

**New England Fishery Management Council Timelines**  
**September 10, 2019**

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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 32

**Scope:** 2020 scallop specifications, 2021 default specifications, GB yellowtail mitigation measures

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Jonathon Peros

2019	
<b>JUN 11-13</b>	<b>NEFMC – Initiate Framework 32</b>
JUL-SEP	Committee / AP / PDT develop alternatives
<b>SEP 24-26</b>	<b>NEFMC – Council receives update on the development of FW32</b>
OCT	SSC recommends ABC for FY2020 and FY2021
OCT-NOV	Committee and PDT complete documents
<b>DEC 3-5</b>	<b>NEFMC – Council takes final action</b>
DEC-JAN	Council staff submits decision draft completes pre-submission
2020	
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. Scallop Amendment 21**

Scope: Consider changes to management of the Northern Gulf of Maine area and LAGC IFQ possession limits.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Jonathon Peros

<b>2019</b>	
<b>JAN</b>	<b>NEFMC - review action plan and approve scoping document</b>
FEB-APR	NOI for developing an EIS is published – Scoping period
<b>JUN</b>	<b>NEFMC - Review Amendment 21 scoping comments; develop goals and objectives;</b>
JULY-DEC	Scallop PDT, AP, Committee work to develop background information and alternatives regarding Northern Gulf of Maine and LAGC IFQ possession limits. Scallop PDT reviews scoping comments, discusses technical analyses to support A21.
<b>2020</b>	
<b>JAN</b>	<b>NEFMC – Approve range of alternatives for Draft EIS</b>
JAN-MAR	PDT completes Impact Analyses
<b>APR</b>	<b>NEFMC - Review/approve Draft EIS for public hearings, select preferred alternatives for NGOM and LAGC IFQ possession limits</b>
MAY	Staff completes draft DEIS submission
JUN-AUG	NMFS review of DEIS
AUG	Final submission of DEIS to NMFS
SEP	NMFS publishes DEIS
SEP-DEC	Public comment period and public hearings
<b>2021</b>	
JAN	Committee and AP meetings
<b>JAN</b>	<b>NEFMC – Review public comments, select final preferred alternatives</b>
FEB	Preliminary submission of amendment document including EIS
MAR	Final submission of amendment document including EIS
APR	Implementation – Start of FY 2021?

# Groundfish

## 1 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 MANAGERS: Jamie Cournane/Robin Frede

2017	
MAR-APR	Council holds scoping hearings
APR-MAY	Groundfish Committee/PDT review scoping comments
MAY	AP develops recommendations
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Council receives scoping comments; discusses purpose/need and range of alternatives</b>
JUL-SEP	Committee/PDT develop alternatives and analyses
<b>SEP</b>	<b>Council receives progress report</b>
OCT-NOV	Committee/AP/PDT continue to develop alternatives and analyses
2018	
<b>JAN</b>	<b>Council receives progress report</b>
FEB-APR	PDT develops analyses and no action alternatives
<b>APR</b>	<b>Council receives progress report, no action alternatives</b>
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
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Council receives progress report</b>
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
<b>SEP</b>	<b>Council receives progress report</b>
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
<b>DEC</b>	<b>Council receives progress report</b>
DEC	Committee/AP/PDT continue to develop alternatives and analyses
2019	

<b>JAN</b>	<b>Council receives final report from Fishery Data Working Group; SSC sub-panel provides report on review of Fishery Data Working Group</b>
FEB –APR	Committee, AP and PDT continue to develop alternatives and analyses
<b>APR</b>	<b>Council approves range of alternatives for further development</b>
APR	SSC sub-panel reviews PDT analytical approach to monitoring issues
MAY	Joint Committee/AP/PDT meeting to discuss and consider the SSC sub-panel review recommendations, continue to develop revisions to the draft alternatives
MAY	Committee, AP and PDT continue to develop alternatives and analyses
<b>JUN</b>	<b>SSC sub-panel provides report on review of PDT analyses; Council approves range of alternatives for analysis</b>
JUN-SEP	PDT completes the DEIS
<b>SEP</b>	<b>Council approves DEIS for public comment period/hearings, selects preferred alternatives</b>
SEP-OCT	PDT revises and submits the DEIS to NMFS
DEC-JAN	Public hearings and comment period
<b>2020</b>	
<b>JAN</b>	<b>Council takes final action</b>
FEB	Staff finalizes EIS
MAR	Preliminary submission
MAY	Final submission
<b>2021</b>	
MAY 2021	Target Implementation

**2 Framework 59 - 2020-2022 specifications for groundfish stocks**

- Set 2020 total allowable catches for US/Canada management units of Eastern Georges Bank cod and Eastern GB haddock, and 2020-2021 specifications for the GB yellowtail flounder stock
- Set 2020-2022 specifications for 15 other groundfish stocks\*
- Address commercial/recreational allocation issues if raised by new Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) data
- Revise the GB cod Incidental Catch TAC and remove the allocation to the Closed Area I Hook Gear Haddock Special Access Program

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Jamie Cournane

2019	
JUN	<b>NEFMC – Council initiates framework</b>
JUL	TRAC assessments for US/CA management units of EGB cod and EGB haddock, and the GB yellowtail flounder stock
AUG	SSC recommends ABC for GB yellowtail flounder
SEP	TMGC recommends TACs for US/CA management units/stock
SEP	Management track assessments for 14 groundfish stocks, including consideration of revised MRIP data for stocks with recreational catches. 4 stocks are Level 1, 9 stocks are Level 2, and 1 stock is Level 3.
SEP	<b>NEFMC – Council reviews progress on setting specifications for groundfish stocks, the three U.S./Canada management units/stock for 2020 and reviews draft alternatives for adjustments to allocations</b>
OCT	SSC recommends ABCs for 14 groundfish stocks
DEC	<b>NEFMC – Council receives draft alternatives for specifications and adjustments to allocations and takes final action/approves the framework for submission to NMFS</b>
2020	
JAN	Final submission of framework document to NMFS
MAY 1	Implementation

\* 1) GB cod; 2) Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod; 3) GB haddock; 4) GOM haddock; 5) GB yellowtail flounder; 6) Cape Cod/GOM yellowtail flounder; 7) Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder; 8) GB winter flounder; 9) American plaice; 10) witch flounder; 11) pollock; 12) white hake; 13) Atlantic halibut; 14) Northern windowpane flounder; and 15) Southern windowpane flounder

# 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 MANAGER: Deirdre Boelke

2015	
JAN	<b>NEFMC - review action plan and approve scoping document</b>
FEB-APR	NOI for developing an EIS is published – Scoping period
JUN	<b>NEFMC - Review EBFM Report and A8 scoping comments; revise goals and objectives; recommends peer review of Management Strategy Evaluation</b>
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	<b>NEFMC - Review scoping comments, approve MSE approach to developing ABC control rule alternatives</b>
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	<b>NEFMC – approve range of ABC control rule objectives, performance metrics and control rules to be evaluated. Continue development of localized depletion alternatives.</b>
JUL - DEC	MSE and localized depletion-related work continues
2017	
JAN	<b>NEFMC – Discuss range of alternatives for MSE control rule alternatives only</b>
MAR	Independent peer review of MSE analysis
APR	<b>NEFMC – Approve range of alternatives for Draft EIS</b>
MAY- SEP	Impacts analysis
SEP	<b>NEFMC – Select preferred alternatives for ABC control rule</b>
DEC	<b>NEFMC - Review/approve Draft EIS for public hearings, select preferred alternatives for localized depletion measures</b>
2018	
JAN 29	Staff completes draft DEIS submission
JAN-MAR	NMFS review of DEIS
APR	Final submission of DEIS to NMFS
<b>MAY 1</b>	<b>NMFS publishes DEIS</b>
MAY-JUN	Public comment period and public hearings
JUL-SEP	Committee and AP meetings
SEP	<b>NEFMC – Review public comments, select final preferred alternatives</b>
2019	
JAN 29 ✓	Preliminary submission of amendment document including draft FEIS
APR 19 ✓	Staff receives comments on submission from GARFO
MAY 13 ✓	Final submission of amendment document including draft FEIS
TBD	Implementation



## 2. Framework 6 - Specifications for 2019-2021

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Deirdre Boelke

<b>2019</b>	
<b>JAN</b>	<b>Council receives update from NMFS on 2019 specifications</b>
JAN-FEB	NMFS publishes proposed rule for 2019 specifications
<b>APR</b>	<b>Council approves range of alternatives for 2019 and 2020 specifications and revised OFL and ABC recommendations</b>
APR-MAY	Committee and PDT develop action
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Council takes final action</b>
JUL	Preliminary submission of 2020-2021 Atlantic herring fishery specifications package
<del>AUG</del> SEP	NEFMC staff receives NMFS' comments and makes revisions to specifications package
<del>SEP</del> OCT	Final submission of 2019-2021 Atlantic herring fishery specifications
OCT	NMFS publishes proposed rule for 2019-2020 Atlantic herring fishery specifications
DEC	NMFS publishes final rule
<b>2020</b>	
JAN 1	Target Implementation

\* Timeline depends on in-season action by NMFS to set specifications for 2019 and implementation of Amendment 8

## Whiting (Small-mesh Multispecies)

1. \*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

2019 -2020	
MAR-JUN	Committee / PDT develop alternatives and bycatch analysis
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Council receives bycatch analysis</b>
JUL	Annual monitoring report completed
<b>SEP</b>	<b>Council receives annual monitoring report / initiates action</b>
TBD	Staff and PDT develops action
<b>DEC</b>	<b>Council approves final action</b>
TBD	Staff completes preliminary submission
TBD	Target Implementation

\* Preliminary timeline

# Monkfish

## 2. Framework 11 - 2020-2022 Specifications

OBJECTIVE: The actions modifies the specifications for monkfish

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Fiona Hogan

2019	
<b>JUN</b>	<b>NEFMC – Council initiates framework</b>
JUL - SEP	Operational assessment reviewed
AUG - SEP	SSC develops ABC recommendations for fishing years 2020-2022
SEP	Committee develops management alternatives
<b>SEP</b>	<b>NEFMC – Council approves framework</b>
<b>OCT</b>	<b>MAFMC approves framework</b>
2020	
JAN	Council deems proposed rule
JAN	Preliminary submission of document
FEB	NMFS comments on preliminary submission
MAR	Final submission of framework to NMFS
MAY	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	
<b>SEPT 29-OCT 1</b>	<b>NEFMC – Initiates framework</b>
NOV 23	Habitat PDT meeting
<b>DEC 1-3</b>	<b>NEFMC – Identifies as 2016 priority</b>
2016	
MAR, AUG	Habitat Committee meetings – PDT update
NOV-DEC	PDT work
2017	
<b>JAN, SEP</b>	<b>Council updates</b>
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
<b>SEP</b>	<b>Council selects range of alternatives for analysis in clam framework</b>
OCT-NOV	Draft framework document/EA, Committee identifies preferred alternatives
<b>DEC</b>	<b>Council takes final action on framework</b>
2019	
FEB 28 ✓	Preliminary submission of Framework for review
APR JUN ✓	Staff receives comments on preliminary submission from GARFO
<del>JUN</del> -JUL ✓	Final submission
TBD	Implementation

- Document review delayed due to federal government shutdown

## 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

<b>2008-2013</b>	
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
<b>APR 2012</b>	<b>Council approves range of alternatives for analysis</b>
AUG 2012	Notice of intent to split habitat amendment
<b>SEP 2012</b>	<b>Council splits coral alternatives from Omnibus Habitat Amendment 2</b>
<b>JUN 2013</b>	<b>Council approves MOU to coordinate with MAFMC and SAFMC on coral protection</b>
<b>2015</b>	
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Council approves remaining aspects of OHA2</b>
<b>DEC</b>	<b>Council identifies coral amendment as 2016 priority</b>
DEC 4 & 15	Habitat PDT meetings
<b>2016</b>	
MAR	Habitat Committee meeting
AUG-FEB 2017	PDT analysis, development of draft EA
<b>SEP</b>	<b>Council receives update</b>
<b>NOV</b>	<b>Council reviews preliminary impacts analysis; refines range of alternatives</b>
<b>2017</b>	
MAR	Develop EA, Advisory Panel review, additional Committee work, workshop
<b>APR</b>	<b>Council finalizes range of alternatives including final zone boundaries, prior to hearings, selects preferred alternatives</b>
MAY-JUN	Public hearings
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Final action postponed for Council to consider new alternative</b>
JUL 2017 - JAN 2018	PDT/Committee work to further analyze/consider new alternative for continental slope/canyons
<b>SEP &amp; DEC</b>	<b>Council receives Updates on work to further analyze/consider new alternative for continental slope/canyons</b>
<b>2018</b>	
<b>JAN</b>	<b>Council takes final action</b>
DEC 21 ✓	Preliminary submission of Deep-Sea Coral Amendment and draft EA
<b>2019</b>	
<del>APR</del> MAY ✓	Staff receives comments on preliminary submission from GARFO
JUN ✓	Final submission
TBD	Implementation

## Skates

### 1. Framework 7

**Scope:** Skate specifications for FYs 2020 & 2021

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Fiona Hogan

2019	
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Council initiates framework/specifications</b>
AUG	Operational assessment reviewed
AUG	SSC develops ABC recommendations for fishing years 2020 & 2021
SEP	Committee develops management alternatives
<b>SEP</b>	<b>Council approves framework</b>
DEC/JAN	Preliminary submission of framework/specifications document to NMFS
2020	
FEB	Staff receives comments on preliminary submission
FEB/MAR	Final submission of framework/specifications document to NMFS
MAY	Implementation

### 2. Amendment 5 – Limited Access for Skate FMP

**Scope:** Develop Limited access program for the Skate FMP

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Fiona Hogan

2016	
<b>NOV</b>	<b>Council approves scoping document</b>
2017	
JAN-FEB	Scoping hearings
<b>APR</b>	<b>Council reviews scoping comments</b>
2018	
MAY-NOV	Committee/PDT develop alternatives and preliminary analyses
2019	
MAR-MAY	Committee/PDT continue to develop alternatives and preliminary analyses
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Council receives progress report</b>
<b>TBD</b>	<b>Council approves range of alternatives for analysis in draft EIS</b>
TBD	PDT completes DEIS
<b>TBD</b>	<b>Council approves draft EIS for public review</b>
TBD	Public hearings
<b>TBD</b>	<b>Council takes final action</b>
TBD	Implementation

## Deep-sea Red Crab

### 1. Fishing Year 2020-2023 Specifications

**Scope:** Set specifications for the Red Crab FMP for fishing years 2020-2023

**STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:** Jessica Joyce (contractor)

<b>2019</b>	
MAR- JUL	PDT reviews data from the red crab fishery
AUG	SSC develops ABC recommendation for FY 2020-2023
<b>SEP</b>	<b>NEFMC – Council approves specifications</b>
OCT	Preliminary submission of document
NOV	NMFS comments on preliminary submission
DEC	Council deems proposed rule
<b>2020</b>	
JAN	Final submission of specifications to NMFS
MAR	Target implementation

# EVTR for Commercial Vessels

## 1. Framework Adjustment - (eVTRs) for commercial vessels

**Scope:** Require electronic reporting of vessel trip reports (VTRs) for vessels with permits under New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council FMPs

PROJECT MANAGERS: Sam Asci – NEFMC  
 Karson Coutre - MAFMC

<b>2018</b>	
DEC 2018	Initiation
<b>2019</b>	
DEC 2018	Initiation
JAN-FEB	Formation of FMAT
MAR	FMAT to develop initial draft alternatives/discuss analyses
MAR	Joint AP meeting
<b>APR</b>	<b>MAFMC Council meeting—Framework meeting 1</b>
<b>APR</b>	<b>NEFMC Council meeting—update to NEFMC</b>
MAY	Follow up FMAT meeting
<b>JUN</b>	<b>NEFMC Council meeting—initiate Framework action</b>
JUL	AP/industry webinar
<b>SEP</b>	<b>NEFMC Council meeting—Framework meeting 1</b>
TBD	FMAT meeting
<b>DEC</b>	<b>MAFMC - Final action</b>
<b>2020</b>	
<b>JAN</b>	<b>NEFMC - Final action</b>



## Industry-funded Monitoring Amendment

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

PROJECT MANAGERS:

Fiona Hogan– NEFMC Staff  
Carrie Nordeen - GARFO FMAT

<b>2013</b>	
FEB	FMAT begins work on action
NOV	NMFS provides NEFMC guidance on type of action required and possible funding mechanisms
<b>2015</b>	
<b>JAN / FEB</b>	<b>Councils approve draft coverage target range of alternatives of alternatives to be analyzed</b>
FEB–OCT <sup>1.</sup>	PDT/FMAT/Councils develop alternatives, draft EA
<b>APR 2 <sup>2.</sup></b>	<b>Councils approve additional alternatives for inclusion in an Environmental Assessment</b>
<b>2016</b>	
<del>JAN</del> <sup>3.</sup> JUN	<b>Councils approve draft EA for public review</b>
OCT-NOV	Public hearing(s)
<b>DEC</b>	<b>MAFMC postponed final action</b>
<b>2017</b>	
<b>JAN</b>	<b>NEFMC considers final action and selects several alternatives</b>
<b>APR</b>	<b>NEFMC final vote to submit preferred alternative</b>
<b>2018</b>	
<b>JAN</b>	<b>NEFMC receives monitoring service provider presentation</b>
FEB	NMFS conducts internal review of EM pilot project
FEB	Proposed rule published
<b>APR</b>	<b>NEFMC reviews final EM pilot project report, and considers whether EM/Portside is an adequate substitute for ASM for MWT</b>
NOV-7	Proposed rule published/EFP drafting begins
DEC-18	NMFS approves amendment
<b>2019</b>	
TBD	Final rule published
TBD	Implementation - Omnibus and Herring measures effective

## Ecosystems Based Fishery Management

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

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Andrew Applegate

<b>2017</b>	
<b>JAN</b>	<b>NEFMC - Georges Bank Example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP) - Committee progress report</b>
FEB – MAY	Committee and PDT continue work on examples of GB Ecosystem Production Unit (EPU) operating models and draft ecosystem forage fish mgt. policy
<b>SEP</b>	<b>NEFMC - Georges Bank Example Fishery Ecosystem Plan – report on quantitative worked examples of GB EPU operating models and harvest control rules</b>
TBD	PDT develops MSE work plan
<b>2018</b>	
JAN	<b>DELAYED</b> – 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
<b>SEP</b>	<b>NEFMC – Council receives summary of CIE review</b>
SEP 2018 – APR 2019	PDT fleshes out remaining details of eFEP framework; NEFSC and others continue operating model development, incorporating CIE recommendations
<b>2019</b>	
<b>JAN</b>	<b>Council receives progress report on eFEP issues; adopts plan for future development possibly including an MSE process.</b>
JUN	Secure MSE steering panel membership and begin planning, using the eFEP template and available draft discussion documents; retrospective analysis of herring MSE
JUL-AUG	Council contracts with experts to conduct MSE facilitator
<b>SEP</b>	<b>Council receives complete eFEP framework; MSE Steering Committee progress report</b>
<b>DEC</b>	<b>MSE Steering Committee makes recommendations for an MSE process to evaluate Georges Bank Ecosystem Production Unit management procedures, including stakeholder engagement.</b>
<b>2020</b>	
MAR–JUN	Council conducts MSE meetings and analysis
JUN-DEC	Create ecosystem diagrams and refine operating models (NEFSC)
DEC	SSC review of ecosystem diagrams and refine operating models
OCT-MAR 2021	Analyze Management Strategies (NEFSC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present initial strategies at workshops</li> <li>• Identify most viable strategies (MSE)</li> <li>• Present final results to SSC</li> <li>• Present MSE results to the Council</li> </ul>
<b>2021</b>	
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Council receives MSE report and determines whether and how to proceed with an actual Fishery Ecosystem Plan</b>