

## DRAFT Management Priorities for 2012 (Rev. 1, Feb 2012)

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### Groundfish (Tom, Anne)

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
6. **(New) Address ESA listing for Sturgeon**

### Monkfish (Phil)

1. Continue Monkfish Amendment 6 for catch shares (sectors and IFQs).
2. **(New) Address ESA listing for Sturgeon**

### Sea Scallops (Deirdre)

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);
2. **(New) Address ESA listing for Sturgeon**

### Herring (Lori)

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 (Andy)

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 (Talia)

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

### Whiting (Delay)

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.**

## Skates (Andy)

1. (New) Address ESA listing for Sturgeon

## Vision (Delay)

1. Hold public hearings to include stakeholders in the development of the Council's Vision.

## Continue from 2011 and ongoing actions:

### Habitat (Michelle)

1. Continue Omnibus Habitat Amendment

### RSC (Phil)

1. Continue to steer research to support NEFMC plans.

### SSC (Chris)

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

### Enforcement, Safety and VMS (Lou)

1. Continue to support enforcement, safety and VMS issues.
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## Strawman below the line for future consideration:

### Groundfish

1. Potential action to address Groundfish sector monitoring requirements resulting from Oceana lawsuit.
2. Prepare framework to establish LAGC ACLs and AMs for YT under the Groundfish FMP. Coordinate with Scallop Cte and PDT.
3. Recreational issues: Expecting new recreational catch data based on MRIP. Council may want to react to new recreational catch estimates.

### Sea Scallops

1. Amendment 16 – Consideration of IFQs for the limited access scallop fishery
2. Amendment 17 - Added at September 2011 Council meeting by motion: *Coordinate action with Groundfish Cte to develop strategies to manage YT flounder bycatch under the Scallop FMP including those strategies listed in Motion 13 from Sep 13, 2011 Scallop Cte meeting* (For example, sub-dividing the YT sub-ACL, participation in GF sectors for LAGC fishery, changing the sub-ACL to a baseline allocation rather than based on projected catch, re-designing the access area program etc. This action would focus on YT initially, but could be expanded to other bycatch species if needed.)
3. Measure to address 5% allocation versus % of actual catch for LAGC fishery (expand current disclaimer to include LAGC fishery as well that allows catch above ACL if updated projection of F lower);
4. Develop AMs for windowpane flounder, if GF FW 47 implements sub-ACL

### Hagfish

1. Prepare new Hagfish FMP

### Other: (Interspecies Actions)

1. Develop a strategy including goals and objectives, issues and recommendations to improve monitoring in all FMPs.
2. Prepare Amendment to respond to NRCC working group recommendations to simplify vessel baseline, upgrade, and replacement restrictions. [NMFS lead – Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking published on October 5, 2011]

#### Ecosystem based Management

- **Phase II:** Prepare Amendment 1. Identify management and scientific requirements to implement EBFM. Establish Monkfish and skate complex as part of Multispecies Plan. Consider predation and competition and consider new reference points based on new modeling approaches for the new Multispecies complex. This action will have an EIS (2 years)
- **Phase III:** Prepare Amendment 2. Implement Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management. Implement quota based management in all Ecosystem Production Units (EPU, i.e. GOM, GB and SNE). Allocate all fishery resources (9 current FMPs) to each EPU (new spatial management). Establish accumulation limits, transferability requirements, and permitting and monitoring requirements, etc. (identified in Phase II). This action will have an EIS. (3 years)

#### Note FMP requirements for 2013

Groundfish: Set specs for 2014 and 2015 (rollover provision exists)

Monkfish: Set specs for 2014 and 2015 (rollover provision exists)

Skates: Set specs for 2014 and 2015 (rollover provision exists)

Red Crab: Set specs for 2014 and 2015 (rollover provision exists)