

Spring 2025 NRCC Meeting: Decisions and Action Items

May 21-22, 2025 (Annapolis, MD)

Decisions:

1. Hold a summer intersessional meeting to discuss the 2026 assessment schedule by the end of August at the latest because the Councils need the schedule set in time for September/October meetings.
2. NRCC agreed on updates to the Assessment Process Document:
 - a. To “strongly encourage,” but not require, the management track panel lead to attend the preceding Assessment Oversight Panel;
 - b. To include “short-term” and not “long-term” projections under Research Track Term of Reference 6 (without specifically defining “short-term”);
 - c. To update Research Track Term of Reference 5 to read: *“Update or redefine Biological Reference Points (BRPs; point estimates or proxies for B_{MSY} , $B_{THRESHOLD}$, F_{MSY} and MSY reference points) and provide estimates of those criteria and their uncertainty, along with a description of the sources of uncertainty. If analytic model-based estimates are unavailable, consider recommending alternative measurable proxies for reference points. For illustrative purposes, where feasible and appropriate, compute the ratios of the RT assessment’s terminal year stock size and fishing mortality to existing, and any redefined, BRPs.”*
3. Receive an update on DNF work at the fall 2025 NRCC meeting.
4. Receive an update on PBSP and NEFOP contract merger at the fall 2025 meeting.
5. Receive an update on the state-federal sampling workshop at the fall 2025 meeting.
6. Receive an update on stakeholder engagement in the stock assessment process at the fall 2025 NRCC meeting.
7. Revisit council operating agreements at the spring 2026 NRCC meeting.

Action Items:

1. Development of a revised draft 2026 assessment schedule and proposed assessment process changes, tradeoffs, and flexibilities. The AWG will prioritize the 2026 assessment schedule, to be provided by the summer intersessional. The AWG will start to revise the future years’ schedule, with a strawman provided for the summer intersessional and/or the fall meeting. AWG will also consider scheduling to help resolve conflicts with the NAFO meeting and the June council meetings.
 Lead: **AWG**
 Appointees needed: N/A
 Next step(s): Revise 2026 assessment schedule and share with NRCC. Revise meeting schedule.
 Due date(s): NRCC summer 2025 intersessional.
2. Compile and transmit to the NRCC the MAFMC staff’s thoughts on the issues raised in the NEFMC Executive Committee’s December letter to the NEFSC regarding scientific support.

Color code key:	
ASMFC	AWG
GARFO	MAFMC
NEFMC	NEFSC
NRCC	

- Lead: **MAFMC staff**
Appointees needed: N/A
Next step(s): **MAFMC staff** compile information and share with NRCC.
Due date(s): NRCC summer 2025 intersessional.
3. Circulate MAFMC white paper on baselines.
Lead: **GARFO**
Appointees needed: N/A
Next step(s): **GARFO** staff obtain a copy of the white paper from MAFMC and circulate to NRCC.
Due date(s): NRCC summer 2025 intersessional.
 4. Deputies meet to develop a process for soliciting additional peer reviewers.
Lead: **ASMFC, MAFMC, NEFMC, NEFSC, GARFO, NRCC**
Appointees needed: Deputies
Next step(s): Proposed process provided to NRCC.
Due date(s): NRCC fall 2025 meeting (but after action item 1).
 5. Schedule a virtual intersessional meeting in August 2025.
Lead: **MAFMC**
Appointees needed: Mark and Laura
Next step(s): Poll for dates.
Due date(s): ASAP.
 6. Request that the ECCG core team begin tracking the IRA project supporting one-stop vessel reporting for all Atlantic-permitted vessels.
Lead: **NRCC**
Appointees needed: Dr. Moore
Next step(s): **NRCC Chair** contacts core team.
Due date(s): June 16, 2025.
 7. Circulate a list of species included in the Port Biological Sampling Program.
Lead: **NEFSC**
Appointees needed: Dr. Hare
Next step(s): **NEFSC** provides the list to NRCC.
Due date(s): June 16, 2025.

The MAFMC will host the fall 2025 NRCC meeting, and NEFSC will host the spring 2026 meeting:

Fall: November 5-6, 2025; Location TBD;
Spring: May 2026; Date and location TBD.