

New England Fishery Management Council
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New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda
Tuesday - Thursday, June 21-23, 2016
Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland, ME 04101
tel 800.345.5050 | 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 no later than 12 noon, Thursday, June 16, 2016. Please address them to Council Chairman Terry Stockwell or Executive Director Tom Nies. Email submissions should be sent to comments@nefmc.org.

Tuesday, June 21, 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 Regional 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

10:15 Enforcement/VMS Committee Report (Terry Alexander)

Receive feedback from NEFMC species committees on the Office of Law Enforcement's priorities, as well as recommendations on other issues

10:45 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)

11:00 Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Update (Brian Hooker, BOEM)

Receive an update on the status of offshore wind leasing in the Atlantic and the comment periods for site assessment and site characterization activities proposed for offshore New York

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:30 Small Mesh Multispecies Committee Report (Mark Gibson)

Receive an analysis of the small-mesh multispecies (whiting/hake) fishery fleet history in considering the development of limited access alternatives for Amendment 22 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP); reconsider proceeding with development of this action

2:15 Review NOAA Fisheries' Draft Northeast Climate Science Action Plan (Dr. Jon Hare, Northeast Fisheries Science Center) Presentation followed by an opportunity for questions and answers

3:15 Scientific and Statistical Committee Report (SSC) (Dr. Jake Kritzer)

Receive an overview of the SSC's discussions and comments about: improving groundfish catch advice, the Risk Policy Working Group "roadmap," the five-year review of the scallop limited access general category IFQ program, and NOAA Fisheries Draft Northeast Climate Science Action Plan

4:15 Develop NEFMC Comments on the Climate Science Action Plan (Council Staff)

Wednesday, June 22, 2016

8:30 a.m. Receive a Review of NOAA's Proposed Rule to Designate Atlantic Sturgeon Critical Habitat (GARFO staff)

9:00 Scallop Committee Report (Mary Beth Tooley)

Initiate Framework 28 (fishery specifications for 2017-2018) to the Scallop FMP; alternatives may include measures to : 1) restrict the possession of shell stock inshore of the days-at-sea demarcation line north of 42° 20' N; 2) modify the process for setting scallop annual catch limits; 3) modify scallop access areas consistent with potential changes to habitat and groundfish closed areas; and 4) modify gear to further protect small scallops; other issues include approval of priorities for the 2017-2018 research set-aside (RSA) program and modifications to the proposal review process currently outlined in the NEFMC's RSA policy

- 10:30 Groundfish Committee Report** (Frank Blount)
The report will include: 1) a progress report on a draft white paper on monitoring strategies for the commercial groundfish fishery; 2) initiation of Framework 56 to the Groundfish FMP -- the action will set specifications for U.S./CA stocks and witch flounder for fishing years 2017-2018, modify the process used to set recreational management measures, establish a sub-annual catch limit for northern windowpane flounder in the scallop fishery, allocate northern windowpane flounder to groundfish sectors, modify the groundfish monitoring program, and possibly other measures; 3) approval of the range of alternatives to consider in a framework adjustment that would revise the Georges Bank haddock catch cap and accountability measures for the herring fishery; **this last issue will include input from the Herring Committee and may be included in Framework 56*

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

- 1:15 Groundfish Committee Report** - *continue discussion of the Georges Bank haddock catch cap*
- 2:30 Atlantic Herring Committee Report** (Peter Kendall)
Review outcomes of a recent workshop on Atlantic herring acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rule management strategy evaluation (MSE) and approve fishery objectives, performance metrics, and features of control rules to be evaluated in the MSE; **the haddock catch cap will be addressed under groundfish*
- 4:15 Trawl Survey Advisory Panel Update** (Terry Stockwell)

Thursday, June 23, 2016

- 8:30 a.m. Omnibus Industry-Funded Monitoring Amendment** (GARFO and NEFMC/MAFMC Councils)
Select preferred alternatives for monitoring coverage targets in the Atlantic herring fishery and approve the draft Environmental Assessment for public comment

- 10:30 Risk Policy Working Group Report** (Mary Beth Tooley)
Review the final "roadmap" containing guidance on implementation of the NEFMC's approved risk policy

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

- 1:15 NOAA's Draft Guidance for Conducting Catch Share Program Reviews** (Council staff)
Review an update to NOAA's Catch Share Guidance document and review/approve any new NEFMC comments
- 1:45 Develop NEFMC Comments on the Northeast Regional Planning Body's Draft Northeast Regional Ocean Plan** (Mark Alexander)
- 2:45 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, or call (978) 465-0492 for copies.