

# New England Fishery Management Council Timelines

June 13, 2013

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# SCALLOPS

## 1. Scallop Framework 25

OBJECTIVE: 2014 scallop specifications – ABC/ACL, DAS limits, access area trips, Northern GOM TAC, limited access general category IFQ allocations, windowpane flounder AMs, research priorities, etc.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Deirdre Boelke  
 TARGET COMPLETION DATE: JAN-FEB 2013  
 TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: MAY 2014

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. Staff begins work on framework	FEB 2013	✓
<b>2. Council initiates framework</b>	<b>APR 2013</b>	✓
3. SSC develops ABC recommendations	SEP 2013	
<b>4. Council approves framework</b>	<b>NOV 2013</b>	
5. Staff submits framework to NMFS	JAN-FEB 2014	
6. Implementation	MAY 2014	

## 2. Performance review of LAGC IFQ program

OBJECTIVE: Performance review and potential workshop (similar to lessons learned Groundfish Sector Workshop) for IFQ program for Limited Access General Category vessels

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	✓
<b>2. Present results and recommendations for Council consideration</b>	<b>JAN 2013</b>	<b>SEP 2013</b> <sup>1, 2.</sup>
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. The report will include a review of economic and social trends as well as other relevant indicators about the effectiveness of the program.
2. Changed from APR 2013 and then from JUN 2013 to SEP 2013 to include new data on vessel ownership changes.

# GROUND FISH

## 1. Framework 51 – 2014 Specifications for US/CA Stocks, Etc.

OBJECTIVE: Set specifications for US/CA stocks for 2014; revise rebuilding programs for GOM cod, plaice, and maybe white hake; consider changes to carry-over measures.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Jamie Cournane  
 TARGET COMPLETION DATE: DEC 2013  
 TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: MAY 2014

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. Council initiates framework	JUN 2013	
2. SSC completes ABC recommendations for relevant stocks	AUG-SEP 2013	
3. Council approves ABC for GB yellowtail flounder and TACs for other US/CA stocks	SEP 2013	
4. Staff develops framework document	OCT 2013	
5. Council approves framework /specifications	NOV 2013	
6. Staff submits framework /specifications package to NMFS	DEC 2013	
7. Implementation	MAY 2014	

**2. Amendment 18 – Accumulation Limits and Fleet Diversity**

OBJECTIVE: Amendment to consider accumulation limits and measures to preserve fleet diversity

PROJECT MANAGER: Rachel Feeney

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: June 2014

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: To be determined

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED ✓ / PROJECTED
1. Staff completes draft Fleet Diversity, Allocation, and Excessive Shares whitepaper	SEP 2010	✓
2. NMFS publishes control date for A18	APR 2011	✓
3. Accumulation Limits Workshop	JUN 2011	✓
4. Committee approves scoping document	AUG 2011	✓
5. Council approves scoping document	SEP 2011	✓
6. Scoping hearings	NOV-DEC 2011	✓JAN 2012 <sup>1</sup> .
7. Council reviews scoping comments	<b>JAN 2012</b>	JUN 2012 <sup>2</sup> .
<b>8. Council considers fishery performance data and sets goals &amp; objectives for the amendment</b>	<b>MAR-JUN 2013</b> <sup>3</sup>	
<b>9. Council approves range of alternatives for DEIS</b>	<b>JAN 2014</b>	
<b>10. Council approves DEIS &amp; selects preferred alternatives</b>	<b>APR 2014</b>	
11. NMFS accepts DEIS	JUN 1	
12. Notice of Availability (NOA) for DEIS published	JUL 1	
13. DEIS 45-public comment period and public hearings	JUL – AUG	
<b>14. Council votes on final action</b>	<b>SEP 2014</b>	
<b>15. DEIS submitted to NMFS</b>	<b>NOV 1, 2014</b>	
16. EIS review, revisions, final submission, and deeming of proposed regulations. NMFS publishes NOA. 60-day public comment period	NOV 2014 -FEB 2015	
17. Implementation	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.

# Herring

## 1. Framework 3 - Catch Cap for River Herring

OBJECTIVE: Establish catch cap for river herring caught in the Atlantic herring fishery

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Lori Steele

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: JAN 2014

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: JUN 2014

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. PDT begins work on framework	FEB 2013	✓
<b>2. Council initiates framework action</b>	<b>JUN 2013</b>	
3. PDT analyzes alternatives	JUL – SEP 2013	
<b>4. Council approves framework action</b>	<b>SEP 2013</b>	
<b>5. Staff submits final framework document to NMFS</b>	<b>JAN 2014</b> <sup>1.</sup>	
6. Implementation	JUN 2014	

1. Changed from October 2013 to allow more time for review and implementation requirements to be developed.

## 2. Industry-funded Monitoring Program

OBJECTIVE: Develop an industry-funded monitoring program for the Atlantic herring fishery to meeting monitoring objectives established under Amendment 5

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Lori Steele/ Herring-Mackerel FMAT

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: To be determined (TBD)

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: To be determined (TBD)

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. FMAT begins work on action	FEB 2013	✓
2. NMFS provides NEFMC guidance on type of action required	SEP 2013	

## 3. “Stocks-in-the-fishery” Action

OBJECTIVE: Consider whether river herring and shad should be included as “stocks in the fishery” in the Herring FMP. 2013 priority: action to be developed unclear at this time.

Timeline will depend on type of action.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Lori Steele/ Herring-Mackerel FMAT

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: To be determined

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: To be determined

# WHITING (Small Mesh Multispecies)

## 1. Multispecies Amendment 21 – Limited Access Program

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

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Andy Applegate  
 TARGET COMPLETION DATE: To be determined  
 TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: To be determined

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

1. Staff project manager reassigned to work on Groundfish Closed Area Technical Team to address groundfish closure issues for the OHA

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:<sup>1</sup> MAY 2014

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: DEC 2014

MILESTONES	PLANNED COMPLETION DATE <sup>1</sup>	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	<b>APR 2012</b>	✓
8. Council moves deep-sea coral alternatives into a separate action	<b>SEP 2012</b>	✓
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 <sup>2</sup>
<b>11. Council reviews groundfish options<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>APR 23-25 2013</b>	NA
12. Habitat and Groundfish Committees package habitat and groundfish options into alternatives <sup>4</sup>	MAR-APR 2013	✓MAY-JUN 2013
<b>13. Council approves packaged habitat /groundfish alternatives, including DHRAs, for analysis in DEIS</b>	<b>APR 2013</b>	<b>JUN 18-20, 2013</b>
<b>14. Council approves Omnibus 2 draft EIS and public hearing document; selects preferred alternatives</b>	<b>JUN 2013</b>	<b>NOV 2013<sup>5</sup></b>
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
<b>18. Council reviews public comments, selects final alternatives</b>	<b>SEP 24-26 2013</b>	<b>APR 2014</b>
19. Staff submits EFH Omnibus 2 EIS	OCT 2013	MAY 2014
20. Implementation	MAY 2014	DEC 2014

<sup>1</sup> Planned completion dates for pending items are based on the November 2012 timeline.

<sup>2</sup> CATT convened in August 2012. Projected completion of this step was pushed back due to delay in Groundfish Framework 48 and complexity of technical issues and analyses.

<sup>3</sup> Step added to January 2013 timeline for clarification.

<sup>4</sup> This step would require at least one joint meeting of the Groundfish Committee and the Habitat Committee; however, these options were not completed in time for review by the Council in April.

<sup>5</sup> A longer time interval was added to the November 2012 timeline to address concerns about 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:** To be determined  
**TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** To be determined

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	PLANNED <sup>6</sup>	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	TBD <sup>7</sup>
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

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

<sup>7</sup> This could occur at the Council meeting following Omnibus EFH A2 submission



# MONKFISH

## 1. Amendment 6 - Catch Shares

OBJECTIVE: Consider catch shares including sectors and IFQs in the Monkfish FMP as well as modifications to the DAS system

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Phil Haring

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: DEC 2014 without referendum; NOV 2015 with referendum

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: JUN 2015 without referendum; JUN 2016 with referendum

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
1. PDT begins work on amendment	SEP 2010	✓
<b>2. Scoping</b>	<b>NOV 2010 – FEB 2011</b>	✓
<b>3. Councils consider scoping comments</b>	<b>APR-JUN 2011</b>	✓
<b>4. Councils approves goals &amp; objectives</b>	<b>SEP-OCT 2011</b>	✓ NOV 2011
5. Committee develops management alternatives	FEB 2011- MAR 2013	FEB 2011- AUG 2013 <sup>1</sup>
<b>6. NEFMC approves Amendment 6 alternatives for analysis in Draft EIS (including voter eligibility)*</b>	<b>MAR 2013</b>	<b>SEP 2013</b>
<i>7. MAFMC approves Amendment 6 alternatives for analysis in Draft EIS (including voter eligibility)*</i>	<i>APR 2013</i>	<i>OCT 2013</i>
<b>8. NEFMC approves Draft Amendment 6/Draft EIS, public hearing document &amp; selects preferred alternatives</b>	<b>NOV 2013</b>	<b>APR 2014</b>
<i>9. MAFMC approves Draft Amendment 6/Draft EIS, public hearing document &amp; selects preferred alternatives</i>	<i>DEC 2013</i>	<i>APR 2014</i>
10. Public Hearings	FEB 2014	JUN 2014
<b>11. NEFMC reviews public and advisor comments and O/S recommendations; approves final Amendment 6 measures</b>	<b>JUN 2014</b>	<b>SEP 2014</b>
<i>12. MAFMC reviews public and advisor comments and O/S recommendations; approves final Amendment 6 measures</i>	<i>JUN 2014</i>	<i>OCT 2014</i>
13. NMFS prepares and conducts referendum (including proposed and final rule), tally results; concurrent with FEIS preparation	MAY 2015	SEP 2015 <sup>2</sup>
14. PDT submits FEIS for final review	AUG 2015	NOV 2015 <sup>2</sup>
15. Implementation	MAR 2015	JUN 2016 <sup>2</sup>

1. Delay in developing measures

2. If Council includes ITQ program requiring a referendum

**2. Monkfish Framework Adjustment 8**

**OBJECTIVE:** Set specifications - ABCs, ACLs & AMs for monkfish for fishing years 2014-2016;  
Consider modifications to boundary for H category permits & DAS use rules in the  
Northern Management Area

**STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:** Phil Haring  
**TARGET COMPLETION DATE:** JAN-FEB 2014  
**TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** JUN-JUL 2014

<b>MILESTONES</b>	<b>PLANNED</b>	<b>COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED</b>
1. Operational assessment update completed	APR 2013	✓
2. PDT begins work on framework adjustment	APR 2013	✓
3. SSC develops ABC recommendations	MAY 2013	AUG-SEP 2013 <sup>1.</sup>
<b>4. NEFMC initiates framework adjustment</b>	<b>JUN 2013</b>	
<b>5. NEFMC approves range of alternatives <sup>2.</sup></b>		SEP 2013 <sup>2.</sup>
6. PDT analyzes alternatives	JUL – SEP 2013	OCT 2013
<b>7. NEFMC approves framework</b>	<b>SEP 2013</b>	<b>NOV 2013- JAN 2014</b>
8. <i>MAFMC approves framework</i>	<i>OCT 2013</i>	<i>DEC 2013- FEB 2014</i>
9. PDT submits framework document to NMFS for review	NOV 2013	JAN-FEB 2014
10. Implementation	MAY 2014	JUN-JUL 2014

1. The SSC requested fishing year 2012 catch data and modified projections before making an ABC recommendation. The catch data will not be available until August. This change delays NEFMC final action until November 2013 or January and MAFMC final action until December 2013 or February 2014.

2. This step added because until the SSC recommends an ABC, the PDT is able to analyze alternative trip limits or DAS allocations

## Skates

### 1. Skate Specifications for 2014 – 2015

OBJECTIVE: Set specifications - ABCs, ACLs & AMs for Skate FMP for fishing years 2014-2015  
 PROJECT MANAGER: Fiona Hogan  
 TARGET COMPLETION DATE: OCT 2013  
 TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: MAY 2014

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED / PROJECTED
1. PDT begins work on specifications	JUN 2013	✓
2. SSC recommends ABC alternative(s)	AUG - SEP 2013	
<b>3. Council approves range of specifications (ABC, TALs, possession limits, etc.) for specifications package</b>	<b>SEP 2013</b>	
4. PDT prepares specifications package	OCT 2013	
<b>5. Council approves ACL specifications package or framework adjustment</b>	<b>NOV 2013</b>	
6. Staff submits final specifications or framework adjustment to NMFS	DEC 2013- JAN 2014	
7. Implementation	MAY 2014	

### 2. Amendment 5 – Limited Access Program

OBJECTIVE: Develop Limited Access Program for Skate FMP  
 PROJECT MANAGER: TBD  
 TARGET COMPLETION DATE: TBD  
 TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: TBD

The Council will develop a timeline for this action when there are sufficient staff resources available to support the action.

## RED CRAB

### 1. Red Crab Specifications for 2014 – 2016

OBJECTIVE: Set specifications - ABCs, ACLs, and AMs for Red Crab FMP for fishing years 2014-2016

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: To be determined

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: OCT 2013

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: MAR 2014

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED / PROJECTED
1. PDT begins work on specifications	JUN 2013	
2. SSC recommends ABC/ABC	AUG 2013	
<b>3. Council approves specifications</b>	<b>SEP 2013</b>	
4. Staff submits specifications to NMFS for approval	OCT 2013	
5. Implementation	MAR 2014	

## Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM)

### 1. SBRM Amendment

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

NMFS Project Manager: Doug Potts

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: OCT 2013

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: JAN 2014

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
<b>1. NEFMC &amp; MAFMC approve management alternatives for analysis</b>	<b>SEP 2012</b>	✓
2. FMAT prepares Draft Amendment	OCT 2012- FEB 2013	✓
<b>3. Councils approve draft alternatives for public comment</b>	<b>APR 2013</b>	<b>JUN 2013</b> <sup>1</sup>
4. Draft available for public comment period	MAY	AUG-SEP
<b>5. Councils approve final action</b>	<b>JUN 2013</b>	<b>SEP-OCT 2013</b>
6. Implementation	NOV 2013	JAN 2014

1. Draft alternatives not completed for review by Councils. Other

## **Atlantic Sturgeon**

### **1. Consider the Biological Opinion and develop alternative RPAs/RPMs if appropriate**

The Council will develop a timeline if it decides that action is needed to respond to the requirements in the Biological Opinion.