

New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda
Tuesday - Thursday, June 12-14, 2018
Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland, ME 04101
tel: (207) 775-2311 | [Holiday Inn](#)

Sending comments? Written comments must be received at the NEFMC office no later than 8 a.m., Thursday, June 7, 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, June 12, 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
- 10:30 Skate Committee Report** (Dr. Matt McKenzie)
Framework Adjustment 6: final action on alternatives for prolonging the skate wing fishery
- 11:15 Council Program Review** (Executive Director Tom Nies)
Potential Council action on next steps to improve operations based on review panel recommendations
- 12:00 Observer Policy/Industry-Funded Monitoring (IFM) Committee Report** (Libby Etrie)
Electronic Monitoring (EM): review committee comments on National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) draft policy directive for allocating costs in EM programs for federally managed U.S. fisheries
- 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 Atlantic Herring Committee Report** (Peter Kendall)
Stocks in the Atlantic Herring Fishery White Paper: consider whether to add river herring and shad to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP), possible Council action; 2019-2021 Specifications: initial overview; consideration of options for mitigating impacts of potentially lower catch limits through appropriate adjustments authorized by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
- 5:00 Atlantic Herring Amendment 8 Public Hearing** (Peter Kendall)
Public hearing on Amendment 8 to the Atlantic Herring FMP with proposed alternatives to: (1) establish an acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rule for Atlantic herring; and (2) address potential localized depletion and user conflicts in the fishery

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

- 8:30 a.m. Fisheries Allocation Policy Directive** (Executive Director Tom Nies)
Discuss NMFS policy directive and associated procedural directives for reviewing fisheries allocations, which include identifying “triggers” to initiate an allocation review
- 9:15 Northeast Fisheries Observer Program** (NEFSC)
Update on Northeast Fisheries Observer Program and Fishing Year 2018 Sea Day Schedule
- 10:15 Groundfish Committee Report** (Terry Stockwell)
Framework Adjustment 58: initiate action to include (1) 2019 total allowable catches for U.S./Canada stocks of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder, (2) rebuilding plans for several stocks, and (3) other measures; Monitoring Amendment 23: view video footage of EM in operation on fishing vessels, potentially select range of alternatives for further analysis; Fishery Dependent Data Working Group: receive update

- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:45 Groundfish Committee Report Continued**
- 2:45 Research Set-Aside Program Review** (Dr. Mike Sissenwine)
Update on Research Set-Aside Program Review Panel report being prepared by Council, GARFO, and NEFSC
- 3:00 Scallop Committee Report** (Vincent Balzano)
Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program: approve 2019-2020 RSA priorities; 2019-2020 Specifications: initial overview
- 4:15 Regulatory Reform Initiative** (Deputy Director Chris Kellogg)
Finalize list of Council proposals on regulatory reform mandated by Executive Order

Thursday, June 14, 2018

- 8:30 a.m. Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM)** (Dr. Lisa Kerr; John Pappalardo)
Summary report on the Center for Independent Experts EBFM Strategy Review; update on future EBFM Committee activities
- 10:00 Habitat Committee Report** (Doug Grout)
Clam Dredge Framework: select range of alternatives to consider continued surfclam dredge fishery access to Great South Channel Habitat Management Area and possible consideration of mussel dredge exemption; Offshore energy: update on ongoing activities in the Northeast
- 12:00 Northeast Regional Coordinating Council (NRCC) Stock Assessment Process** (Deputy Director Chris Kellogg)
Update on NRCC efforts to improve timing/scheduling of stock assessments and stock assessment research
- 12:45 p.m. 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.