

New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda
Tuesday - Thursday, April 18-20, 2017
Hilton Mystic, 20 Coogan Blvd., Mystic, CT 06355
tel: (860) 572-0731 | [Hilton Mystic](#)

Sending comments? Written comments must be received at the NEFMC office no later than 5 p.m., Wednesday, April 12, 2017 to be considered at this meeting. Please address them to Council Chairman Dr. John Quinn 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, April 18, 2017

- 9:00 a.m. Introductions and Announcements** (Chairman Dr. John Quinn)
- 9:05 Reports on Recent Activities**
Council Chairman, Council Executive Director, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) Regional Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) General Counsel, Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC), Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC), Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA Enforcement
- 10:30 Scallop Committee Report** (Mary Beth Tooley)
Receive committee update, including progress on 2017 work priorities; potentially initiate a framework adjustment to address Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area issues
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:15 Skate Committee Report** (Dr. Matt McKenzie)
Receive summary of scoping comments for Amendment 5 to the Northeast Skate Complex Fishery Management Plan; review and consider revising existing control dates for the skate wing and bait fisheries
- 2:15 Habitat Committee Report** (Dr. John Quinn)
Review results of coral workshops; identify preferred alternatives for Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment public hearings; receive progress report on Clam Dredge Exemption Area Framework

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

- 8:30 a.m. Ecosystem Status Report** (Sean Lucey, Northeast Fisheries Science Center)
Update on the status of the Northeast Continental Shelf ecosystem
- 9:30 Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management Report** (John Pappalardo)
Committee update on developing a worked example of harvest control rules for ecosystem management
- 10:00 Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM)** (Dr. Jon Hare, Northeast Fisheries Science Center)
Receive NEFSC presentation on SBRM performance and steps for improvement
- 11:15 Discard Methodology Review** (Dr. Michael Lanning, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office)
Receive presentation on peer review of in-season discard estimation methods
- 12:00 p.m. Open Period for Public Comment**
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)
- 12:15 Lunch Break**
- 1:30 Whiting Committee Report** (Mark Gibson)
Review and approve range of limited access, permitting, and possession limit alternatives for Amendment 22 Draft Environmental Impact Statement

- 3:30 Research Steering Committee Report** (Mark Alexander)
Receive committee report on review of collaborative research projects funded by the Council
- 3:45 Council Research Priorities** (Staff)
Approve 2017-2022 research priorities
- 4:15 Cooperative Research Program Review** (Northeast Fisheries Science Center)

Thursday, April 20, 2017

- 8:30 a.m. Council Programmatic Review** (Executive Director Tom Nies)
Receive steering committee report and approve plan for programmatic review
- 9:30 Atlantic Herring Committee Report** (Peter Kendall)
Review Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) peer review results; potentially approve range of alternatives for Amendment 8, including acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rule options and measures to address localized depletion and user conflicts; review and approve Council comments on Addendum I to Amendment 3 of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Herring Interstate Fishery Management Plan; receive update on NMFS evaluation of incorporating portside data into herring catch cap quota monitoring
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:30 Atlantic Herring Committee Report Continued**
- 2:00 Industry-Funded Monitoring (IFM) Omnibus Amendment** (Carrie Nordeen, GARFO)
Final action to submit preferred alternatives, including possible clarifications and/or changes to the preferred alternatives for the Atlantic Herring Industry-Funded Monitoring Program
- 4:00 Other business**

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

This 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.

This meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 USC 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.