

New England Fishery Management Council Timelines
January 25, 2013

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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 2012¹
5. Staff submits framework to NMFS	OCT 2012	JAN 2013²
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. Delayed because of work on Groundfish FW 48.

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 2013¹
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.

GROUND FISH

Framework 48 ABCs/ACLs for Groundfish Stocks for 2013-2014 & sector program adjustments

OBJECTIVE: Set specifications (ABCs, ACLs, AMs) for groundfish stocks including Gulf of Maine cod for 2013-2014, 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
 TARGET COMPLETION DATE: DEC 2012
 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. SSC completes ABC recommendations for US/CAN stocks & other groundfish stocks except for GOM & GB cod ¹ .	AUG-SEP 2012 ¹ .	✓
6. NEFSC includes appropriate information from work plans in GOM cod assessment work	MAY-AUG 2012	OCT-NOV ²
7. NEFSC includes MRIP data in GOM & GB cod assessment data	AUG 2012	OCT-NOV ²
8. Council approves framework /specifications	NOV 2012	NOV 2012³
9. Staff submits specifications package to NMFS	DEC 2012	DEC 2012/JAN 2013
10. SAW/SARC completes GOM & GB cod assessments	DEC 2012/ JAN 2013	✓
11. SSC develops GOM & GB cod ABC recommendations	JAN 2013	✓
12. Council approves GOM & GB cod ABC recommendations	JAN 2013¹	
13. Implementation	MAY/JUN 2013	

1. This milestone was added for clarification.
2. The Council requested a benchmark assessment instead of an assessment update for GOM cod.
3. Delayed to allow PDT to complete analyses & Groundfish Committee to make recommendations for final decisions

Groundfish Amendment 18

OBJECTIVE: Amendment to consider fleet diversity and accumulation caps

PROJECT MANAGER:

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	✓ SEP 2012 ⁴ .
11. Staff resubmits Amendment 5		✓ DEC 2012 ⁵ .
12. Amendment 5 Implementation	JUL/AUG 2011	JAN 2014

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.
4. Targeted for JUL-AUG but submitted early SEP to ensure all issues identified by NMFS addressed.
5. Resubmitted in DEC to address additional issues identified by NMFS.

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-SEP 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	JAN 2012 ¹
7. Staff submits specifications package	DEC 2012	FEB 2012
8. Implementation	ASAP in 2013	ASAP in 2013

1. Delayed to include measures to address issues stemming from decision on Amendment 4 lawsuit

WHITING (Small Mesh Multispecies)

1. Whiting Amendment 20 – Limited Access Program for Whiting

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

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Andy Applegate

TARGET COMPLETION DATE (*REVISED*): TBD

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE (*REVISED*): TBD

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. Staff /PDT develops scoping document	JUL-AUG 2012	TBD ^{1.}
2. Council approves new control date	SEP 2012²	✓
3. Council approves scoping document	SEP 2012	TBD
4. Council approves management alternatives for analysis	TBD	TBD
5. PDT prepares Draft Amendment	TBD	TBD
6. Council approves draft amendment and selects preferred alternatives	TBD	TBD
7. Public hearings	TBD	TBD
8. Council approves final amendment measures	TBD	TBD
9. Staff submits final amendment to NMFS	TBD	TBD
10. Implementation	TBD	TBD

1. Staff reassigned to work on Groundfish Closed Area Technical Team to evaluate changes to groundfish closed areas

2. Added step

HABITAT

1. Omnibus Essential Fish Habitat Amendment 2, Phases I & II

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

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Michelle Bachman
 TARGET COMPLETION DATE: APR 2014
 TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: DEC 2014

MILESTONES	PLANNED COMPLETION DATE ¹	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. Habitat Committee finalizes adverse effects minimization options (=habitat options), forwards to joint process with groundfish	Winter 2011-2012	✓FEB 2012
7. Council approves deep-sea coral alternatives for analysis	APR 2012	✓
8. Council moves deep-sea coral alternatives into a separate action	SEP 2012	✓
9. Habitat Committee develops Designated Habitat Research Area (DHRA) options	n/a	✓
10. Groundfish CATT/PDT/AP/Committee develop options for groundfish areas	DEC-MAR 2013	DEC-MAR 2013 ²
11. Council reviews groundfish options³	-	APR 23-25 2013
12. Habitat and Groundfish Committees package habitat and groundfish options into alternatives ⁴	MAR-APR 2013	MAY 2013
13. Council approves packaged habitat /groundfish alternatives, including DHRAs, for analysis	APR 2013	JUN 18-20, 2013²
14. Council approves Omnibus 2 draft EIS and public hearing document; selects preferred alternatives	JUN 2013	NOV 2013⁵
15. Staff submits Omnibus 2 draft EIS (combining EFH and HAPC designations, habitat/groundfish alternatives, and DHRAs)	JUL 2013	DEC 2013
16. NMFS publishes NOA, starts 45-day comment period	JUL 2013	JAN 2014
17. Public hearings	AUG-SEP 2013	JAN-FEB 2014
18. Council reviews public comments, selects final alternatives	SEP 24-26 2013	APR 2014
19. Staff submits EFH Omnibus 2 EIS	OCT 2013	MAY 2014
20. Implementation	MAY 2014	DEC 2014

¹ Planned completion dates for pending items are based on the November 2012 timeline.

² CATT convened in August 2012. Projected completion of this step pushed back from what was originally envisioned due to delay in Groundfish Framework 48 and complexity of technical issues and analyses.

³ Step added to January 2013 timeline for clarification.

⁴ This step will require at least one joint meeting of the Groundfish Committee and the Habitat Committee.

⁵ A longer time interval was added here as compared to the last timeline due to concerns about two months being insufficient time to prepare the DEIS.

2. Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment

OBJECTIVE: 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.

PROJECT MANAGER: Michelle Bachman
TARGET COMPLETION DATE: JUN 2015
TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: JAN 2016

Comments: work on the coral amendment will be reinitiated once the Council completes Omnibus EFH Amendment 2. The Mid-Atlantic Council is pursuing a similar action and efforts and analyses will be coordinated between the two Councils. The timeline may be compressed if an Environmental Assessment can be completed, rather than an EIS.

MILESTONES	PLANNED⁶	COMPLETED (✓) PROJECTED
1. Council directed PDT to evaluate information related to deep-sea corals and develop alternatives for deep-sea coral protection	-	✓FEB 2008
2. Committee and PDT develop deep-sea coral alternatives	-	✓SEP 2010-APR 2012
3. Advisory Panel reviews deep-sea coral alternatives	-	✓JAN 2012
4. Council approves deep-sea coral alternatives for analysis	APR 2012	✓
5. Council develops and approves MOU with MAFMC and SAFMC coordinating coral management activities	SEP 2012	TBD
6. Council splits coral alternatives from Omnibus EFH Amendment 2; initiate separate coral action	SEP 2012	✓
7. Council approves Omnibus Coral draft EIS (or EA) and public hearing document; selects preferred alternatives	NOV 2012	TBD⁷
8. Staff submits Omnibus Coral DEIS	DEC 2012	TBD
9. NMFS publishes NOA, starts 45-day comment period (perhaps reduced in scope if EA)	JAN 2012	TBD
10. Public hearings (perhaps reduced in scope if EA)	JAN 2012	TBD
11. Council approves Coral Amendment EIS (or EA)	APR 2013	TBD
12. Staff submits Coral Amendment EIS	JUN 2013	TBD
13. Implementation	DEC 2013	TBD

⁶ Planned dates are based on the coral amendment being completed before the Omnibus EFH Amendment.

⁷ Anticipate that this could occur at the Council meeting following Omnibus EFH A2 submission

MONKFISH

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 amendment	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 2011- MAR 2013	
6. Council approves Amendment 6 alternatives for analysis in Draft EIS (including voter eligibility)*	MAR 2013	APR 2013
7. Council approves Draft Amendment 6/Draft EIS, public hearing document & selects preferred alternatives	NOV 2013	
8. Public Hearings	FEB 2014	
9. Council reviews public and advisor comments and O/S recommendations; approves final Amendment 6 measures	MAY 2014	
10. NMFS prepare and conduct referendum (including proposed and final rule), tally results; concurrent with FEIS preparation	MAY 2015	
11. Staff submits FEIS for final review	AUG 2015	
12. NMFS review/approval/publish proposed rule	NOV 2015	
13. NMFS comment review/publish final rule	FEB 2016	
14. Implementation	MAR 2016	

1.

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 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	TBD ²
4. Public hearings on ecosystem goals and objectives	JUL –AUG 2012	TBD
5. Council approves goals and objectives and ecosystem production units for Phase I	NOV 2012	TBD

1. Delayed due to additional staff work on whiting amendment

2. Postponed to enable Council to handle other priorities for whiting and groundfish

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: Tom Nies / NMFS FMAT

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: TBD

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE:SEP 2013

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. NEFMC approves management alternatives for analysis	SEP 2012	✓
2. FMAT prepares Draft Amendment	OCT 2012- FEB 2013	
3. NEFMC & MAFMC approve draft amendment	APR 2013	
4. FMAT completes Amendment	JUN 2013	
5. Implementation	SEP 2013	