

New England Fishery Management Council  
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**New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda**  
**Tuesday - Thursday, April 19-21, 2016**  
**Mystic Hilton Hotel, 20 Coogan Boulevard, Mystic, CT 06355**  
**tel 860.572.0731 | fax 860.572.0328 | <http://hiltonmystic.com/>**

**Sending comments? If you would like your written comments to be considered at this meeting, they must be received at the NEFMC office no later than 12 noon, Thursday, April 14, 2016. Please address them to Council Chairman Terry Stockwell or Executive Director Tom Nies. Email submissions should be sent to [comments@nefmc.org](mailto:comments@nefmc.org).**

**Tuesday, April 19, 2016**

**9:00 a.m. Introductions** (Council Chairman Terry Stockwell)

**9:05 Reports on Recent Activities**

Council Chairman, Executive Director, NOAA Fisheries Regional Administrator (Greater Atlantic Region Fisheries Office/GARFO), NOAA General Counsel, Northeast Fisheries Science Center and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council liaisons, and representatives of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, U.S. Coast Guard, and NOAA Enforcement

**11:00 Updated Report on the Status of the Northeast Continental Shelf Ecosystem**  
(Dr. Mike Fogarty, NEFSC)

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

**1:00 Overview of Recent Work on Assessing the Vulnerability of Fish Stocks to Climate Change**  
(Dr. Jon Hare, NEFSC)

**2:00 Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management Committee Report** (John Pappalardo)  
Discuss progress to develop a working example of a fisheries ecosystem plan

**3:30 Draft National Bycatch Strategy** (Executive Director Tom Nies)  
Discuss and approve Council comments on NOAA Fisheries draft National Bycatch Strategy and its draft Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology proposed rule

**Wednesday, April 20, 2016**

**8:30 a.m. Small Mesh Multispecies Committee Report** (Mark Gibson)  
Review the development of Amendment 22 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP); the Council is considering a limited access program for the whiting/hake fishery via this action

**9:15 Open Period for Public Comments** (Terry Stockwell)  
Opportunity for the public to provide brief comments on issues relevant to Council business but not listed on this agenda (individuals are asked to sign up beforehand and limit remarks to between 3-5 minutes)

**9:45 Atlantic Herring Committee Report** (Peter Kendall)

- Review progress on Amendment 8 to the Herring FMP, an action that would address 1.) localized depletion; and 2.) long-term harvest strategies for Atlantic herring, including an acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rule that explicitly accounts for herring's role in the ecosystem;
- Initiate a framework adjustment to revise the Georges Bank haddock catch cap accountability measures
- Discuss plans for a workshop on a management strategy evaluation of the herring ABC control rules

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

- 1:00      Omnibus Industry-Funded Monitoring Amendment** (GARFO and NEFMC/MAFMC Councils)  
Discuss and refine existing alternatives and possibly select preferred alternatives for target levels of monitoring coverage in the Atlantic herring fishery; approval of the associated draft Environmental Assessment will occur at the NEFMC's June Council meeting
- 3:00      Sea Scallop Committee Report** (Mary Beth Tooley)  
Review and discuss results of the Council-sponsored workshop to address concerns about scallop fishing pressure in nearshore areas; review a draft outline and work plan for the five-year performance review of the limited access general category IFQ program; discuss increased fishing activity in the Northern Gulf of Maine management area and any associated action if warranted

**Thursday, April 21, 2016**

- 8:30 a.m.      Habitat Committee Report** (Dr. John Quinn)  
Review and approve for further development and analysis updates to the range of management alternatives under consideration in the Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment
- 10:30      Overview of the draft Northeast Regional Ocean Plan** (John Weber, Executive Director, Northeast Regional Ocean Council)
- 11:30      Discard Methodology Review** (Dr. Michael Lanning, GARFO)  
Receive a report on plans for a peer review (fall 2016) of the in-season discard methodology used by GARFO, including a discussion of the terms of reference approved by the Northeast Regional Coordinating Committee
- 12:30 p.m.      Lunch Break**
- 1:30      Spiny Dogfish Trip Limits** (Jason Didden, MAFMC)  
Review the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Spiny Dogfish trip limit modification request and consider changes to the trip limit
- 2:30      Groundfish Committee Report** (Frank Blount)
- Receive a progress report on work to evaluate the groundfish monitoring program
  - Receive an update on other groundfish priorities for 2016, including windowpane flounder management measures and improving the process to develop recreational fishery management measures
- 3:15      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 check the Council's website, [www.nefmc.org](http://www.nefmc.org), or call (978) 465-0492 for copies.**