

New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda
Tuesday - Thursday, September 20-22, 2016
DoubleTree by Hilton, 50 Ferncroft Road, Danvers, MA 01923
tel: (978) 777-2500 | fax: (978) 750-7911 | [DoubleTree by Hilton website](http://www.doubletreebyhilton.com)

Sending comments? Written comments must be received at the NEFMC office no later than 12 noon, Thursday, Sept. 15, 2016 to be considered at this meeting. Please address them to Council Chairman Terry Stockwell or Executive Director Tom Nies at: NEFMC, 50 Water St., Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950. Email submissions should be sent to comments@nefmc.org.

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

- 9:00 a.m. Introductions and Announcements** (Chairman Terry Stockwell)
- 9:05 Swearing-in of New and Reappointed Council Members** (John Bullard, Regional Administrator, GARFO)
- 9:15 Election of 2016-2017 Officers**
- 10:15 Reports on Recent Activities**
Council Chairman and Executive Director, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) Regional Administrator, NOAA General Counsel, Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC), Mid-Atlantic Council, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, U.S. Coast Guard, and NOAA Enforcement
- 12:00 Presentation on Draft Amendment 10 to the 2006 Consolidated Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan to Address Habitat Revisions** (NMFS HMS staff) **(TAB #1)**
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 2:00 Open Period for Public Comments**
Opportunity for the public to provide brief comments on issues relevant to Council business but not listed on this agenda (please limit remarks to 3-5 minutes)
- 2:15 Small Mesh Multispecies Committee Report** (Mark Gibson) **(TAB #6)**
Plan Development Team (PDT) annual monitoring report covering 2015 fishery performance, including estimated catches compared to annual catch limits (ACLs); potential initiation of a framework (FW) adjustment to modify accountability measures (AMs)
- 3:00 Atlantic Herring Committee Report** (Peter Kendall) **(TAB #5)**
Update on Amendment 8, an action considering alternative acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rules and measures to address localized depletion; and an update on FW 5 to potentially modify haddock bycatch AMs in the Atlantic herring midwater trawl fishery
- 4:45 Electronic Monitoring (EM) Pilot Program Progress Report** (GARFO staff) **(TAB #15)**
Status report on GARFO's pilot project using electronic monitors on Atlantic herring and mackerel midwater trawl vessels to test EM utility for future programs

Wednesday, September 21, 2016

- 8:30 a.m. Transboundary Resource Assessment Committee (TRAC)** (Liz Brooks, NEFSC) **(TAB #3)**
Summary of 2016 assessment results for Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder
- 9:15 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)** (Dr. Jake Kritzer) **(TAB#12)**
ABC recommendations for GB yellowtail flounder, monkfish, and deep-sea red crab
- 10:15 Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC)** (Terry Stockwell) **(TAB #3)**
Review and possibly approve TMGC recommendations for 2017 total allowable catches (TACs) for shared U.S./Canada groundfish stocks on Georges Bank
- 11:15 Groundfish Committee Report** (Terry Alexander) **(TAB #3)**
Approve range of alternatives for FW 56, including: (1) 2017 U.S./Canada TACs, (2) 2017-2019 witch flounder specifications, and (3) commercial/recreational management measures (northern windowpane flounder sub-ACL for scallop fishery; GB haddock sub-ACL for Atlantic herring midwater trawl fishery; potential Atlantic halibut action; recreational management process); receive Groundfish Monitoring White Paper report

12:30 p.m. Lunch Break

1:45 Groundfish Committee Report Continued

3:30 Monkfish Committee Report (Vincent Balzano) **(TAB #10)**
Update on fishing year (FY) 2017-2019 specifications; potential FW initiation if required

4:30 Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab Report (Jessica Joyce) **(TAB #14)**
Final action on fishing year 2017-2019 specifications

Thursday, September 22, 2016

8:30 a.m. 2017 Council Priorities – Initial Discussion (Executive Director Tom Nies) **(TAB #1)**

9:30 Habitat Committee Report (Dr. John Quinn) **(TAB #7)**
Update on the Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment with potential approval of minor adjustments to range of alternatives; update on Clam Dredge Framework; recommendations for further work

11:00 Scallop Committee Report (Mary Beth Tooley)
Update on FW 28, including: FY 2017 specifications and default measures for FY 2018; and measures to (1) potentially restrict possession of shell stock inshore of the days-at-sea (DAS) demarcation line north of 42° 20' N, (2) modify the process for setting ACLs, and (3) modify the Closed Area I Access Area boundary consistent with potential changes to habitat and groundfish mortality closures. Specifications include ABCs, ACLs, DAS, access-area allocations, Northern Gulf of Maine TAC, and observer/research set-asides

12:30 p.m. Lunch Break

1:45 Scallop Committee Report Continued

2:15 Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM) (John Pappalardo)
Receive draft PDT report on a Georges Bank operating model to support the development of an example Fishery Ecosystem Plan and Management Strategy Evaluation; provide further guidance to the PDT and EBFM Committee; develop comments for NMFS on EBFM road map

4:15 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 on 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, or call (978) 465-0492 for copies.**