



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

New England and Mid-Atlantic Geographic Strategic Plan (DRAFT)

2024-2028

Presentation to the Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils
June 2023

Overview and Purpose

- Draft plan developed jointly between GARFO and NEFSC
- Constrained to fit prescribed National template
- Share Draft Strategic Plan with Councils and ASMFC
- Solicit feedback before finalizing plan

NOAA Fisheries Vision and Mission

- Vision: The potential of our ocean ecosystems is realized—using innovation and understanding of a changing world—for the benefit of the nation.
- Mission: NOAA Fisheries is responsible for the stewardship of the nation's living marine resources and their habitat. We provide vital services for the nation: Sustainable and productive fisheries; safe sources of seafood; the recovery and conservation of protected resources; and healthy ecosystems—all backed by sound science and an ecosystem-based approach to management.

National Strategic Goals

1. Adaptively manage fisheries for sustainability and economic competitiveness
2. Safeguard protected species and propel their recovery
3. Diversify our workforce, promote equity and environmental justice, and improve our mission performance through organizational excellence

Regional Challenges & Priorities

Challenges:

- Concurrent changes across spectrum of our work
- Pace and level of offshore wind development
- Increased data needs
- Burdensome administrative processes
- Balancing DEIA and EEJ

Priorities:

- Conduct world-class research
- Evaluate/mitigate impacts of emerging industries/issues
- Respond to impacts from changing climate
- Recover endangered species
- Develop aquaculture
- Improve customer service

1. Manage fisheries - Strategies

- Manage stocks for optimum yield and build resilience
- Advance climate science and EBFM
- Mitigate and adapt to climate-driven changes in habitat
- Diversify/modernize our data collection and products
- Ensure equity and accessibility
- Counter IUU fishing
- Adapt to wind energy development

2. Protected species - Strategies

- Implement actions to recover endangered/threatened species
- Model/predict effects of climate change
- Expand use of innovative technologies
- Protect and restore necessary habitats
- Protect marine species while supporting growth

3. Organizational excellence - Strategies

- Promote total worker wellness
- Improve workforce DEIA
- Develop workforce skills for the future
- Embrace new paradigm for the workplace
- Adaptively manage infrastructure
- Optimize resources
- Expand internal/external communication
- Implement EEJ Strategy
- Build coalitions

Key Performance Indicators

- For each goal, we've listed a set of "key performance indicators"
- For example,
 - Maximize value and resilience of fishing/seafood sector
 - Increase sustainable aquaculture production
 - Complete ESA consultations within monitored timelines
 - Optimize workplace flexibilities
 - Increase outreach and responsiveness to stakeholders

Timeline for review

- Draft plan being reviewed by NMFS HQ
- Seeking Council input/feedback by end of July
- Intend to publish final Strategic Plan by October 1