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NEFMC	NEFSC
NRCC	

2026 Winter Intersessional NRCC Meeting: Decisions and Action Items

January 13, 2026 (Webinar)

Decisions:

1. Refer to the matrix in the Framework for Narrowing the Scope of NMFS Management and Science as the “risk-value matrix.”
2. Tentatively approve the 2027 stock assessment schedule as proposed by the AWG, and plan to consider additions to the schedule at the May 2026 NRCC meeting.
3. Accept the AWG’s proposed 2026 schedule for stock assessment meetings that avoid scheduling conflicts.
4. Continue to pause the activities of the Assessment Oversight Panel and Research Track Steering Committee through 2026, which will simplify the stock assessment process.
5. As part of the stock assessment simplification discussion, revisit the discussion of transitioning from ASAP to WHAM at the May 2026 NRCC meeting.

Action Items:

1. Item: NRCC agreed to identify a regional working group in support of the Framework for Narrowing the Scope of NMFS Management and Science and schedule an intersessional meeting to approve membership and next steps for the Working Group.
Lead: **GARFO, NRCC**
Appointees needed: Ms. Deighan, Dr. Trudeau, NRCC Principals
Next step(s): Ms. Deighan and Dr. Trudeau schedule an intersessional NRCC meeting. NRCC principals to consider appropriate representation on the regional working group.
Due date(s): February 2026
2. Item: NRCC agreed to discuss a return to a five-year stock assessment planning cycle at the May 2026 NRCC meeting.
Lead: **AWG**
Appointees needed: Dr. Simpkins
Next step(s): Develop a proposal for a return to a 5-year planning cycle for NRCC discussion.
Due date(s): May 2026 NRCC meeting
3. Item: NRCC agreed to revisit the 2027 stock assessment schedule at the May 2026 NRCC meeting.
Lead: **NEFMC, AWG**
Appointees needed: NEFMC members and staff, Dr. Simpkins
Next step(s): Identify candidate stocks for consideration (NEFMC). Assess feasibility of adding stocks and prepare materials for NRCC discussion (AWG).
Due date(s): May 2026 NRCC meeting

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4. Item: NRCC tasked AWG with preparing a proposal on the optimization of the assessment workload with consideration of stock assessment priorities, research track planning, and transition from ASAP to WHAM for NRCC discussion at the May 2026 NRCC meeting.

Lead: **AWG**

Appointees needed: Dr. Simpkins

Next step(s): AWG prepares a proposal, with consideration of the interconnectedness of these topics, for NRCC consideration.

Due date(s): May 2026 NRCC meeting

The **NEFSC** will host the spring and fall 2026 NRCC meetings:

Spring: May 27-28 2026; Location TBD. The meeting will be two full days.

Fall: November 2026; Date and location TBD. NEFSC to propose dates and

GARFO to send poll with the goal of setting a date prior to the May 2026 meeting.