

New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda
Tuesday - Thursday, April 17-19, 2018
Hilton Hotel, 20 Coogan Boulevard, Mystic, CT 06355
tel: (860) 572-0731 | [Hilton Mystic](http://HiltonMystic.com)

Sending comments? Written comments must be received at the NEFMC office no later than 5 p.m., Wednesday, April 11, 2018 to be considered at this meeting. Please address comments 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 17, 2018

- 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, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA Enforcement, Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel
- 10:30 Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)** (Brian Hooker, BOEM)
Introduction to BOEM open house in neighboring room to collect comments and answer questions on offshore wind leasing activities
- 10:45 Habitat Report** (Doug Grout)
Offshore energy: update on ongoing activities in the Northeast; Clam Dredge Framework: progress report on action to consider surfclam dredge fishery access to Great South Channel Habitat Management Area, discuss whether to consider a mussel dredge exemption in the framework
- 11:45 Skate Committee Report** (Dr. Matt McKenzie)
Framework Adjustment 6: possible final action on alternatives for prolonging the skate wing fishery
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:45 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)
- 2:00 Scallop Committee Report** (Vincent Balzano)
Committee progress report on 2018 priorities, including adjustments to General Category Individual Fishing Quota trip limits and monitoring/catch accounting provisions, as well as possible adjustments to priorities to allow consideration of standard default measures in Framework Adjustment 30
- 3:00 Council Program Review** (Review Panel Chairman Dan Hull, North Pacific Fishery Management Council)
Summary of independent review to assess Council operations, performance, and areas for improvement

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

- 8:30 a.m. Draft Procedural Directive for Electronic Monitoring (EM) Cost Allocation** (Brett Alger, NOAA Fisheries)
Discuss National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) draft policy directive for allocating costs in EM programs
- 9:30 Groundfish Committee Report** (Terry Stockwell)
Monitoring Amendment 23: progress report on potential range of alternatives
- 11:30 Northeast Fishery Sector (NEFS) IX** (Liz Sullivan, GARFO)
Receive GARFO overview on: (a) Sector IX steps to address shortcomings; and (b) proposed Sector IX operations plan as submitted to GARFO; Council discussion: because of recent information received from the industry, NMFS's consultation with the Council on Sector IX likely will include: (a) discussion of the proposed Sector VII operations plan amendments that relate to Sector IX, (b) other sectors as they relate to Sector IX, and (c) effects on the sector system generally; the Council may provide recommendations to NMFS on any topics discussed

12:30 p.m. Lunch Break

1:45 Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Summit (Rick Bellavance, Mark Godfroy)
Report on March 28-29, 2018 meeting highlights

2:15 Best Scientific Information Available (BSIA) (Executive Director Tom Nies; SSC Chair Jason McNamee)
Overview of NOAA Fisheries draft document on use of "best scientific information available," followed by Scientific and Statistical Committee comments on report; Council discussion and recommendations on BSIA

3:15 Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team (Mike Asaro, GARFO; Terry Alexander)
Report on recent Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team meetings and upcoming activities

4:15 North Atlantic Shortfin Mako Sharks (Tobey Curtis, NOAA Fisheries)
Review NOAA Fisheries proposals to address overfishing and rebuild North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks

4:45 Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Advisory Panel (AP), ICCAT Advisory Committee Report (Rick Bellavance)
Overview of HMS AP meeting, including comments on proposed shortfin mako shark measures; report on International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Advisory Committee meeting

Thursday, April 19, 2018

8:30 a.m. Atlantic Herring Report (Peter Kendall)

Stocks in the Atlantic Herring Fishery White Paper: receive presentation on updated river herring/shad discussion document, possible Council action; discuss implications of river herring/shad bycatch accountability measures recently triggered in Atlantic mackerel and Atlantic herring fisheries

10:30 Industry-Funded Monitoring (IFM) (Libby Etrie; Carrie Nordeen, GARFO)

Omnibus IFM Amendment: receive final electronic monitoring project report from GARFO; discuss whether EM, coupled with portside sampling, is a sufficient alternative to at-sea monitoring in the Atlantic herring midwater trawl fishery; possible Council action

12:30 p.m. Lunch Break

1:30 Ecosystem Status Report (Sean Hardison, NEFSC)
Update on status of the Northeast Continental Shelf ecosystem

2:30 Regulatory Reform Initiative (Deputy Director Chris Kellogg)
Update on Council proposals to the National Marine Fisheries Service on regulatory reform mandated by Executive Orders 13777, 13771, and 13565

3:00 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.