

New England Fishery Management Council Timelines

June 6, 2018

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* Indicates preliminary timeline – not yet reviewed by GARFO

Background

Preliminary or draft timelines may be provided for actions for which Action Plans have not been formally approved; however, they will be revised as needed when Actions Plans Itr is misleading in many ways09plans for all regulatory actions as soon as practicable.

Timelines are provided for actions until they have been approved or disproved by NMFS. They are updated only after review by the Executive Committee or at the direction of the Council Chair between Executive Committee meetings or as part of the process for updating action plans.

Scallops

1. *Framework 30 Specifications - FY 2019

Scope: 2019 scallop specifications, 2020 default specifications, etc.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Jonathon Peros

2018	
APR 17	NEFMC – Council modifies 2018 priorities
MAY	PDT work on 2018 priorities
JUN	Committee / PDT develop alternatives
JUN 12-14	NEFMC – Council receives information on development of management measures
JUN	Scallop benchmark assessment
JUL-SEP	Committee / PDT develop alternatives
SEP 26-28	NEFMC – Council receives information on the development of specifications
OCT	SSC recommends ABC for FY18 and FY19
OCT-NOV	Committee and PDT complete documents
DEC 4-6	NEFMC – Council takes final action
DEC-JAN	Council staff submits decision draft completes pre-submission
2019	
JAN	NMFS publishes proposed rule
JAN	EA reviewed by NMFS
FEB	Staff completes final submission for NMFS review and approval
MAR	NMFS publishes final rule
APR 1	Target Implementation

* Preliminary timeline

Groundfish

1. *Framework 58 FY 2019 Groundfish Specifications, Rebuilding, etc.

Scope: (1) 2019 total allowable catches (TACs) for US/Canada stocks of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder, (2) rebuilding plans for several stocks, and (3) other measures

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Jamie Cournane

2018	
MAR-JUN	Committee/AP/PDT preliminary discussion and analysis
JUN 12-14	NEFMC – Council initiates framework
JUL 10-12	TRAC assessments for US/CA stocks including EGB Cod, EGB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder
JUL-AUG	PDT develops options for the SSC to consider for OFLs/ABCs for GB yellowtail flounder
AUG 15	SSC recommends ABC for GB yellowtail flounder
SEP 11-14	TMGC/SC recommends TACs for US/CA stocks
JUL-SEP	Committee/AP/PDT develop alternatives and analysis
SEP 25-27	NEFMC – Receives an update on the development of the action, approve range of alternatives, including discussing US/CA stocks
OCT-DEC	Committee/AP/PDT develop alternatives and analysis
DEC 4-6	NEFMC – Council takes final action/approves framework
DEC-JAN	PDT completes submission document
2019	
JAN	Preliminary submission
FEB	Final submission of framework document to NMFS
MAY 1	Implementation

* Preliminary timeline

2. Amendment 23 Groundfish Monitoring

Scope: Consider changes to the groundfish monitoring and reporting system to ensure it is providing accurate catch information necessary to manage the fishery efficiently

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Jamie Cournane

2017	
MAR - APR	Council holds scoping hearings
APR- MAY	Groundfish Committee/PDT review scoping comments
MAY	AP develops recommendations
JUN	Council receives scoping comments; discusses purpose/need and range of alternatives
TBD	Groundfish Committee/PDT develop alternatives and analyses
SEP	Council receives progress report
NOV	Groundfish Committee/AP/PDT continue develop alternatives and analyses
2018	
JAN 30-31	Council receives progress report
FEB-APR	PDT develops analyses and no action alternatives
APR 17-19	Council receives progress report, no action alternatives
APR-JUN	Fishery Data for Stock Assessment Working Group forms, meets to discuss objective of how fishery dependent data can be used to inform stock abundance
APR	PDT provides analyses for development of alternatives
MAY	AP/Committee meetings to review PDT analyses
MAY	PDT develops analyses and alternatives
JUN	AP/Committee meetings to review PDT analyses, recommend range of alternatives
JUN / SEP	Council approves range of alternatives
TBD	Council takes final action
2019	
TBD	Submission
TBD	Target Implementation

Herring

1. *Amendment 8 – ABC control rule / localized depletion

Scope: Account for the role of Atlantic herring within the ecosystem including its role as forage (via the ABC control rule) and to address localized depletion in inshore waters.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGERS: Deirdre Boelke/Rachel Feeney

2015	
JAN	NEFMC - review action plan and approve scoping document
FEB-APR	NOI for developing an EIS is published – Scoping period
JUN	NEFMC - Review EBFM Report and A8 scoping comments; revise goals and objectives; recommends peer review of Management Strategy Evaluation
AUG-SEP	Supplemental scoping period regarding expanded scope of A8 (localized depletion)
DEC	Herring PDT reviews scoping comments, discusses technical analyses to support A8
2016	
JAN	NEFMC - Review scoping comments, approve MSE approach to developing ABC control rule alternatives
FEB-APR	Herring PDT, AP, Committee work to develop background information and alternatives regarding localized depletion. Planning for MSE workshop.
MAY	Public workshop on MSE.
JUN	NEFMC – approve range of ABC control rule objectives, performance metrics and control rules to be evaluated. Continue development of localized depletion alternatives.
JUL - DEC	MSE and localized depletion-related work continues
2017	
JAN	NEFMC – Discuss range of alternatives for MSE control rule alternatives only
MAR	Independent peer review of MSE analysis
APR	NEFMC – Approve range of alternatives for Draft EIS
MAY- SEP	Impacts analysis
SEP	NEFMC – Select preferred alternatives for ABC control rule
DEC	NEFMC - Review/approve Draft EIS for public hearings, select preferred alternatives for localized depletion measures
2018	
JAN 29	Staff completes draft DEIS submission
JAN-MAR	NMFS review of DEIS
APR	Final submission of DEIS to NMFS
MAY 1	NMFS publishes DEIS
MAY-JUN	Public comment period and public hearings
JUL-SEP	Committee and AP meetings
SEP	NEFMC – Review public comments, select final preferred alternatives
TBD	Preliminary submission of amendment document including EIS
TBD	Final submission of amendment document including EIS
2019	
TBD	Implementation

* Preliminary timeline

2. *Herring Specifications for 2019-2021

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Deirdre Boelke

2018	
JUN 20-22	Council initiates action
JUN	Herring benchmark assessment
SEP 26-28	Council – receives presentation on herring benchmark assessment
OCT	SSC recommends ABC for 2019 - 2021
OCT-NOV	Herring PDT develops analyses of sub-ACL options, specs, and river herring/shad catch cap options
NOV	Herring Committee - develop recommendations for final 2019-2021 herring fishery specifications package
DEC 2-4	Council selects final 2019-2021 fishery specifications and river herring/shad catch caps
2019	
JAN	Preliminary submission of 2019-2021 Atlantic herring fishery specifications package
MAR	NEFMC staff receives NMFS' comments and makes revisions to specifications package
APR	Final submission of 2019-2021 Atlantic herring fishery specifications
TBD	NMFS publishes proposed rule for 2019-2021 Atlantic herring fishery specifications
TBD	NMFS publishes final rule
TBD	Target Implementation

* Preliminary timeline

Whiting (Small-mesh Multispecies)

1. Amendment 22 – Limited Access

Scope: Develop Limited access program for the Small Mesh Multispecies FMP, which includes whiting, red hake and offshore hake. (A control date for this action was published on November 28, 2012)

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Andrew Applegate

2015	
MAY-AUG	Draft scoping document
AUG-SEP	Whiting PDT finalizes annual monitoring report with management advice
SEP 29-OCT 1	NEFMC - approve scoping document for Amendment 22; receive annual monitoring report; decide whether additional whiting management action is needed
DEC -JAN	Staff conducts scoping hearings and summarizes comments
2016	
JAN 26-28	NEFMC - review scoping comments and approve scope of amendment
FEB-NOV	Whiting Committee/AP develop range of alternatives
MAR-SEP	PDT prepares preliminary analysis of alternatives and potential effects; committee and advisory panel identify range of qualification criteria alternatives
NOV	NEFMC - Committee report on limited access qualification criteria alternatives
2017	
APR	NEFMC – Approve range of alternatives for DEIS analysis
MAR-MAY	Whiting PDT analyzes range of alternatives and develops Draft EIS
MAY-AUG	Whiting AP/Committee review Draft amendment /DEIS, recommend preferred alternatives
SEP	NEFMC - Review draft amendment and select preferred alternatives
OCT-NOV	Staff works with PDT to finalize analyses and complete draft document
DEC	NEFMC – Approve range of alternatives for DEIS analysis
2018	
JAN	Submit draft Amendment 22 document for preliminary review
FEB-APR	Preliminary GARFO review
MAY	Revise and submit final Draft Amendment 22
JUN-JUL	NEPA comment period begins; Staff conducts public hearings & summarizes comments
JUL-AUG	PDT and Advisory panel make recommendations; Committee considers choosing final preferred alternatives
SEP	NEFMC – Review public comments, committee recommendations and select final measures to submit for review and approval
OCT	PDT revises analyses if needed; Staff revises Amendment 22 document
NOV	Amendment 22 Final submission
NOV-JAN	NMFS review and approval of final Amendment 22
2019	
JAN	Publish proposed rule
JAN-FEB	Qualify vessels and hear appeals
MAR	Publish final rule
MAY	Target Implementation

2. *Southern Red Hake Rebuilding Plan; Title of action - TBD

Scope: Measures to address the overfished status of southern red hake and begin stock rebuilding.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Andrew Applegate

2018	
MAY 18	NEFMC – Council initiates action
MAY	Joint PDT and Advisors recommend types of measures that may be required
JUL- AUG	Committee / PDT develop alternatives
SEP 26-28	NEFMC – receives information on development of management measures (Framework meeting 1?)
OCT-JAN	Develop and analyze potential alternatives
2019	
JAN 29-31	NEFMC – chooses range of alternatives for action (Framework meeting 2?)
FEB-MAR	Staff and PDT develops action
APR	GARFO reviews action and provides comments
APR 16-18	NEFMC – Council approves final action
MAY	Council staff submits decision draft completes pre-submission
JUN	NMFS publishes proposed rule
JUN	EA reviewed by NMFS
JUL	Staff completes final submission for NMFS review and approval
SEP	NMFS publishes final rule
SEP 2019 to MAY 2020	Target Implementation

* Preliminary timeline

Habitat

1. Habitat - Clam Dredge Exemption Framework

Scope: Identify possible exemption areas for hydraulic clam dredges within two management areas proposed in Omnibus EFH Amendment 2

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Michelle Bachman

2015	
SEPT 29-OCT 1	NEFMC – Initiates framework
NOV 23	Habitat PDT meeting
DEC 1-3	NEFMC – Identifies as 2016 priority
2016	
MAR, AUG	Habitat Committee meetings – PDT update
NOV-DEC	PDT work
2017	
JAN, SEP	Council updates
OCT	Notice of availability for OHA2
JUL-DEC	PDT work on data to support framework
2018	
JAN	Decision date for OHA2
FEB-MAR	Continued PDT work
	OHA2 implementation (starts one-year clock on exemption from habitat closure)
MAR-MAY	PDT, AP, Committee develop alternatives
JUN	Council selects range of alternatives for analysis in clam framework
JUL-AUG	Draft framework document/EA, Committee identifies preferred alternatives
AUG	OHA2 implementation (starts one-year clock on exemption from habitat closure)
SEP	Council takes final action on framework
NOV	Staff submits framework
2019	
APR	Implementation

2. Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment

Scope: 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.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER:

Michelle Bachman

2008-2013	
FEB 2008	Council directed PDT to evaluate information related to deep-sea corals and develop alternatives for deep-sea coral protection
2010-2012	Committee and PDT develop alternatives
APR 2012	Council approves range of alternatives for analysis
AUG 2012	Notice of intent to split habitat amendment
SEP 2012	Council splits coral alternatives from Omnibus Habitat Amendment 2
JUN 2013	Council approves MOU to coordinate with MAFMC and SAFMC on coral protection
2015	
JUN	Council approves remaining aspects of OHA2
DEC	Council identifies coral amendment as 2016 priority
DEC 4 & 15	Habitat PDT meetings
2016	
MAR	Habitat Committee meeting
AUG-FEB 2017	PDT analysis, development of draft EA
SEP	Council receives update
NOV	Council reviews preliminary impacts analysis; refines range of alternatives
2017	
MAR	Develop EA, Advisory Panel review, additional Committee work, workshop
APR	Council finalizes range of alternatives including final zone boundaries, prior to hearings, selects preferred alternatives
MAY-JUN	Public hearings
JUN	Final action postponed for Council to consider new alternative
JUL 2017 - JAN 2018	PDT/Committee work to further analyze/consider new alternative for continental slope/canyons
SEP, DEC	Updates on work to further analyze/consider new alternative for continental slope/canyons
2018	
JAN	Council takes final action
APR	Submission of Deep-Sea Coral Amendment and final EA
2019	
TBD	Implementation (assuming 7 months for review and rulemaking)

Skates

1. Framework 6

Scope: Adjust measures so the wing fishery remains open as long as possible

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Fiona Hogan

2018	
JAN	Council initiates framework/specifications
JAN-MAR	Committee & PDT develop & analyze alternatives
JUN	Council approves framework
JUL	Preliminary submission of framework/specifications document to NMFS
AUG/SEP	Final submission of framework/specifications document to NMFS
TBD	Implementation

2. Amendment 5 – Limited Access for Skate FMP

Scope: Develop Limited access program for the Skate FMP

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Fiona Hogan

2016	
NOV	Council approves scoping document
2017	
JAN-FEB	Scoping hearings
APR	Council reviews scoping comments
MAY-NOV	Committee/PDT develop alternatives and preliminary analyses
2018	
SEP	Council receives progress report
TBD	Council approves range of alternatives for analysis in draft EIS
TBD	PDT completes DEIS
TBD	Council approves draft EIS for public review
TBD	Public hearings
TBD	Council takes final action
TBD	Implementation

Industry-funded Monitoring Amendment

Scope: Develop an industry-funded monitoring program to meeting monitoring objectives for all FMPs.

PROJECT MANAGERS:

Fiona Hogan– NEFMC Staff

Carly Bari/Carrie Nordeen - GARFO FMAT

2013	
FEB	FMAT begins work on action
NOV	NMFS provides NEFMC guidance on type of action required and possible funding mechanisms
2015	
JAN / FEB	Councils approve draft coverage target range of alternatives of alternatives to be analyzed
FEB–OCT ¹ .	PDT/FMAT/Councils develop alternatives, draft EA
APR 2 ² .	Councils approve additional alternatives for inclusion in an Environmental Assessment
2016	
JAN ³ JUN	Councils approve draft EA for public review
OCT-NOV	Public hearing(s)
DEC	MAFMC postponed final action
2017	
JAN	NEFMC considers final action and selects several alternatives
APR	NEFMC final vote to submit preferred alternative
2018	
JAN	NEFMC receives monitoring service provider presentation
FEB	NMFS conducts internal review of EM pilot project
FEB	Proposed rule published
APR	NEFMC reviews final EM pilot project report, and considers whether EM/Portside is an adequate substitute for ASM for MWT
JUN??	Proposed rule published/EFP drafting begins
AUG	MAFMC reviews final EM pilot project report
OCT	Final rule published
NOV	Omnibus measures effective
2019	
JAN	Herring measures effective

1. New timeline proposed by NMFS in response to comments at NEFMC and MAFMC meeting that the public and Councils would like more opportunity to provide input and consider the implications of the action.
2. Council added portside sampling alternative required additional analysis.
3. Delayed because Council added monitoring set-aside option to the IFM Amendment at its Sept-Oct 2015 meeting. The MAFMC tasked the PDT/FMAT with continuing to refine cost assumptions and economic analysis of mackerel coverage target alternatives.

Ecosystems Based Fishery Management

Scope: Phase II – Develop worked example of integrated Example Fishery Ecosystem Plan for Georges Bank.

STAFF PROJECT MANAGER: Andrew Applegate

2017	
JAN	NEFMC - Georges Bank Example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP) - Committee progress report
FEB – MAY	Committee and PDT continue work on examples of GB Ecosystem Production Unit (EPU) operating models and draft ecosystem forage fish mgt. policy
SEP	NEFMC - Georges Bank Example Fishery Ecosystem Plan – report on quantitative worked examples of GB EPU operating models and harvest control rules
TBD	PDT develops MSE work plan
2018	
JAN	DELAYED – Center for Independent Experts (CIE) peer review of EBFM catch framework and application of operating models
APR 30-MAY 4	Center for Independent Experts (CIE) peer review of EBFM catch framework and application of operating models
JUN	NEFMC – Council receives summary of CIE review
JUN	EBFM Committee develops course of action to further development of eFEP
JUN 2018 – APR 2019	PDT fleshes out remaining details of eFEP framework; NEFSC and others continue operating model development, incorporating CIE recommendations
2019	
APR	Council receives complete eFEP framework and establishes steering committee to develop MSE process.
MAY- JUN	Management strategy evaluation (MSE) steering committee develops recommendations
JUN	Council approves MSE plan and begins MSE meetings
JUN-NOV	Council conducts MSE meetings and analysis
DEC	Council receives report from MSE and determines whether and how to proceed with an actual Fishery Ecosystem Plan

**Status, Assessment and Management Information for NEFMC Managed Fisheries
June 1, 2018**

Fishery Management Plan: Northeast Multispecies

Stock	Status	Rebuilding Status	Last / Next Planned Assessment or Update^{1,B}	Acceptable Biological Catch Annual Catch Limit (ABC/ACL) Default Management Uncertainty Buffer² for components of the fishery with sub-ACLs	Accountability Measures (AMs)
Cod, GB	Overfishing Overfished	Rebuild by 2026	SEP 2017/ TBD 2019	95% of sub-ABC	<p>Proactive:</p> <p><u>Common pool:</u> Trimester TAC, DAS, and stock area closures</p> <p><u>Sectors:</u> In-season ACL, stock area closures</p> <p><u>Recreational</u> – GOM cod and haddock - NMFS, in consultation with the Council, will implement measures to prevent recreational fishery from exceeding applicable sub-ACL in following years, AMs may include adjustments to fishing season, minimum fish size, and possession limits.</p> <p>Reactive:</p> <p><u>Sectors</u> - Overages deducted from a sector's allocation in next fishing year</p> <p><u>Common pool</u> –Overages deducted from sub-ACL</p> <p><u>Non-allocated stocks</u>- gear restrictions in year 2 or 3 following the overage, depending on timing of information</p> <p><u>Other fisheries</u> – sub-ACLs with associated AMs for certain groundfish stocks caught by the scallop fishery (windowpane flounder stocks, GB and SNE/MA yellowtail flounder stocks), small mesh fisheries (GB yellowtail flounder); and mid-water trawl herring fishery (haddock stocks).</p>
Cod, GOM	Overfishing Overfished	Rebuild by 2024	SEP 2017/ TBD 2019	95% of sub-ABC comm.; 93% of sub-ABC rec.	
Haddock, GB	No overfishing Not overfished	Rebuilt	SEP 2017/ TBD 2019	95% of sub-ABC 93% of sub-ABC MWT	
Haddock, GOM	No overfishing Not overfished	Rebuilt	SEP 2017/ TBD 2019	95% of sub-ABC comm.; 93% of sub-ABC rec. 93% of sub-ABC MWT	
YTF, GB	Overfishing Overfished	Rebuild by 2032	JUL 2017/ JUL 2018	97% of sub-ABC 93% of sub-ABC small-mesh 97% of sub-ABC scallops	
YTF, SNE/MA	Overfishing Overfished	No longer rebuilt	SEP 2017/ TBD 2019	95% of sub-ABC 100% of sub-ABC scallops	
YTF, CC/GOM	Overfishing Overfished	Rebuild by 2023	SEP 2017/ TBD 2019	95% of sub-ABC	
American Plaice	No overfishing Not overfished	Rebuild by 2024	SEP 2017/ TBD 2019	95% of sub-ABC	
Witch Fl.	Unknown Overfished	Rebuild by 2017	SEP 2017/ TBD 2019	95% of sub-ABC	
Winter Fl., GB	No overfishing Not overfished	Rebuild by 2017	SEP 2017/ TBD 2019	97% of sub-ABC	
Winter Fl., GOM	No overfishing Unknown	Stock status unknown	SEP 2017/ TBD 2019	95% of sub-ABC	
Winter Fl., SNE/MA	No overfishing Overfished	Rebuild by 2023	SEP 2017/ TBD 2019	95% of sub-ABC	
GB/GOM Acadian Redfish	No overfishing Not overfished	Rebuilt	SEP 2017/ TBD 2019	95% of sub-ABC	
Pollock	No overfishing Not overfished	Rebuilt	SEP 2017/ TBD 2019	95% of sub-ABC	
White Hake	No overfishing Not overfished	Rebuild by 2014	SEP 2017/ TBD 2019	95% of sub-ABC	
Ocean Pout	No overfishing Overfished	Rebuild by 2014	SEP 2017/ TBD 2019	93% of sub-ABC	
SNE/MAB Windowpane	No overfishing Not overfished	Rebuilt	SEP 2017/ TBD 2019	93% of sub-ABC	

¹ Terminal year for data used in assessments typically is the year before the assessment.

^B Indicates a benchmark assessment.

² The following default management uncertainty buffers are used for groundfish stocks: 3% for stocks with no state waters catch; 7% for zero possession stocks; 7% for recreational allocations; and 5% for all other stocks/components of the fishery.

**Status, Assessment and Management Information for NEFMC Managed Fisheries
June 1, 2018**

Northeast Multispecies - continued

Stock	Status	Rebuilding Status	Last / Next Planned Assessment	Acceptable Biological Catch Annual Catch Limit (ABC/ACL) Buffer	Accountability Measures (AMs)
Atlantic Halibut	No overfishing Overfished	Rebuild by 2055	DEC 2017/ TBD 2019	95% of ABC	Same as above
Atlantic Wolffish	No overfishing Overfished	Unable to determine rebuilding period	SEP 2017/ TBD 2019	93% of ABC	

Fishery Management Plan: Skates

Stock	Status	Rebuilding Year	Last / Next Assessment	ABC/ACL Buffer	Accountability Measures (AMs)
Barndoor	No overfishing Not overfished	NA	Last: DEC 2008 Next: (data update) 2018	ABC=ACL ACT = 75% ACL determined for catch of all skate species combined	Proactive: In-season possession limit triggers Reactive: Adjustments to TAL triggers and ACL-ACT buffer
Clearnose	No overfishing Not overfished	NA			
Little	No overfishing Not overfished	NA			
Smooth	No overfishing Not overfished	Rebuild by 2020			
Thorny	No overfishing Overfished	Rebuild by 2028			
Winter	No overfishing Not overfished	NA			
Rosette	No overfishing Not overfished	NA			

Fishery Management Plan: Herring

Stock	Status	Rebuilding Year	Last / Next Assessment	ABC/ACL Buffer	Accountability Measures (AMs)
Herring	No overfishing Not overfished	NA	Last: (operational assessment) April 2015 Next: (benchmark) June 2018	Total of management area ACLs = 94.1% ABC	Proactive: Closure of stock-wide directed fishery at 95% of ACL; sub-ACL triggers for specific management areas are 92% of each sub-ACL; closure of directed fishery for haddock incidental catch sub-ACL in appropriate area; closure of directed fishery for river herring catch caps by area. Reactive: ACL overage payback (for herring as well as bycatch overages)

**Status, Assessment and Management Information for NEFMC Managed Fisheries
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Fishery Management Plan: Sea Scallops

Stock	Status	Rebuilding Year	Last / Next Assessment	ABC/ACL Buffer	Accountability Measures (AMs)
Scallops	No overfishing Not overfished	Rebuilt	Last: (benchmark) July 2014 (update) July 2017 Next: (benchmark) June 2018	ABC=ACL sub-ACLs for limited access (LA) & limited access general category (LAGC) fleets	Reactive: 1) LA – DAS reduced in next year; 2) LAGC – IFQs reduced in next year

Fishery Management Plan: Monkfish

Stock	Status	Rebuilding Year	Last / Next Assessment	ABC/ACL Buffer	Accountability Measures (AMs)
Northern Management Area	No overfishing Not overfished	Rebuilt	Last: (update) 2016 Next: (benchmark) TBD	ACL=ABC ACLs for northern (NMA) & southern management areas (SMA)	Proactive: SMA ACT = 97% of ABC NMA ACT = 97% of ABC Reactive: ACL overages to be deducted from ACT by adjusting mgt. measures in 2 nd year after overages or Regional Administrator may adjust DAS and trip limits by notice action.
Southern Management Area	No overfishing Not overfished	Rebuilt			

Fishery Management Plan: Red crab

Stock	Status	Rebuilding Year	Last / Next Assessment	ABC/ACL Buffer	Accountability Measures (AMs)
Red crab	No overfishing Not overfished (2009 Data Poor Work Group)	NA	Last: DEC 2008** Next: TBD	ACL=ABC (ABC is defined in terms of landings)	Proactive (options): A) NMFS will close fishery when it is projected to reach the ACL B) ACT Reactive (option): Payback excess catch over the ACL in the next period

** Northeast Fisheries Science Center Reference Document 09-02

**Status, Assessment and Management Information for NEFMC Managed Fisheries
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Fishery Management Plan: **Small Mesh Multispecies** (Whiting, Red hake, Offshore hake)

Stock	Status	Rebuilding Year	Last / Next Assessment	ABC/ACL Buffer	Accountability Measures (AMs)
Silver hake, Northern	No overfishing Not overfished	NA	Last: (operational assessment): July 2011 Last (update assessment): July 2017 Next: (operational): 2019 for red hake Unscheduled for silver hake	ACL = 95% of ABC	<p>Proactive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incidental possession limits when 90% of TALs reached. 37.5% for northern red hake due to prior overages. <p>Reactive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-season triggers are reduced by the proportion of prior overages, when the overages exceed 5% of the ACL.
Silver hake, Southern	No overfishing Not overfished	NA			
Red hake, Northern	Not overfished Not overfished	NA			
Red hake, Southern	Overfishing in 2016 Overfished	NA			
Offshore hake	Status unknown	NA			



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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 Gregg T. Waugh, Executive Director

JUNE 10-15, 2018 COUNCIL MEETING REPORT FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

The following summary highlights the major issues discussed and actions taken at the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s June 2018 meeting in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Briefing materials, presentations, and public comments are available on the Council’s website at:

<http://safmc.net/safmc-meetings/council-meetings/>

Final Committee Reports contain more details of what was accomplished for each committee and are located on the June 2018 briefing book page. In addition, the Summary of Motions on the Council’s website includes all motions from the meeting. Read further details and see images and other links at the March 2018 Council Meeting Round-up Story Map:

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=a88e097b4bcd4a289251d0a59303a1de>

The Meeting News Release is available at: <http://safmc.net/news-releases/06-15-18-safmc-news-release/>

Issue:	Action Taken:	Schedule:
Red Snapper	<p>Amendment 43 is currently under review by NMFS. The amendment was sent to NMFS on November 20, 2017. Comments on the proposed rule are due by June 18, 2018.</p> <p>The Council provided guidance on actions to include in Amendment 46:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private Recreational Permit • Private Recreational Electronic Reporting <p>The Council provided guidance on Regulatory Amendment 29:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require use of Best Fishing Practices (e.g., descending devices, venting, hook type) • Adjust Powerhead Prohibitions in the South Atlantic (allow in the EEZ off SC or prohibit use of powerheads in entire EEZ) 	<p>If approved, the 2018 recreational and commercial seasons would begin sometime in August. [In future years, the recreational season would begin on July 13, 2018 (2nd Friday) and the commercial season on July 9, 2018.]</p> <p>Recreational bag = 1 with no size limit. Commercial trip limit = 75 pounds gutted weight with no size limit.</p> <p>Approved for scoping.</p> <p>Approved for scoping in August.</p>

Issue:	Action Taken:	Schedule:
Recreational Visioning Amendment	<p>Regulatory Amendment 26: reviewed comments and simplified document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Deep-water species aggregate to include snowy grouper, misty grouper, golden tilefish, blueline tilefish, wreckfish, and yellowedge grouper •Removal of minimum size limits for the three deep-water snappers (queen snapper, blackfin snapper, silk snapper) •Season and aggregate bag limit for deep-water species aggregate •Recreational bag limits for the current 20-Fish Aggregate species (the Council can select some or all of these) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ no more than 10 gray triggerfish ○ no more than 10 Atlantic spadefish ○ no more than 10 of any one species •Gray triggerfish minimum size limit (so that folks in FL will match the rest of the South Atlantic region) 	Review/modify document and approve all actions in September 2018. Review and approve for formal review in December 2018.
Commercial Visioning Amendment	Regulatory Amendment 27: reviewed comments and provided guidance. Approved all actions.	Review and approve for formal review in September 2018.
For-Hire Moratorium Amendment	Reviewed the scoping document and provided guidance on what to include.	Approved for webinar scoping in August with additional scoping in September and October. Review and provide guidance at September meeting.
Golden Tilefish	The Council discussed the conversion factor for whole weight to gutted weight and decided to use the factor included in the stock assessment that results in a slightly higher ACL. The Council approved all action and approved for formal review.	The document will be revised and sent for formal review so that the new ACL can be in place by January 1, 2019. The Council also requested and extension of the interim rule for an additional 186 days.
Red Grouper	The Council added actions to the amendment and approved for public hearings.	Hold public hearing at the September meeting and approve for formal review.
Yellowtail Snapper	The Council is proposing to modify the accountability measure as a short-term solution to the early closure of the commercial fishery.	Approved for scoping in August. Review at September meeting.
Modifications to Sea Turtle Release Gear	The Council reviewed scoping comments and provided guidance on actions and alternatives to include.	Review at a future meeting.
Vermilion Snapper & Black Sea Bass	The Council directed staff to begin an abbreviated framework document to increase the ACL for vermilion and reduce the ACL for black sea bass.	Public hearing at September meeting and approve for formal review.

Issue:	Action Taken:	Schedule:
Mackerel Cobia	<p>The Council approved CMP Amendment 31 (Atlantic Cobia) for formal review and retained Alternative 2 as preferred: Remove Atlantic cobia from the CMP Fishery Management Plan.</p> <p>The Council retained Preferred Alternative 3 in the framework amendment to change the Atlantic king mackerel commercial trip limit.</p>	<p>The Gulf Council is scheduled to take final action at their June 18-21, 2018 meeting.</p> <p>The Council approved the document for a public hearing at the September meeting and they will consider final action then also.</p>
Spiny Lobster	The Council revised the Actions & Alternatives to be analyzed in Spiny Lobster Amendment 13 (Modifications to Gear Requirements & Cooperative Management Procedure).	This is a joint Amendment with the Gulf Council. Public hearings are expected in July/August with final approval by the Gulf in August and the South Atlantic in September.
Habitat and Ecosystem Based Management	The Council reviewed the AP report and Habitat Dashboard.	Support completion of Ecopath model for the fall SSC meeting.
Citizen Science Program	The Council made appointments to the Operations Team and received updates on the program and research needs.	Work will continue on the pilot and the program infrastructure.
For-Hire Recreational Reporting	<p>The Council received an update on the amendment: the Amendment was approved on June 12, 2018 and the Final Rule is expected to publish in August.</p> <p>Council staff conducted a training session at the meeting.</p>	<p>Regulations are likely to be effective 1/1/19 to give individuals time to become familiar with the program.</p> <p>For-Hire reporting training and outreach will continue in 2018.</p>
MyFishCount	Council staff gave a presentation at a local store on Wednesday and for the Council on Friday.	The app is now available and Council staff will be working with private recreational fishermen to have them report. This experience will be used by the Council as they continue to work on a permitting and reporting amendment.

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SEDAR	Dr. Clay Porch, SEFSC Director, participated during the meeting this week. The Council made appointments to SEDAR 64 (Yellowtail), SEDAR 58 (Cobia), Cobia Stock ID, Red Porgy Assessment, and to the SEDAR AP. The Council also approved the terms of reference and schedule for the yellowtail and cobia stock assessments.	The Council approved the schedules for upcoming stock assessments.
ABC Control Rule & Accountability Measures	The Council provided directions to staff.	Review at a future meeting.
Highly Migratory Pelagics	The Council reviewed the issue of pelagic longline gear in spawning special management zones and the process for reviewing the pelagic longline EFP.	Letters will be sent on both topics.
Golden Crab, Habitat, Shrimp	The Council reviewed recommendations from the advisory panels and approved development of an amendment to review alternatives to modify fishing areas.	Conduct scoping later this year and review at a future meeting.
SSC Selection	The Council approved appointments to the Scientific and Statistical Committee.	