

**New England Fishery Management Council Timelines
January 23, 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, research priorities for RSA program, RPMs for turtles

Other measures that could potentially be added: modification of GB access area opening dates, currently June 15 (would require joint action with GF); sub-ACL for YT flounder (potentially divide sub-ACL between LA and LAGC and develop AMs for LAGC trawl fishery); leasing LAGC IFQ mid-year

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: SEP 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	NOV 2012¹	
5. Staff submits framework to NMFS	OCT 2012	
6. Implementation	MARCH 2013	

1. Changed from SEP after staff consultation with NERO.

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

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: DEC 2012
 TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: NA

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED / PROJECTED
1. Staff begins work on performance review	JAN 2012	✓
2. Conduct workshop	NOV/DEC 2012	
3. Present results and recommendations for Council consideration	JAN 2013	

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

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 2012
5. Implementation	MAR 2012	MAR/APR 2012

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

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	JAN 2012
5. Implementation	MAY/JUN 2012	

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

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: TBD

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: NA

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED / PROJECTED
1. Conduct workshop	OCT 25-26, 2011	✓
2. Develop options from workshop results for Council consideration	NOV- DEC 2011	DEC 2011 - JAN 2012
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		

3. Framework ABCs/ACLs for nine groundfish stocks

OBJECTIVE: Prepare framework to respond to new assessment information for nine stocks and adjust ABCs, annual catch limits (ACL)s, accountability measures (AMs) as needed

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: OCT 2012

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: MAY 2013

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

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

It is likely this amendment will be delayed because of intervening groundfish priorities; however, a revised timeline has not yet been developed.

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
6. Council reviews scoping comments	JAN 2012	APR 2012
7. Development of measures, analysis; expansion of white paper	FEB-SEP 2012	
8. Council selects preferred alternatives	NOV 2012	
9. Preparation of public hearing document	DEC 2012	
10. Public hearings	JAN- FEB 2013	
11. Council selects final alternatives	APR 2013	
12. Submit final document to NMFS	JUN 2013	
13. Implementation	MAY 2014	

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

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
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 final review		✓ JAN 2012
6. Public Hearings	OCT/NOV 2010	MAR 2012
7. Council reviews public and advisor comments and O/S recommendations; approves final Amendment 5 measures	JAN 2011	APR 2012
8. Staff submits Amendment 5	FEB 2011	MAY 2012
9. Amendment 5 Implementation	JUL/AUG 2011	JAN 2013

2. Herring Specifications for 2013-2015

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

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 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 2012
9. Public hearings	NOV 2011	FEB 2012
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

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. The remainder of the timeline after #9 is contingent on when that work begins – possibly as early as January 2012, depending on other 2012 groundfish priorities.

PROJECT MANAGER: Michelle Bachman

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: JUN 2013

TARGET IMPLEMENTATION DATE: FEB 2013

MILESTONES	PLANNED/ REVISED	COMPLETED
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	
8. Habitat Committee finalizes fishing impacts minimization alternatives (=habitat area alternatives), forwards to joint process with groundfish	Winter 2012	
9. Groundfish Committee /PDT develops alternatives for groundfish areas, including AP review	Winter/Spring 2012	
10. Council approves deep-sea coral alternatives for analysis	APR or JUN 2012	
11. Habitat and Groundfish committees package habitat area alternatives and groundfish area alternatives	MAY 2012	
12. Council approves packaged habitat area/groundfish area alternatives for analysis	JUN 2012	
13. Council approves Omnibus 2 DEIS and public hearing document; selects preferred alternatives	SEP 2012	
14. Staff submits Omnibus 2 DEIS (combining EFH and HAPC designations, habitat area alternatives, groundfish area alternatives, and deep-sea coral alternatives)	NOV 2012	
15. NMFS publishes NOA, starts 45-day DSEIS comment period	JAN 2013	
16. Public hearings	FEB 2013	
17. Council approves Omnibus Amendment 2 & DEIS	APR 2013	
18. Staff submits Omnibus Amendment 2 & DEIS	JUN 2013	
19. Implementation	FEB 2014	

MONKFISH

1. Monkfish Amendment 6

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

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

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	
6. Council approves Amendment 6 alternatives for analysis in DSEIS*	NOV 2012	
7. Council approves Draft Amendment 6/DSEIS and public hearing document and selects preferred alternatives	MAY 2013	
7. Public Hearings	AUG 2013	
8. Council reviews public and advisor comments and O/S recommendations; approves final Amendment 6 measures	NOV 2013	
9. Staff submits FEIS for final review	FEB 2014	
10. NMFS review/approval/publish proposed rule	MAY 2014	
11. NMFS comment review/publish final rule	JULY 2014	
12. Implementation	AUG 2014	

*Does not include possible delay to address Atlantic sturgeon ESA matters, which may add several months

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	
6. Council approves Amendment 6 alternatives for analysis in DSEIS (including voter eligibility)*	MAR. 2013	
7. Council approves Draft Amendment 6/DSEIS and public hearing document and 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	

***Does not include possible delay to address Atlantic sturgeon ESA matters, which may add several months**

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. Staff develops visioning documents including discussion of ecosystem production units	JAN-FEB 2012	
2. Council conducts visioning meetings to solicit input on ecosystem production units (EPUs)	MAR-APR 2012	
3. Ecosystems Committee develops goals and objectives and ecosystem production units	MAR-OCT 2012	
4. Council approves goals and objectives and ecosystem production units for Phase 1	NOV 2012	
5. Submit to NMFS for approval /publication in the Federal Register	DEC 2012	
6. Publication in Federal Register	JAN 2013	

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
9. Implementation	MAY 2012	

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.