

New England Fishery Management Council Timelines

September 23, 2021

BACKGROUND.....	2
SCALLOPS.....	3
1. AMENDMENT 21 – NGOM AND IFQ POSSESSION LIMITS.....	3
2. *FRAMEWORK 34 - 2022 SPECIFICATIONS, 2023 DEFAULT SPECIFICATIONS	4
GROUND FISH.....	5
1. AMENDMENT 23 GROUND FISH MONITORING.....	5
2. FRAMEWORK 63 - 2022-2024 SPECIFICATIONS/MANAGEMENT MEASURES.....	7
HERRING.....	8
1. FRAMEWORK 7 – SPAWNING PROTECTION FOR HERRING ON GEORGES BANK...8	
2. FRAMEWORK 9 - REBUILDING PLAN AND ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES	8
WHITING (SMALL-MESH MULTISPECIES)	9
1. FRAMEWORK 62 - SOUTHERN RED HAKE REBUILDING PLAN	9
2. SPECIFICATIONS FOR FISHING YEARS 2021-2023	10
SKATES	11
1. AMENDMENT 5 – LIMITED ACCESS AND OTHER MEASURES FOR SKATE FMP ...	11
2. SPECIFICATIONS FOR FISHING YEARS 2022-2023	12
ECOSYSTEMS BASED FISHERY MANAGEMENT	13

* Indicates preliminary timeline – not yet reviewed by GARFO

Background

Recently implemented or approved actions

- 7/27/2021 Groundfish Framework 61 implemented
- 7/26/2021 Deep-sea Coral Amendment implemented
- 5/19/2021 Scallop Framework 33 – specifications for fishing years 2021-2022 implemented through interim final rule

Timelines

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

Timelines are provided for actions until they have been approved or implemented 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. Amendment 21 – NGOM and IFQ Possession Limits

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	
JUNE 3	Preliminary submission of amendment document including EA
JUL AUG	Final submission of amendment document including EA
SEP 8 ✓	Notice of Availability / Proposed Rule published
NOV - DEC	Final Decision from NMFS
2022	
APR	Implementation

2. Framework 34 - 2022 specifications, 2023 default specifications

Scope: 2022 specifications, 2023 default specifications, implementing Amendment 21

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Jonathon Peros

2021	
JUN	NEFMC – Initiate Framework 34
JUL-SEP	Committee / AP / PDT develop alternatives
SEP	NEFMC – Council receives update on the development of FW 34
OCT	SSC recommends ABC for FY2021 and FY2022
OCT-NOV	Committee and PDT complete documents
DEC	NEFMC – Council takes final action
DEC	Council staff complete decision draft
2022	
JAN	NMFS publishes proposed rule.
FEB	Council staff completes pre-submission, NMFS reviews EA
MAR	Staff completes final submission for NMFS review and approval
APR 1	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- APR	Staff finalizes EIS
2021	
APR 30	Preliminary submission
JUN	Final submission
DEC	Target effective date
2022	
MAY	Target implementation*

- There may be phased-in implementation of some requirements.

2. Framework 63 - 2022-2024 Specifications/Management Measures

Scope:

- Set 2022 total allowable catches for US/Canada management units of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod and Eastern GB haddock, and 2022-2023 specifications for the GB yellowtail flounder stock,
- Set 2022-2024 specifications for GB cod and Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod, and possibly adjust 2022 specifications for GB haddock and GOM haddock,
- Adjust 2022 specifications for white hake based on the rebuilding plan,
- Adopt additional measures to promote stock rebuilding, and
- Develop alternatives to the current default system.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGERS: Jamie Cournane/Robin Frede

2021	
MAY	Assessment Oversight Panel meets
JUN	Council initiates framework
JUL 12-14	TRAC assesses US/CA management units of EGB cod and EGB haddock, and the GB yellowtail flounder stock
AUG 25	SSC recommends OFLs/ABCs for GB yellowtail flounder
AUG 31-SEP 2	TMGC/SC recommends TACs for US/CA management units/stock
SEP 13-15	Management track assessments for GB cod and GOM cod
SEP	Council receives TMGC recommendations and reviews progress on developing draft alternatives
OCT 25	SSC recommends OFLs/ABCs for GB cod, GOM cod, GB haddock, GOM haddock, and white hake
DEC	Council receives draft alternatives and takes final action
2022	
JAN	Preliminary submission of framework document to NMFS
FEB	Final submission of framework document to NMFS
MAY	Target implementation

Herring

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

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Deirdre Boelke

2019 Framework 7	
SEP	Council initiates action
2020	
JAN-DEC	Committee develop action (while working on other actions)
2021	
APR	Council clarifies scope of action – herring fishery only and adult spawners
2022	
DEC 2021 TBD	Potential final action (shifted to 2022 after PDT and AP can meet in person to discuss additional alternatives, potentially including in-season monitoring of spawning fish on GB that trigger spawning closures)
TBD	Framework, including Environmental Assessment finalized by staff
TBD	NMFS publishes proposed and final rule
TBD	Implementation

2. Framework 9 - Rebuilding plan and accountability measures

Scope: Rebuild herring resource and possibly adjust accountability measures (AMs)

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Deirdre Boelke

2021	
JAN-APR	Committee and PDT develop action
APR	Update – Council clarified what will be included in this action
JUN	Update
SEP	Final action
DEC	Final submission of EA to NMFS
2022	
TBD	NMFS publishes proposed rule
TBD	NMFS publishes final rule
TBD	Implementation

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
JAN 12 ✓	Final submission
JUL 12 ✓	Proposed rule published
AUG-SEP	Staff revises final document to address protected resources concerns
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	
OCT/DEC	PDT develops SAFE Report for fishing year 2019
SEP	Management track assessment
SEP	Council receives 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 recommendations from SSC and Committee and identifies measures to be adjusted by specification package
DEC-JAN	Staff and PDT analyze alternatives and draft specification document
2021	
JAN	Council approves final alternative
FEB-MAR	Staff prepares final document, informal comments addressed
APR	Staff submits preliminary document to NOAA Fisheries
MAY	NOAA Fisheries returns comments to Council
JUN	Staff submits final document to NOAA Fisheries
AUG-SEP	Staff revises final document to address protected resources concerns
TBD	Target Implementation

Skates

1. Amendment 5 – Limited access and other measures for Skate FMP

Scope*: Prevent incidental limits, improve catch reporting and other measures 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
DEC	Council approves supplemental scoping document
2021	
JAN/FEB	Supplemental scoping period
APR	Council reviews scoping comments, identifies next steps
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

* The scope of this action has changed from “Limited access and other measures for Skate FMP”

2. Specifications for Fishing Years 2022-2023

Scope: Adjustments to catch limits and possession limits for the 2021-2023 fishing years.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Rachel Feeney

2021	
MAR	PDT preliminary work to support alternatives development; Committee and AP receive brief update
APR	Council meeting – update
APR-JUN	PDT develops background for ABC recommendations and other alternatives
MAY-JUN	Committee and AP develop alternatives to adjust measures, e.g., possession limits
JUN	Council meeting – update
JUL	SSC meeting to recommend ABC
AUG	PDT prepares specifications document; Final AP and Committee meetings to consider impact analysis and recommend preferred alternatives
SEP	Council takes final action
OCT	Preliminary submission of document to NMFS
MAY 1	Target Implementation

* The scope of this action has changed – consideration of changes to possession limits has been eliminated.

Ecosystems Based Fishery Management

Scope: Phase III – Public engagement and Management Strategy Evaluation

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	
FEB	Council adds five stakeholder members to the MSE Steering Committee

MAR-MAY	MSE Steering Committee develops and recommends workshop plan
JUN	Council approves workshop plan
JUL-AUG SEP-OCT	Hire needed contractors and schedule workshops
OCT-NOV	Staff works with facilitator to develop engagement strategy and plan workshops; seek invited experts to give presentations and answer public questions
SEP-NOV DEC-FEB	Council conducts public outreach meetings and analysis
NOV-DEC	Analyze and summarize workshops
2022	
DEC-MAR	Analyze and summarize workshops
JAN-APR	Council receives workshop reports and decides how to proceed with EBFM development
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 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