

Approved Management Priorities for 2012 (NOV 16, 2011)

Groundfish

1. Coordinate action on the Habitat Omnibus Amendment to include possible modifications of the Groundfish closed areas.
2. Prepare framework action to adjust sector rules based on lessons learned from Oct 2011 Sector Workshop, including determination of why OY is not being caught and the development of measures to attempt to achieve OY, and review 10 percent quota rollover provision in response to RA letter of June 20, 2011.
3. Prepare framework to respond to new assessment information for 9 stocks
4. Develop options to move unused ACE between scallop/groundfish fleets and between groundfish commercial and recreational fleets.
5. Continue Amendment 18 to consider fleet diversity and accumulation caps.

Monkfish

1. Continue Monkfish Amendment 6 for catch shares (sectors and IFQs).

Sea Scallops

1. Prepare FW 24 – to set specs for 2013 and 2014 and default measures for 2015. (*Oct 2012 completion*)
 - Automatic Measures: ABC/ACLs, DAS, access area allocations for LA and LAGC, NGOM TAC based on new survey results, research priorities for RSA program, RPMs for turtles
 - Other measures that could potentially be added:
 - 1) consider modification of GB access area opening dates, currently June 15 (would require joint action with GF);
 - 2) address sub-ACL of YT flounder (potentially divide sub-ACL between LA and LAGC and develop AMs for LAGC trawl fishery);
 - 3) leasing LAGC IFQ mid-year;
 - 4) performance review workshop (similar to lessons learned sector workshop) of LAGC IFQ program to date (not in FW 24 – after FW 24 submitted);

Herring

1. Continue Amendment 5 to include monitoring, mackerel, river herring bycatch, criteria for access to closed areas and protection of spawning aggregations. (*Mar 2012 completion*)
2. Prepare specs package for 2013-2015 based on new assessment.

Ecosystem Based Management

1. Prepare Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Plan. Phase I to establish Goals and Objectives and establish ecosystem production units throughout GOM, GB and SNE. This action will hopefully have a Categorical Exclusion (CE) from NEPA. (*1 year*)

SBRM Amendment

1. Prepare new SBRM Amendment w/NMFS lead (response to lawsuit).

Whiting

1. Continue Whiting Amendment to set ACLs, AMs and Specs (2012-2014). (*Mar 2012 completion*)
2. Upon completion of item 1, prepare an amendment for limited entry to the whiting fishery.

Habitat

1. Continue Omnibus Habitat Amendment

RSC

1. Continue to steer research to support NEFMC plans.

SSC

1. Support SSC activities such as recommending ABC and making recommendations in the FMP development process.

Enforcement, Safety and VMS

1. Continue to support enforcement, safety and VMS issues.