

New England Fishery Management Council Timelines

November 16, 2020

BACKGROUND.....	2
SCALLOPS.....	3
1. SCALLOP AMENDMENT 21 WITH SEPTEMBER FINAL ACTION.....	3
2. FRAMEWORK 33 WITH JANUARY 2020 FINAL ACTION.....	3
GROUND FISH.....	5
1. AMENDMENT 23 GROUND FISH MONITORING	5
2. FRAMEWORK 61 - 2021-2023 SPECIFICATIONS/MANAGEMENT MEASURES	7
HERRING.....	8
1. AMENDMENT 8 – ABC CONTROL RULE / LOCALIZED DEPLETION.....	8
2. FRAMEWORK 7 – SPAWNING PROTECTION FOR HERRING ON GEORGES BANK...9	
3. FRAMEWORK 8 – HERRING SPECIFICATIONS 2021-2023 & MACKEREL OY ISSUE.9	
WHITING (SMALL-MESH MULTISPECIES)	10
1. FRAMEWORK 62 - SOUTHERN RED HAKE REBUILDING PLAN	10
2. SPECIFICATIONS FOR FISHING YEARS 2021-2023*	11
HABITAT	13
1. OMNIBUS DEEP-SEA CORAL AMENDMENT	13
SKATES.....	14
1. AMENDMENT 5 – LIMITED ACCESS FOR SKATE FMP.....	14
ECOSYSTEMS BASED FISHERY MANAGEMENT	15
EVTR FOR COMMERCIAL VESSELS.....	17

* Indicates preliminary timeline – not yet reviewed by GARFO

Background

Recently implemented actions

3/9/2020	Industry Funded Monitoring Amendment for all FMPs except Atlantic herring
4/1/2020	Scallop Framework 32 - Specifications for Fishing Year (FY) Specifications for FY 2021
5/1/2020	Skate Framework 8 - Specifications for Fishing Years 2020 & 2021
5/5/2020	Herring Framework 6 - Specifications for 2019-2021
5/14/2020	2020 Atlantic Deep-sea Red Crab Specifications
6/18/2020	Habitat Clam Dredge Exemption Framework
6 / 2020	Industry Funded Monitoring Amendment for Atlantic herring
7/28/2020	Multispecies (Groundfish) Framework 59 Specifications for Fishing Years 2020 & 2021
8/13/2020	Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Fishing Year 2020 Recreational Management Measures
10/19/2020	Monkfish Framework 9 – 2020-2022 Specifications

Timelines

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. Scallop Amendment 21 with September Final Action

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

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Jonathon Peros

2019	
JAN	NEFMC - review action plan and approve scoping document
FEB-APR	NOI for developing an EIS is published – Scoping period
JUN	NEFMC - Review Amendment 21 scoping comments; develop goals and objectives;
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.
2020	
JAN-MAR	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.
APR	NEFMC – Approve range of alternatives
MAY	PDT completes Impact Analyses
JUN	NEFMC - Review/approve Draft EA for public hearings, select preferred alternatives for NGOM and LAGC IFQ possession limits
JULY-AUG	Staff prepare document for public hearings, public comment period and public hearings, summarize public input
SEP	NEFMC - Council takes final action
OCT-DEC	Staff updates EA for preliminary submission
2021	
FEB	Preliminary submission of amendment document including EA
MAY - JUN	Final submission of amendment document including EA
JULY - AUG	Proposed Rule/NOA
SEP	Final Decision from NMFS

2. Framework 33 with January 2020 Final Action

Scope: 2021 scallop specifications, 2022 default specifications

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Jonathon Peros

2020 -2021	
JUN	NEFMC – Initiate Framework 33 (FW33)
JUL-SEP	Committee / AP / PDT develop alternatives
SEP	NEFMC – Council receives update on the development of FW33
NOV	SSC recommends ABC for FY2021 and FY2022
OCT-JAN	Committee and PDT complete documents
DEC	NEFMC – Council receives update on the development of FW33
DEC-JAN	Committee and PDT complete documents
JAN	NEFMC – Council takes final action
FEB	Council staff completes pre-submission

MAR	NMFS publishes proposed rule
MAR	EA reviewed by NMFS
APR - MAY	Staff completes final submission for NMFS review and approval
MAY - JUNE	NMFS publishes final rule, Implementation

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
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
DEC	Council receives progress report
DEC	Committee/AP/PDT continue to develop alternatives and analyses

2019	
JAN	Council receives final report from Fishery Data Working Group; SSC sub-panel provides report on review of Fishery Data Working Group
FEB – APR	Committee, AP and PDT continue to develop alternatives and analyses
APR	Council approves range of alternatives for further development
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
JUN	SSC sub-panel provides report on review of PDT analyses; Council approves range of alternatives for analysis
JUL-AUG	PDT develops DEIS
SEP	Council receives progress report, including preliminary draft impacts analysis
OCT-NOV	PDT continues to develop DEIS, Committee/AP/PDT continue to develop alternatives and analyses
DEC	Council receives progress report
DEC	PDT completes DEIS
2020	
JAN	PDT completes DEIS
JAN	Council approves DEIS for public comment period/hearings and identifies preliminary preferred alternatives
FEB	Staff completes preliminary DEIS submission; NMFS review of DEIS
MAR	Final submission of DEIS to NMFS
MAR	NMFS publishes DEIS
JUN	Council receives progress report - reschedules final action
JUN-AUG	Public hearing and comment period continued
SEP	Council takes final action
OCT- DEC	Staff finalizes EIS
DEC	Preliminary Submission
2021	
FEB	Final Submission
AUG	Target Effective Date*
2022	
MAY	Target Implementation*

- Depending what the Council selects, there may be phased-in implementation of some requirements.

2. Framework 61 - 2021-2023 Specifications/Management Measures

- Set 2021 total allowable catches for US/Canada management units of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod and Eastern GB haddock, and 2021-2022 specifications for the GB yellowtail flounder stock,
- Set 2021-2023 specifications for 9 other groundfish stocks: Georges Bank winter flounder, Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic winter flounder, Gulf of Maine winter flounder, Acadian redfish, Atlantic halibut, Northern windowpane flounder, Southern windowpane flounder, Atlantic wolffish, and ocean pout,
- Develop a rebuilding plan for white hake, and
- Add a universal sector exemption allowing fishing for redfish, pollock and haddock using no smaller than 5.5-inch mesh.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Jamie Cournane

2020	
MAY 27	Assessment Oversight Panel meeting
JUN	Council initiates framework
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 and feedback on white hake rebuilding
SEP	TMGC recommends TACs for US/CA management units/stock
SEP	Management track assessments for redfish, halibut, wolffish, ocean pout, windowpane, and winter flounder stocks
SEP	Council reviews progress on setting specifications for groundfish stocks, the three U.S./Canada management units/stock for 2021, and reviews draft alternatives
OCT	SSC recommends ABCs for 9 groundfish stocks
OCT	Council modified 2020 priorities for this action*
DEC	Final action on specifications and white hake rebuilding plan. Update on adding universal sector exemption for redfish, pollock and haddock
2021	
JAN	Final action on universal sector exemption allowing fishing for redfish, pollock and haddock and approval of framework for submission to NMFS
FEB	Preliminary submission of framework document to NMFS
MAR	Final submission of framework document to NMFS
MAY 1	Target Implementation

* TIMELINE CHANGE: Council motion, October 2020 to change the 2020 groundfish priorities, so that Framework Adjustment 61 would: 1) Add a universal sector exemption allowing fishing for redfish, pollock and haddock using no smaller than 5.5-inch mesh. 2) Remove investigating ways to increase Georges Bank haddock utilization from further consideration in the action. The Council will split final action on the framework between the December (specifications) and January (redfish exemption area) Council meetings.

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	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
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
NOV 20 ✓	NMFS approves amendment
TBD	Implementation

2. Framework 7 – Spawning protection for herring on Georges Bank

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Deirdre Boelke

2019	
SEP	Council initiates action
2020	
JAN-MAY	Committee and PDT develop action
APR	Update: approve goal and objectives
JUN	Update: possible approval of alternatives (could be later if needed)
SEP	Update of progress on FW
2021	
JAN	Council final action (<i>possible</i>)
TBD	NMFS publishes proposed rule
TBD	NMFS publishes final rule
TBD	Target Implementation (by Fall 2021 if possible)

3. Framework 8 – Herring specifications 2021-2023 & mackerel OY issue

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Deirdre Boelke

2020	
JAN	Council initiates action
FEB-MAY	Committee and PDT develop action
JUN	Update and possible approval of alternatives to consider for mackerel issue
SEP	Council final action
DEC	Final submission to NMFS
2021	
TBD	NMFS publishes proposed rule (target of Jan)
TBD	NMFS publishes final rule (target of Mar)
TBD	Target Implementation (target of Mar)

Whiting (Small-mesh Multispecies)

1. Framework 62 - Southern Red Hake Rebuilding Plan

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

STAFF PROJECT MANAGERS:

Andrew Applegate /Jennifer Couture

2019	
MAR-JUN	Committee / PDT develop alternatives and bycatch analysis
JUN	Council receives bycatch analysis
JUL	Annual monitoring report completed
SEP	Council receives annual monitoring report / initiates action
NOV-DEC	PDT works on developing conceptual rebuilding approaches for red hake
DEC	Council receives PDT report on conceptual rebuilding approaches for red hake
2020	
JAN	PDT continues work on developing conceptual approaches for red hake rebuilding
JAN	Council approves red hake rebuilding approaches for analysis
FEB-MAR	PDT analyzes alternatives
APR	Council receives update on progress
MAY	PDT analyzes alternatives and drafts action document
JUN	Council approves final alternative
AUG 12	Preliminary Submission
AUG 25	The southern red hake possession limit reduced from 5,000 lbs to 400 lbs as an in-season AM
NOV/DEC	Final Submission
TBD	Target Implementation

2. Specifications for Fishing Years 2021-2023*

Scope: Adjustments to catch limits and potentially some measures for the 2021-2023 fishing years.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Andrew Applegate

2020	
JUL/AUG	PDT develops SAFE Report for fishing year 2019
SEP	Management track assessment
SEP	Council receives Annual Monitoring Report and preliminary Management Track assessment reports.
OCT-DEC	PDT develops annual catch limit recommendations based on the management track assessment results and develops alternatives
NOV	SSC reviews and approves annual catch limit recommendations
NOV	Committee and advisors develop alternatives to adjust measures, e.g. possession limits
DEC	Council receives update
DEC-JAN	Staff and PDT analyze alternatives and draft specification document
2021	
JAN	Council approves final alternative
JAN-FEB	Staff submits preliminary document to NOAA Fisheries
MAY 1	Target Implementation

Habitat

1. 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
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	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
DEC 21	Preliminary submission of Deep-Sea Coral Amendment and draft EA
2019	
APR MAY	Staff receives comments on preliminary submission from GARFO
JUN	Final submission
NOV 20 ✓	NFMS approves amendment
2020	
JAN 3 ✓	Proposed rule published
TBD	2020

Skates

1. Amendment 5 – Limited Access for Skate FMP

Scope: Develop Limited access program for the Skate FMP

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Rachel Feeney

2016	
NOV	Council approves scoping document
2017	
JAN-FEB	Scoping hearings
APR	Council reviews scoping comments
2018	
MAY-NOV	Work on Amendment 5 postponed to complete skate framework actions
2019	
MAR-MAY	Committee/PDT develop alternatives and preliminary analyses
APR/JUN	Council receives progress report
APR-DEC	Committee/PDT continue to develop alternatives and preliminary analyses
DEC	Council receives progress report, tasks Committee to develop problem statement, goals and objectives
2020	
JAN - JUN	PDT continues to provide background fishery data; Committee develops problem statement and an additional objective
JUN	Council receives progress report
SEP	Council approves problem statement, goals, and types of measures
2021	
JAN/FEB	Supplemental scoping period
APR	Council reviews scoping comments
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

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	Council receives progress report on eFEP issues; adopts plan for future development possibly including an MSE process.
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
SEP	Council receives complete eFEP framework; MSE Steering Committee progress report
DEC	MSE Steering Committee makes recommendations for an MSE process to evaluate Georges Bank Ecosystem Production Unit management procedures, including stakeholder engagement.
2020	
JAN-FEB	Staff develops RFP for EBFM science communicator and communicator begins contract
MAR– JUN	EBFM, staff, and the EBFM Committee work with GreenFinStudio to produce public information materials; Plan public meetings and contract with facilitators.
JUN	Council receives final draft outreach materials from GreenFinStudio
JUN-JUL	Council receives final outreach deliverables from GreenFinStudio
JUL-AUG	Committee develops recommendations for workshop format and framework, based on public outreach materials
AUG-SEP	Council staff solicits applications for facilitators and negotiates statement of work; organizes meetings
SEP	Council receives planning update on public outreach workshops
OCT	Council discussion of path for EBFM
DEC	Council discussion of path for EBFM continued
2021	
TBD	Council conducts public outreach meetings and analysis
TBD	Create ecosystem diagrams and refine operating models (NEFSC)

TBD	SSC review of ecosystem diagrams and refine operating models
TBD	Analyze Management Strategies (NEFSC) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present initial strategies at workshops• Identify most viable strategies (MSE)• Present final results to SSC Present MSE results to the Council
TBD	Council receives MSE report and determines whether and how to proceed with an actual Fishery Ecosystem Plan

EVTR for Commercial Vessels

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

PROJECT MANAGERS: Sam Asci – NEFMC
 Karson Coutre – MAFMC

2018	
DEC 2018	Initiation
2019	
JAN-FEB	Formation of FMAT
MAR	FMAT to develop initial draft alternatives/discuss analyses
MAR	Joint AP meeting
APR	MAFMC Council meeting—Framework meeting 1
APR	NEFMC Council meeting—update to NEFMC
MAY	Follow up FMAT meeting
JUN	NEFMC Council meeting—initiate Framework action
JUL	AP/industry webinar
SEP	NEFMC Council meeting—Framework meeting 1
OCT	FMAT meeting
NOV	AP/Industry webinar
DEC	MAFMC - Final action
2020	
JAN	NEFMC - Final action
MAR 4	Preliminary submission of Commercial eVTR Framework
APR 8	Staff receives comments on preliminary submission from GARFO
APR 14	Final submission
JUL 17 ✓	Proposed Rule
NOV-10	Approval of action by NOAA/NMFS
2021	
NOV-21	Target implementation date