

New England Fishery Management Council Timelines
April 12, 2012

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SCALLOPS

1. Scallop Framework 24 - 2013-2014 scallop specifications

OBJECTIVE: Automatic Measures: ABC/ACLs, DAS, access area allocations for LA and LAGC, NGOM TAC based on new survey results, incidental catch TAC, and potential RPMs for turtles

Other measures that have been added: modification of GB access area seasonal restrictions, currently closed Feb1- June 14 (may require joint action with GF); consider separate YT flounder sub-ACL and AMs for the LAGC trawl fishery; address timing of AMs for YT flounder sub-ACL; leasing LAGC IFQ mid-year; and expanding observer set-aside program to include LAGC IFQ open area trips

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Deirdre Boelke

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: NOV 2012

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: MAY 2013

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. Staff begins work on framework	JAN 2012	✓
2. Council initiates framework	JAN 2012	✓
3. SSC develops ABC recommendations	SEP 2012	
4. Council approves framework	SEP 2012	NOV 2012 ¹
5. Staff submits framework to NMFS	OCT 2012	DEC 2012
6. Implementation	MARCH 2013	MAY 2013

1. Changed from SEP after PDT and Committee developed action plan for first Council meeting in Jan 2012.

2. Performance review of LAGC IFQ program

OBJECTIVE: Performance review and potential workshop (similar to lessons learned sector workshop) for LAGC IFQ program - after FW 24 submitted

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Deirdre Boelke

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: APR 2013

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: N/A

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. Staff begins work on performance review	JAN 2012	✓
2. Present results and recommendations for Council consideration	JAN 2013	APR 2013 ¹
3. Council will decide whether to conduct a workshop	TBD	

1. Changed from JAN 2013 after Council expanded the scope of this project at the Jan 2012 Council meeting. Scope will still include a review of economic and social trends as well as other relevant indicators about the effectiveness of the program.

3. Scallop Framework 23

OBJECTIVE: Minimize impacts on sea turtles by requiring the use of turtle excluder dredge, review/revise YT AM and possible adjustments to the LAGC NGOM program

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Deirdre Boelke

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: OCT 2011

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: MAR 2012

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. Staff begins work on framework	JAN 2011	✓
2. Council initiates framework	JAN 2011	✓
3. Council approves framework	SEP 2011	✓
4. Staff submits framework to NMFS	OCT 2011	✓ DEC 2011 ¹
5. Implementation	MAR 2012	MAY 7, 2012 ²

1. FW23 was submitted to NMFS three times (once in October and twice in November) after consultation with NERO.
2. Further delayed from MAR/APR – final rule published about three months after the proposed rule.

Other actions the Scallop PDT and Committee will be working on in 2012 that could impact the timelines above

Scallop	Council requested Emergency Action to close Delmarva in 2012 and shift trips to Closed Area 1
GF	Council to address SNE/MAB windowpane flounder and SNE/MAB winter flounder sub ACLs for scallop fishery
	Council to consider the mixed stock exception for SNE/MAB windowpane flounder
EFH	Development of EFH measures and analysis of potential impacts on scallop fishery
Sturgeon	Possible need to develop measures to reduce impacts on endangered sturgeon - process still uncertain

GROUND FISH

1. Groundfish Framework 47 - 2012-2014 specifications

OBJECTIVE: Specifications (OFLs/ABCs/ACLs) for 20 stocks 2012-2014, address outstanding AMs for ocean pout, windowpane flounder, and halibut, consider eliminating GB access areas YT flounder 10% cap, consider allocating 100% of scallop fishery estimated YT flounder catch to scallop fishery

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Tom Nies
 TARGET COMPLETION DATE: OCT/NOV 2011
 TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: MAY/JUN 2012

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. Staff begins work on specifications/framework	DEC 2010	✓
2. Council initiates framework adjustment	JUN 2011	✓
3. Council approves specifications/ framework	NOV 2011	✓
4. Staff submits specifications package to NMFS	DEC 2011	✓ FEB 2012 ¹
5. Implementation	MAY/JUN 2012	

1. Delayed by work on request for Interim Action for GOM cod.

2. Framework to adjust sector rules based on Oct 2011 Sector workshop

Sector monitoring adjustments, 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

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Tom Nies / Anne Hawkins
 TARGET COMPLETION DATE: TBD
 TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: MAY/JUN 2013

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. Conduct workshop	OCT 25-26, 2011	✓
2. Committee / PDT develop options for Council consideration	JAN – JUN 2012	JAN 2011 - SEP 2012 ¹
3. Council initiates framework adjustment	JUN 2012	
4. Council approves framework adjustment	SEP 2012²	
5. Staff submits specifications package to NMFS	DEC 2012	
6. Implementation	MAY/JUN 2013	

1. Delayed by work on Council request for Interim Action for GOM cod

2. Final action will depend on the number of measures the Council decides to include in the framework and progress on some difficult problems. It is possible that final action could be delayed if monitoring issues, for example, take longer to resolve.

3. Framework or specifications to set ABCs/ACLs for Groundfish Stocks for 2013-2014

OBJECTIVE: Set specifications (ABCs, ACLs, AMs) for groundfish stocks including Gulf of Maine cod for 2013-2014

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Tom Nies

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: TBD

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: MAY/JUN 2013

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. Council receives SAW 53 assessment results	JAN 2012	✓
2. Groundfish Assessment Update Peer Review Meeting	FEB 2012	✓
3. SSC develops work plan to address issues that might influence interpretation of GOM cod assessment results (MRIP & CPUE data, discard mortality, stock structure)	FEB 2012	✓
4. SSC reviews Butterworth/Rademayer paper and begins work on developing ABC recommendations for other groundfish with assessment updates	MAR/APR 2012	✓
5. NEFSC includes appropriate information from work plans in GOM cod assessment work	MAY-AUG 2012	TBD ²
6. NEFSC includes MRIP data in GOM cod assessment data	AUG 2012	TBD ²
7. SSC completes ABC recommendations for US/CAN stocks & other groundfish stocks except for GOM cod ¹ .	AUG-SEP 2012 ¹	
8. NEFSC completes GOM cod assessment	AUG-SEP 2012	TBD ²
9. SSC develops GOM cod ABC recommendation based on new assessment	SEP/OCT 2012	TBD ²
10. PDT completes specifications documents	OCT/NOV 2012	TBD ²
11. Council approves specifications	NOV 2012	TBD ²
12. Staff submits specifications package to NMFS	DEC 2012	TBD ²
13. Implementation	MAY/JUN 2013	MAY/JUN 2013

1. This milestone was added for clarification.

2. The schedule will depend on the type and timing of new GOM cod assessment.

4. Framework to move unused ACE between scallop/groundfish & recreational fleets

OBJECTIVE: Prepare framework to move unused annual catch entitlement (ACE) between scallop/groundfish fleets and between groundfish commercial and recreational fleets

PROJECT MANAGER: Tom Nies

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: TBD

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: TBD

5. Groundfish Amendment 18

OBJECTIVE: Amendment to consider fleet diversity and accumulation caps

PROJECT MANAGER: Anne Hawkins

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: JUN 2013

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: MAY 2014

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED ✓ / PROJECTED
1. Staff completes draft Fleet Diversity, Allocation, and Excessive Shares whitepaper	SEP 2010	✓
2. Accumulation Limits Workshop	JUN 2011	✓
3. Committee approves scoping document	AUG 2011	✓
4. Council approves scoping document	SEP 2011	✓
5. Scoping hearings	NOV-DEC 2011	✓JAN 2012 ¹ .
6. Council reviews scoping comments	JAN 2012	JUN 2012 ² .
7. Development of measures, analysis; expansion of white paper	FEB-SEP 2012	TBD
8. Council selects preferred alternatives	NOV 2012	TBD
9. Preparation of public hearing document	DEC 2012	TBD
10. Public hearings	JAN- FEB 2013	TBD
11. Council selects final alternatives	APR 2013	TBD
12. Submit final document to NMFS	JUN 2013	TBD
13. Implementation	MAY 2014	TBD

1. Delayed by additional time needed to complete Framework 47

2. Further delayed from April until June by Executive Committee decision on to extend the comment period by an additional 60 days

3. The Council revised Groundfish priorities for 2012 and put several actions ahead of the completion of Amendment 18. It is not possible to determine when these other actions will be completed.

HERRING

1. Herring Amendment 5

OBJECTIVE: Implement catch monitoring program, measures to address river herring bycatch, measures to establish criteria for access to groundfish closed areas by mid-water trawl vessels, measures to address interactions with the Atlantic mackerel fishery and bycatch concerns with inclusion of MAFMC recommendation for river herring catch cap

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Lori Steele

TARGET COMPLETION DATE (*REVISED*): MAY 2012

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE (*REVISED*): JAN 2013

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. Herring Committee, PDT, and Advisory Panel continue development of alternatives for Amendment 5	JAN – MAY 2010	✓
2. Council approves Amendment 5 alternatives for analysis in DSEIS	JUN 2010	✓ JAN 2011 ¹
3. Council approves Draft Amendment 5/DSEIS and public hearing document and selects preferred alternatives	SEP 2010	✓ SEP 2011
4. Council approves MAFMC option for river herring catch cap		✓ NOV 2011
5. Staff submits DEIS for review	OCT 2010	✓ JAN 2012
6. Staff resubmits DEIS for review in response to NMFS comments		FEB-MAR 2012
7. Public Hearings	OCT/NOV 2010	MAR 2012
8. NMFs approves DEIS for publication ² .	OCT 2010	MAR 2012 ² .
9. Council reviews public and advisor comments and O/S recommendations; approves final Amendment 5 measures	JAN 2011	JUN 2012 ³ .
10. Staff submits Amendment 5	FEB 2011	JUL-AUG 2012
11. Amendment 5 Implementation	JUL/AUG 2011	FEB 2013

1. Delayed due to delays in decision making and the addition of alternatives such as those to address river herring bycatch

2. Approval of DEIS delayed from February until March. This step was added for clarification.

3. Due to the time required to address NMFS comments on the DEIS and publish the Notice of Availability (NOA), the 45-day comment period on DEIS will not end until June 4.

2. Herring Specifications for 2013-2015

OBJECTIVE: Prepare specs package for 2013-2015 based on new research assessment to be completed in July 2012

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Lori Steele

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: DEC 2012

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: TBD (2013)

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. Staff begins work on specifications	MAY-JUNE 2012	
2. PDT receives assessment results from SAW/SARC	JUL- AUG 2012	
3. SSC develops ABC recommendation(s)	AUG 2012	
4. Council reviews SSC advice and selects options for specifications	SEP 2012	
5. Herring PDT develops specifications package/analyses options	OCT 2012	
6. Council selects final 2013-2015 specifications	NOV 2012	
7. Staff submits specifications package	DEC 2012	
8. Implementation	ASAP in 2013	

WHITING (Small Mesh Multispecies)

1. Whiting Amendment 19 – ACLs, AMs, Specifications for 2012– 2014

OBJECTIVE: Bring the Whiting FMP into compliance with MSRA requirements for setting ABC, ACLs and AMs. ACLs, AMs, specifications for 2012-2014, consider output controls.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Andrew Applegate
 TARGET COMPLETION DATE (*REVISED*): MAY 2012
 TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE (*REVISED*): DEC 2012

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. Council receives results of whiting assessment	JAN 2011	✓
2. PDT develops ABC/ACL methods	FEB/MAR 2011	✓
3. SSC recommends ABC method	APR 2011	✓
4. SSC approves ABC	AUG 2011	✓
5. AP and Oversight Committee develop AM options and ACL allocations	JAN/MAY 2011	✓
6. Council approves management alternatives for analysis	JUN 2011	✓ SEP 2011
7. PDT prepares Draft Amendment	MAY/AUG 2011	✓ OCT 2011-JAN 2012
8. Council approves draft amendment and selects preferred alternatives	SEP 2011	✓ JAN/FEB 2012
9. Public hearings	NOV 2011	APR 2012 ¹
10. Council approves final amendment measures	NOV 2011	APR 2012
11. Staff submits final amendment to NMFS	DEC 2011	MAY 2012
12. Implementation	JULY 2012	DEC 2012

1. Delayed because of Secretarial whiting amendment, work on skate specifications and additional time for the PDT to receive economic analysis.

2. Whiting Amendment 20 – Limited Access Program for Whiting

OBJECTIVE: Develop Limited access program for Small Mesh Multispecies FMP which includes whiting.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: TBD
 TARGET COMPLETION DATE (*REVISED*): TBD
 TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE (*REVISED*): TBD

HABITAT

1. Omnibus Habitat Amendment 2, Phases I & II

OBJECTIVE: Designate EFH for all managed species, HAPCs as necessary, and minimize the adverse effects of fishing on EFH to the extent practicable in a consistent manner across all FMPs, including consideration of groundfish closures.

PROJECT MANAGER: Michelle Bachman

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: JUN 2013

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: FEB 2014

MILESTONES	PLANNED/ REVISED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. Phase 1 scoping hearings	MAR 2004	✓
2. Council approves EFH designations (Phase 1)	JUN 2007	✓
3. Peer Review of Habitat Models	FEB 2011	✓
4. Committee develops alternatives to minimize, to the extent practicable, adverse effects of fishing on EFH (including coral alts)	MAY-JUN 2011	Through AUG 2011
5. PDT analyzes adverse effects minimization alternatives (including coral alts)	MAY-JUN 2011	MAY-SEP 2011
6. Advisory Panel reviews adverse effects minimization alternatives and deep-sea coral alternatives	MAY-JUN 2011	JUL 2011
7. Habitat Committee finalizes deep-sea coral alternatives for Council consideration	Winter 2012	MAR/APR 2012
8. Habitat Committee finalizes fishing impacts minimization options (=habitat options), forwards to joint process with groundfish	Winter 2012	✓
9. Habitat Committee develops Designated Habitat Research Area (DHRA) options	Winter/Spring 2012	
10. Groundfish Committee /PDT develops options for groundfish areas, including AP review	Winter/Spring 2012 ^{1, 3}	TBD ³
11. Council approves deep-sea coral alternatives for analysis	APR 2012²	
12. Habitat and Groundfish committees package habitat and groundfish options into alternatives	MAY 2012 ³	
13. Council approves packaged habitat /groundfish alternatives for analysis, including DHRAs	JUN 2012³	
14. Council approves Omnibus 2 DEIS⁴ and public hearing document; selects preferred alternatives	SEP 2012³	
15. Staff submits Omnibus 2 DEIS (combining EFH and HAPC designations, habitat/groundfish alternatives, DHRAs, and deep-sea coral alternatives)	NOV 2012 ³	

¹ Timing of this step (development of groundfish options) is less certain than timing on habitat and coral options, which are already substantially developed. Delays in this step may push back step 13 past June.

² Contingency date June 2012

³ Will likely be delayed because of Groundfish Committee's need to address unanticipated changes in the status of GOM cod and possibly other groundfish stocks

⁴ This document will include EFH designations, HAPC designations, and other EFH-related FMP requirements. These have previously been reviewed by the Council.

MILESTONES	PLANNED/ REVISED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
16. NMFS publishes NOA, starts 45-day DSEIS comment period	JAN 2013 ³	
17. Public hearings	FEB 2013 ³	
18. Council approves Omnibus Amendment 2 & Draft FEIS	APR 2013³	
19. Staff submits Omnibus Amendment 2 & Draft FEIS	JUN 2013 ³	
20. Implementation	FEB 2014 ³	

MONKFISH

6. Monkfish Amendment 6

a. Amendment 6 WITHOUT IFQ option & referendum

OBJECTIVE: Consider catch shares (sectors and IFQs) for inclusion in the Monkfish FMP

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Phil Haring

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: FEB 2014 without referendum; AUG 2015 with referendum

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: AUG 2014 without referendum; MAR 2016 with referendum

WITHOUT REFERENDUM

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. Staff begins work on framework	SEP 2010	✓
2. Scoping	NOV 2010 – FEB 2011	✓
3. Council considers scoping comments	APR 2011	✓
4. Council approves goals & objectives	SEP 2011	✓ NOV 2011
5. Committee develops management alternatives	FEB - OCT 2012	To be determined (TBD) – will be delayed to address sturgeon takes in monkfish fishery
6. Council approves Amendment 6 alternatives for analysis in DSEIS*	NOV 2012	TBD
7. Council approves Draft Amendment 6/DSEIS and public hearing document and selects preferred alternatives	MAY 2013	TBD
7. Public Hearings	AUG 2013	TBD
8. Council reviews public and advisor comments and O/S recommendations; approves final Amendment 6 measures	NOV 2013	TBD
9. Staff submits FEIS for final review	FEB 2014	TBD
10. NMFS review/approval/publish proposed rule	MAY 2014	TBD
11. NMFS comment review/publish final rule	JULY 2014	TBD
12. Implementation	AUG 2014	TBD

b. Amendment 6 WITH IFQ option & referendum

OBJECTIVE: Consider catch shares (sectors and IFQs) for inclusion in the Monkfish FMP

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Phil Haring

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: FEB 2014 without referendum; AUG 2015 with referendum

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: AUG 2014 without referendum; MAR 2016 with referendum

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. Staff begins work on framework	SEP 2010	✓
2. Scoping	NOV 2010 – FEB 2011	✓
3. Council considers scoping comments	APR 2011	✓
4. Council approves goals & objectives	SEP 2011	✓ NOV 2011
5. Committee develops management alternatives	FEB - OCT 2012	To be determined (TBD) – will be delayed to address sturgeon takes in monkfish fishery
6. Council approves Amendment 6 alternatives for analysis in DSEIS (including voter eligibility)*	MAR. 2013	TBD
7. Council approves Draft Amendment 6/DSEIS and public hearing document and selects preferred alternatives	NOV 2013	TBD
8. Public Hearings	FEB 2014	TBD
9. Council reviews public and advisor comments and O/S recommendations; approves final Amendment 6 measures	MAY 2014	TBD
10. NMFS prepare and conduct referendum (including proposed and final rule), tally results; concurrent with FEIS preparation	MAY 2015	TBD
11. Staff submits FEIS for final review	AUG 2015	TBD
12. NMFS review/approval/publish proposed rule	NOV 2015	TBD
13. NMFS comment review/publish final rule	FEB 2016	TBD
14. Implementation	MAR 2016	TBD

ECOSYSTEMS

1. Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Plan - Phase I

OBJECTIVE: Establish goals and objectives and ecosystem production units throughout Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank and Southern New England. This action will be the first phase of a future amendment to Council FMPs and the Council’s final decision on goals and objectives and ecosystem production units will be published in the Federal Register, but at this time the action is expected to have a categorical exclusion (CE) from NEPA.

PROJECT MANAGER: Andrew Applegate

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: JAN 2013

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: NA

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. PDT prepares documents including discussion of goals, objectives and ecosystem production units for Committee review for public hearing document	JAN-FEB 2012	MAY-JUN 2012 ¹
2. Committee meets to review PDT work in developing public hearing document	MAY-JUN 2012	MAY-JUN 2012 ¹
3. Council approves document for soliciting public comment on goals, objectives and ecosystem production	JUN 2012	
4. Public hearings on ecosystem goals and objectives	JUL –AUG 2012	
5. Council approves goals and objectives and ecosystem production units for Phase 1	NOV 2012	

1. Delayed due to additional staff work on whiting amendment

Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM)

1. Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) Amendment

OBJECTIVE: Remedy deficiencies in current SBRM amendment in cooperation with NMFS and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

NEFMC Staff Lead: Talia Bigelow

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: TBD

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: TBD

NMFS will develop plan for completing this amendment.

SKATES

1. Skate Specifications for 2012 – 2013

OBJECTIVE: Set specifications including any changes to possession limits for 2012-2013

PROJECT MANAGER: Andrew Applegate

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: OCT 2011

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: MAY 2012

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. PDT analyzes and develops skate survey index calibration methods and options	FEB/MAR 2011	✓
2. SSC approves calibration method to apply to ABC	APR 2011	✓
3. PDT updates survey and fishery data, including 2010 calibrated survey, discard mortality, and 2010 discards to estimate 2012-2013 ACL specifications	APR/MAY 2011	✓
4. SSC approves ABC and ACL specifications	JUN 2011	✓
5. Council approves range of specifications (TALs, possession limits, etc.) for specifications package or initiates framework adjustment	JUN 2011	✓
6. PDT prepares specifications package	JUL/AUG 2011	✓
7. Council approves ACL specifications package or framework adjustment	SEP 2011	✓
8. Staff submits final specifications or framework adjustment to NMFS	OCT 2011	✓ JAN 2012 ¹
9. Implementation	MAY 2012	

1. Document not finalized until March to address sturgeon status and economic and NEPA analyses and due to work on whiting amendment.

2. Skate annual monitoring 2012

OBJECTIVE: PDT to develop an annual monitoring report to determine whether post-season accountability measures will be triggered or other action is needed.

PROJECT MANAGER:

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: SEP 2012

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: NA

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. Area allocation tables for CY 2011 become available for analysis to estimate CY 2011 discards	APR/MAY 2012	
2. Fishing year 2011 ends; landings data become available for analysis to estimate total FY 2011 catch	MAY 2012	
3. PDT analyzes data and develops report (2 meetings)	APR-JUN 2012	
4. Annual Monitoring report presented to Council	SEP 2012	