

New England Fishery Management Council
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New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda
Tuesday - Thursday, December 1 - 3, 2015
Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland, ME 04101
Tel (207) 775.2311 | Fax (207) 761.8224 | www.innbythebay.com/

Sending comments? If you would like your written comments to be considered at this meeting, they must be received at the NEFMC office by 10 a.m. on Friday, November 27, 2015. Please address them to Council Chairman Terry Stockwell or Executive Director Tom Nies. Email submissions should be sent to comments@nefmc.org.

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

9:00 a.m. Introductions and Announcements (Terry Stockwell, Council Chairman)

9:05 Reports on Recent Activities Council Chairman and Executive Director, NOAA Regional Administrator (Greater Atlantic Region), NOAA General Counsel, Northeast Fisheries Science Center and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council liaisons, and representatives of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA Enforcement, and the Northeast Regional Ocean Council

11:15 Spiny Dogfish Report (Jason Didden, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council staff)
Approve final action on the 2016-2018 fishery specifications and associated management measures

12:30 p.m. Lunch Break

1:30 Open Period for Public Comments (Terry Stockwell)
Opportunity for the public to provide brief comments on issues that are relevant to Council business but not listed on this agenda for formal discussion (speakers are asked to sign up beforehand and limit remarks to between 3-5 minutes)

1:45 Overview and Discussion of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's (NEFSC) Strategic Plan
(Dr. Bill Karp, Science Director, NEFSC)

2:15 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Report (Dr. Jake Kritzer, SSC Chair)
➤ Review and approve committee recommendations for an overfishing limit (OFL) and an acceptable biological catch (ABC) for the following: Atlantic sea scallops for fishing years 2016-2017; red hake for 2016-2017; most of the groundfish stocks in the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for fishing years 2016-2018;
➤ Receive SSC comments on NOAA's Ecosystem-based Fishery Management Policy

3:45 Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management (EBFM) Committee Report (John Pappalardo)
➤ Receive a progress report on the development of a prototype Fishery Ecosystem Plan
➤ Review and finalize NEFMC comments on NOAA's EBFM policy

****Public scoping hearing on Amendment 22 to the Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) Fishery Management Plan**
at 5:30 or immediately following adjournment of the Council meeting**

The intent of the amendment is to establish a limited access program for the five small mesh stocks that are regulated via the NEFMC's Groundfish Plan --- two stocks of whiting (silver hake), two stocks of red hake, and one stock of offshore hake.

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

8:30 a.m. Skate Committee Report (Libby Etrie)
Approve final action on Framework Adjustment 3 to the Northeast Skate Complex Fishery Management Plan (FMP); in addition to setting specifications, other measures may include possession limits and modifications to the seasonal management of the wing fishery

9:15 Thorny Skate Update (Kim Damon-Randall, NOAA Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office staff)
Update on NOAA Fisheries' follow-up activities associated with the petition to list thorny skate as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act

- 9:45 **Groundfish Committee Report** (Frank Blount)
- **Overview of the Greater Atlantic Region's (GAR) Recreational Fishery Implementation Plan** (GAR staff)
Following a presentation, opportunity for the Council to develop formal comments on the plan
 - **Recreational Fishery Measures, beginning at approx. 10:30** Develop final recommendations for Gulf of Maine haddock and Gulf of Maine cod recreational measures for fishing year 2016;
 - **Framework Adjustment 55, beginning at approx. 11:15** Take final action on the 2016-2018 fishery specifications for 20 groundfish stocks, plus the three U.S./CA stocks for 2016 only; this framework also could include final action on multiple at-sea monitoring and other management measures

12:30 p.m. **Lunch Break**

1:30 **Groundfish Report/Framework Adjustment 55 – continue until meeting adjournment for the day**

Thursday, December 3, 2015

8:30 a.m. **Finalize NEFMC Management Priorities for 2016** (Executive Director Tom Nies)

10:00 **Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Briefing** (ACCSP staff)
Program overview and update

10:45 **Research Steering Committee Report** (Mark Alexander)
Request Council consideration of specific research recommendations for sea scallops and monkfish

11:00 **Scallop Committee Report** (Mary Beth Tooley)

- **Amendment 19 to the Sea Scallop FMP** Take final action on an amendment that would allow earlier implementation of the sea scallop fishery specifications (now proposed as April 1)
- **Framework Adjustment 27** Take final action on fishing year 2016 specifications and default measures for fishing year 2017

12:00 p.m. **Lunch Break**

1:00 **Scallop Committee Report – continued**

3:00 **Other Business**

Times listed next to the agenda items are estimates and are subject to change.

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities

Council member financial disclosure forms are available for examination at the meeting.

Although other non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305 (c) of the Magnuson- Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

**Documents pertaining to Council actions are available for review prior to a final vote by the Council.
Please call (978) 465-0492 for paper copies or check www.nefmc.org under Council Meetings on our home page.**