

New England Fishery Management Council Timelines
September 14, 2018

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* Indicates preliminary timeline – not yet reviewed by GARFO

Background

Preliminary or draft timelines may be provided for actions for which Action Plans have not been formally approved; however, they will be revised when Actions Plans change.

Timelines are provided for actions until they have been approved or disproved by NMFS. They are updated only after review by the Executive Committee or at the direction of the Council Chair between Executive Committee meetings or as part of the process for updating action plans.

Scallops

1. Framework 30

Scope: 2019 scallop specifications, 2020 default specifications, standard default measures

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Jonathon Peros

2018	
APR 17	NEFMC – Council modifies 2018 priorities
MAY	PDT work on 2018 priorities
JUN	Committee / PDT develop alternatives
JUN 12-14	NEFMC – Council receives information on development of management measures
JUN	Scallop benchmark assessment
JUL-SEP	Committee / PDT develop alternatives
SEP 26-28	NEFMC – Council receives information on the development of FW30
OCT 10	SSC recommends ABC for FY18 and FY19
OCT-NOV	Committee and PDT complete documents
DEC 4-6	NEFMC – Council takes final action
DEC-JAN	Council staff submits decision draft completes pre-submission
2019	
JAN	NMFS publishes proposed rule
JAN	EA reviewed by NMFS
FEB	Staff completes final submission for NMFS review and approval
MAR	NMFS publishes final rule
APR 1	Target Implementation

2. Framework 30 with LAGC IFQ Trip Limit Alternatives

Scope: 2019 scallop specifications, 2020 default specifications, standard default measures, LAGC IFQ trip limits. (note: depending on the range of IFQ trip limits, the Council may wish to consider modifying the industry-funded observer program to allow for more than one day of reimbursement)

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Jonathon Peros

2018	
APR 17	NEFMC – Council modifies 2018 priorities
MAY	PDT work on 2018 priorities
JUN	Committee / PDT develop alternatives
JUN 12-14	NEFMC – Council receives information on development of management measures
JUN	Scallop benchmark assessment
JUL-SEP	Committee / PDT develop alternatives
SEP 26-28	NEFMC – Council receives information on the development of FW30
OCT 10	SSC recommends ABC for FY18 and FY19
OCT-NOV	Committee and PDT complete documents
DEC 4-6	NEFMC – Council takes final action
2019	
JAN	Council staff finalizes preliminary EA
FEB	EA reviewed by NMFS
FEB	Staff completes final submission for NMFS review and approval
MAR	NMFS publishes proposed rule – 30 Day Comment Period
APR	Final Rule Prepared and Submitted to HQ, Published
May 1	Target Implementation

Groundfish

1. Framework 58 FY 2019 specifications, rebuilding and management measures

Scope: 1) set specifications for FY2019 for US/Canada stocks Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder), 2) revise/establish rebuilding plans for ocean pout, GB winter flounder, witch flounder, Gulf of Maine/GB Northern windowpane flounder, and Southern New England /Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder), 3) exempt vessels fishing in NAFO waters from Northeast Multispecies FMP commercial minimum fish sizes, and 4) provide additional guidance on sector overages.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Jamie Cournane

2018	
MAR-JUN	Committee/AP/PDT preliminary discussion and analysis
JUN 12-14	NEFMC – Council initiates framework
JUL 10-12	TRAC assessments for US/CA stocks including EGB Cod, EGB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder
JUL-AUG	PDT develops options for the SSC to consider for OFLs/ABCs for GB yellowtail flounder and rebuilding plan options for SSC feedback
AUG 15	SSC recommends ABC for GB yellowtail flounder and provides feedback on rebuilding plan options
SEP 11-13	TMGC/SC recommends TACs for US/CA stocks
JUL-SEP	Committee/AP/PDT develop alternatives and analysis
SEP 24-27	NEFMC – Receives an update on the development of the action, approve range of alternatives, including TACs for US/CA stocks
OCT-DEC	Committee/AP/PDT refine alternatives and complete impact analysis
DEC 4-6	NEFMC – Council takes final action/approves framework
DEC-JAN	PDT completes submission document
2019	
JAN	Preliminary submission
FEB	Final submission of framework document to NMFS
MAY 1	Implementation

2. Amendment 23 Groundfish Monitoring

Scope: Consider changes to the groundfish monitoring and reporting system to ensure it is providing accurate catch information necessary to manage the fishery efficiently

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Jamie Cournane/Robin Frede

2017	
MAR-APR	Council holds scoping hearings
APR-MAY	Groundfish Committee/PDT review scoping comments
MAY	AP develops recommendations
JUN	Council receives scoping comments; discusses purpose/need and range of alternatives
JUL-SEP	Committee/PDT develop alternatives and analyses
SEP	Council receives progress report
OCT-NOV	Committee/AP/PDT continue to develop alternatives and analyses
2018	
JAN	Council receives progress report
FEB-APR	PDT develops analyses and no action alternatives
APR	Council receives progress report, no action alternatives
APR-JUN	Fishery Data for Stock Assessment Working Group forms, meets to discuss objective of how fishery dependent data can be used to inform stock abundance
APR-MAY	PDT provides analyses for development of alternatives
MAY-JUN	Committee/AP receive PDT analyses, recommend initial alternatives for development
JUN	Council receives progress report
JUN-SEP	PDT develops alternatives and analyses
JUN-SEP	Fishery Data Working Group develops report to address objectives
SEP	Committee/AP review progress on developing alternatives, recommend additional alternatives for development
SEP	Council receives progress report
OCT-NOV	Fishery Data Working Group forms recommendations, completes draft report
OCT-NOV	Committee/AP/PDT continue to develop alternatives and analyses
NOV	SSC review of Fishery Data Working Group draft report and PDT analyses (tentative)
DEC	Council receives progress report ; final report from Fishery Data Working Group; SSC provides report on review of Fishery Data Working Group and PDT analyses
DEC	Committee/AP/PDT continue to develop alternatives and analyses
2019	
JAN	Council approves range of alternatives
2020	

TBD	Submission
TBD	Target Implementation

Herring

1. Amendment 8 – ABC control rule / localized depletion

Scope: Account for the role of Atlantic herring within the ecosystem including its role as forage (via the ABC control rule) and to address localized depletion in inshore waters.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGERS: Deirdre Boelke/Rachel Feeney

2015	
JAN	NEFMC - review action plan and approve scoping document
FEB-APR	NOI for developing an EIS is published – Scoping period
JUN	NEFMC - Review EBFM Report and A8 scoping comments; revise goals and objectives; recommends peer review of Management Strategy Evaluation
AUG-SEP	Supplemental scoping period regarding expanded scope of A8 (localized depletion)
DEC	Herring PDT reviews scoping comments, discusses technical analyses to support A8
2016	
JAN	NEFMC - Review scoping comments, approve MSE approach to developing ABC control rule alternatives
FEB-APR	Herring PDT, AP, Committee work to develop background information and alternatives regarding localized depletion. Planning for MSE workshop.
MAY	Public workshop on MSE.
JUN	NEFMC – approve range of ABC control rule objectives, performance metrics and control rules to be evaluated. Continue development of localized depletion alternatives.
JUL - DEC	MSE and localized depletion-related work continues
2017	
JAN	NEFMC – Discuss range of alternatives for MSE control rule alternatives only
MAR	Independent peer review of MSE analysis
APR	NEFMC – Approve range of alternatives for Draft EIS
MAY- SEP	Impacts analysis
SEP	NEFMC – Select preferred alternatives for ABC control rule
DEC	NEFMC - Review/approve Draft EIS for public hearings, select preferred alternatives for localized depletion measures
2018	
JAN 29	Staff completes draft DEIS submission
JAN-MAR	NMFS review of DEIS
APR	Final submission of DEIS to NMFS
MAY 1	NMFS publishes DEIS
MAY-JUN	Public comment period and public hearings
JUL-SEP	Committee and AP meetings
SEP	NEFMC – Review public comments, select final preferred alternatives
TBD	Preliminary submission of amendment document including EIS
TBD	Final submission of amendment document including EIS
2019	
TBD	Implementation

2. *Herring Specifications for 2019-2021

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Deirdre Boelke

2018	
JUN 20-22	Council initiates action
JUN	Herring benchmark assessment
SEP 26-28	Council – receives presentation on herring benchmark assessment and possible request for NMFS in-season action for 2019
OCT	SSC recommends ABCs for 2019 - 2021
OCT-NOV	Herring PDT develops analyses of sub-ACL options, specs, and river herring/shad catch cap options
NOV	Herring Committee - develop recommendations for final 2019-2021 herring fishery specifications package
DEC 2-4	Council considers alternatives to include in new specifications for 2020 and 2021
2019	
TBD	Preliminary submission of 2020-2021 Atlantic herring fishery specifications package
TBD	NEFMC staff receives NMFS' comments and makes revisions to specifications package
TBD	Final submission of 2019-2021 Atlantic herring fishery specifications
TBD	NMFS publishes proposed rule for 2019-2021 Atlantic herring fishery specifications
TBD	NMFS publishes final rule
TBD	Target Implementation

* Timeline depends on possible in-season action by NMFS to set specifications for 2019

Whiting (Small-mesh Multispecies)

1. Amendment 22 – Limited Access

Scope: Develop Limited access program for the Small Mesh Multispecies FMP, which includes whiting, red hake and offshore hake. (A control date for this action was published on November 28, 2012)

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Andrew Applegate

2015	
MAY-AUG	Draft scoping document
AUG-SEP	Whiting PDT finalizes annual monitoring report with management advice
SEP 29-OCT 1	NEFMC - approve scoping document for Amendment 22; receive annual monitoring report; decide whether additional whiting management action is needed
DEC -JAN	Staff conducts scoping hearings and summarizes comments
2016	
JAN 26-28	NEFMC - review scoping comments and approve scope of amendment
FEB-NOV	Whiting Committee/AP develop range of alternatives
MAR-SEP	PDT prepares preliminary analysis of alternatives and potential effects; committee and advisory panel identify range of qualification criteria alternatives
NOV	NEFMC - Committee report on limited access qualification criteria alternatives
2017	
APR	NEFMC – Approve range of alternatives for DEIS analysis
MAR-MAY	Whiting PDT analyzes range of alternatives and develops Draft EIS
MAY-AUG	Whiting AP/Committee review Draft amendment /DEIS, recommend preferred alternatives
SEP	NEFMC - Review draft amendment and select preferred alternatives
OCT-NOV	Staff works with PDT to finalize analyses and complete draft document
DEC	NEFMC – Approve range of alternatives for DEIS analysis
2018	
JAN	Submit draft Amendment 22 document for preliminary review
FEB-APR	Preliminary GARFO review
MAY	Revise and submit final Draft Amendment 22
JUN-JUL	NEPA comment period begins; Staff conducts public hearings & summarizes comments
JUL-AUG	PDT and Advisory panel make recommendations; Committee considers choosing final preferred alternatives
SEP	NEFMC – receives update on amendment and summary of public comments
OCT-NOV	Public comment period to allow for comments on clarification of analysis of number of qualifying vessels under limited access alternatives
OCT-NOV	Committee /AP consider public comments in developing any final recommendations
DEC	NEFMC – Review public comments, committee recommendations and select final measures to submit for review and approval
2019	
JAN	PDT revises analyses if needed; Staff revises Amendment 22 document
FEB	Amendment 22 Final submission
TBD	NMFS review and approval of final Amendment 22
TBD	Publish proposed rule

TBD	Qualify vessels and hear appeals
TBD	Publish final rule
MAY	Target Implementation

2. *Southern Red Hake Rebuilding Plan; Title of action - TBD

Scope: Measures to address the overfished status of southern red hake and begin stock rebuilding.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Andrew Applegate

2018	
DEC	NEFMC – Council initiates action
DEC-JAN	Joint PDT and Advisors recommend types of measures that may be required
JAN-FEB	Committee / PDT develop alternatives
2019	
APR 16-18	NEFMC – receives information on development of management measures (Framework meeting 1?)
MAY-JUL	Develop and analyze potential alternatives
SEP ???	NEFMC – chooses range of alternatives for action (Framework meeting 2?)
OCT-NOV	Staff and PDT develops action
DEC	GARFO reviews action and provides comments
2020	
JAN ???	NEFMC – Council approves final action
FEB-MAR	Council staff submits decision draft completes pre-submission
APR	NMFS publishes proposed rule
MAY	EA reviewed by NMFS
JUN	Staff completes final submission for NMFS review and approval
AUG	NMFS publishes final rule
SEP 2020 to MAY 2021	Target Implementation

* Preliminary timeline

Habitat

1. Habitat - Clam Dredge Exemption Framework

Scope: Identify possible exemption areas for hydraulic clam dredges within two management areas proposed in Omnibus EFH Amendment 2

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Michelle Bachman

2015	
SEPT 29-OCT 1	NEFMC – Initiates framework
NOV 23	Habitat PDT meeting
DEC 1-3	NEFMC – Identifies as 2016 priority
2016	
MAR, AUG	Habitat Committee meetings – PDT update
NOV-DEC	PDT work
2017	
JAN, SEP	Council updates
OCT	Notice of availability for OHA2
JUL-DEC	PDT work on data to support framework
2018	
JAN	Decision date for OHA2
FEB-MAR	Continued PDT work
APR-9	OHA2 implementation (starts one-year clock on exemption from habitat closure)
MAR-MAY	PDT, AP, Committee develop alternatives
SEP	Council selects range of alternatives for analysis in clam framework
OCT-NOV	Draft framework document/EA, Committee identifies preferred alternatives
DEC	Council takes final action on framework
2019	
FEB	Staff submits framework
TBD	Implementation

2. Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment

Scope: Designate deep-sea coral protection zones in the Gulf of Maine, continental slope and canyons, and New England seamounts, and develop fishing restrictions to protect corals within those zones.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Michelle Bachman

2008-2013	
FEB 2008	Council directed PDT to evaluate information related to deep-sea corals and develop alternatives for deep-sea coral protection
2010-2012	Committee and PDT develop alternatives
APR 2012	Council approves range of alternatives for analysis
AUG 2012	Notice of intent to split habitat amendment
SEP 2012	Council splits coral alternatives from Omnibus Habitat Amendment 2
JUN 2013	Council approves MOU to coordinate with MAFMC and SAFMC on coral protection
2015	
JUN	Council approves remaining aspects of OHA2
DEC	Council identifies coral amendment as 2016 priority
DEC 4 & 15	Habitat PDT meetings
2016	
MAR	Habitat Committee meeting
AUG-FEB 2017	PDT analysis, development of draft EA
SEP	Council receives update
NOV	Council reviews preliminary impacts analysis; refines range of alternatives
2017	
MAR	Develop EA, Advisory Panel review, additional Committee work, workshop
APR	Council finalizes range of alternatives including final zone boundaries, prior to hearings, selects preferred alternatives
MAY-JUN	Public hearings
JUN	Final action postponed for Council to consider new alternative
JUL 2017 - JAN 2018	PDT/Committee work to further analyze/consider new alternative for continental slope/canyons
SEP & DEC	Council receives Updates on work to further analyze/consider new alternative for continental slope/canyons
2018	
JAN	Council takes final action
SEP -OCT	Submission of Deep-Sea Coral Amendment and draft EA
2019	
TBD	Implementation (assuming 7 months for review and rulemaking)

Skates

1. Framework 6

Scope: Adjust measures so the wing fishery remains open as long as possible

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Fiona Hogan

2018	
JAN	Council initiates framework/specifications
JAN-MAR	Committee & PDT develop & analyze alternatives
JUN	Council approves framework
JUL	Preliminary submission of framework/specifications document to NMFS
SEP/OCT	Final submission of framework/specifications document to NMFS
TBD	Implementation

2. Amendment 5 – Limited Access for Skate FMP

Scope: Develop Limited access program for the Skate FMP

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Fiona Hogan

2016	
NOV	Council approves scoping document
2017	
JAN-FEB	Scoping hearings
APR	Council reviews scoping comments
MAY-NOV	Committee/PDT develop alternatives and preliminary analyses
2018	
SEP	Council receives progress report
TBD	Council approves range of alternatives for analysis in draft EIS
TBD	PDT completes DEIS
TBD	Council approves draft EIS for public review
TBD	Public hearings
TBD	Council takes final action
TBD	Implementation

Industry-funded Monitoring Amendment

Scope: Develop an industry-funded monitoring program to meeting monitoring objectives for all FMPs.

PROJECT MANAGERS:

Fiona Hogan– NEFMC Staff

Carly Bari/Carrie Nordeen - GARFO FMAT

2013	
FEB	FMAT begins work on action
NOV	NMFS provides NEFMC guidance on type of action required and possible funding mechanisms
2015	
JAN / FEB	Councils approve draft coverage target range of alternatives of alternatives to be analyzed
FEB–OCT ¹ .	PDT/FMAT/Councils develop alternatives, draft EA
APR 2 ² .	Councils approve additional alternatives for inclusion in an Environmental Assessment
2016	
JAN ³ JUN	Councils approve draft EA for public review
OCT-NOV	Public hearing(s)
DEC	MAFMC postponed final action
2017	
JAN	NEFMC considers final action and selects several alternatives
APR	NEFMC final vote to submit preferred alternative
2018	
JAN	NEFMC receives monitoring service provider presentation
FEB	NMFS conducts internal review of EM pilot project
FEB	Proposed rule published
APR	NEFMC reviews final EM pilot project report, and considers whether EM/Portside is an adequate substitute for ASM for MWT
SEP/OCT???	Proposed rule published/EFP drafting begins
OCT	MAFMC reviews final EM pilot project report
DEC???	Final rule published
2019	
JAN???	Omnibus and Herring measures effective

1. New timeline proposed by NMFS in response to comments at NEFMC and MAFMC meeting that the public and Councils would like more opportunity to provide input and consider the implications of the action.
2. Council added portside sampling alternative required additional analysis.
3. Delayed because Council added monitoring set-aside option to the IFM Amendment at its Sept-Oct 2015 meeting. The MAFMC tasked the PDT/FMAT with continuing to refine cost assumptions and economic analysis of mackerel coverage target alternatives.

Ecosystems Based Fishery Management

Scope: Phase II – Develop worked example of integrated Example Fishery Ecosystem Plan for Georges Bank.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Andrew Applegate

2017	
JAN	NEFMC - Georges Bank Example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP) - Committee progress report
FEB – MAY	Committee and PDT continue work on examples of GB Ecosystem Production Unit (EPU) operating models and draft ecosystem forage fish mgt. policy
SEP	NEFMC - Georges Bank Example Fishery Ecosystem Plan – report on quantitative worked examples of GB EPU operating models and harvest control rules
TBD	PDT develops MSE work plan
2018	
JAN	DELAYED – Center for Independent Experts (CIE) peer review of EBFM catch framework and application of operating models
APR 30-MAY 4	Center for Independent Experts (CIE) peer review of EBFM catch framework and application of operating models
JUN	EBFM Committee develops course of action to further development of eFEP
SEP	NEFMC – Council receives summary of CIE review
SEP 2018 – APR 2019	PDT fleshes out remaining details of eFEP framework; NEFSC and others continue operating model development, incorporating CIE recommendations
2019	
JAN-FEB	Secure MSE steering panel membership and begin planning, using the eFEP template and available draft discussion documents
APR	Council receives complete eFEP framework and steering committee recommendations for an MSE process
APR-MAY	Council contracts with experts to conduct MSE facilitator
JUN- TBD	Council conducts MSE meetings and analysis
TBD	Council receives MSE report and determines whether and how to proceed with an actual Fishery Ecosystem Plan