake South		
Atlantic Mackerel	Silver Hake North		
Golden Tilefish	Silver/Offshore Hake South		
Atlantic Surfclam	Butterfish		
	Illex Squid		
	Longfin Squid		

Draft Assessment Schedule 2032

Management Track	Data Update	Management Support
Atlantic Herring	Deepsea Red Crab	Scallop
American Plaice	GB Cod	TMGC
Acadian Redfish	GB Haddock	
Barndoor Skate	GB Winter Flounder	
Clearnose Skate	GOM Winter Flounder	
Little Skate	SNE/MA Winter Flounder	
Rosette Skate	CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	
Smooth Skate	GB Yellowtail Flounder	
Thorny Skate	SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	
Winter Skate	Summer Flounder	
Butterfish	Scup	
Illex Squid	Black Sea Bass	
Spiny Dogfish	Bluefish	
	Longfin Squid	
	Atlantic Surfclam	
	Ocean Quahog	

3. Recommendation for Developing 5-Year Assessment Schedule

- Does the NRCC agree on the assessment intervals?
- Does the NRCC agree on the draft assessment schedule 2029-2032 for regional planning purposes?
  - Assessment schedule to be reviewed/confirmed annually
  - To be revisited if any regional partner has major shift in resources