

**New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda**  
**Tuesday - Thursday, September 26-28, 2017**  
**Beauport Hotel, 55 Commercial Street, Gloucester, MA 01930**  
**tel: (978) 282-0008 | [www.beauporthotel.com](http://www.beauporthotel.com)**

Sending comments? Written comments must be received at the NEFMC office no later than 5 p.m., Wednesday, September 20, 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](mailto:comments@nefmc.org).

**Tuesday, September 26, 2017**

- 9:00 a.m. Introductions and Announcements** (Chairman Dr. John Quinn)
- 9:05 Swearing-in of Reappointed Council Members** (Regional Administrator John Bullard)
- 9:15 Election of 2017-2018 Officers**
- 9:45 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, U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA Enforcement, Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel
- 11:15 Whiting Committee Report** (Mark Gibson)  
Amendment 22: select limited access, permitting, and possession limit preferred alternatives for public hearing; Annual Monitoring Report: receive plan development team presentation on 2016 fishing year with assessment update and specification recommendations; 2018-2020 specifications: initiate action
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:45 Whiting Committee Report Continued**
- 2:15 Atlantic Herring Committee Report** (Peter Kendall)  
Amendment 8: review and clarify unresolved details for alternatives under consideration; review Management Strategy Evaluation results; potentially select preferred alternatives for acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rule

**Wednesday, September 27, 2017**

- 8:30 a.m. Transboundary Resource Assessment Committee (TRAC)** (Dr. Liz Brooks, NEFSC)  
Receive summary of 2017 assessment results for Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder
- 9:15 Scientific and Statistical Committee Report** (Jason McNamee)  
Receive SSC recommendations for 2018-2019 overfishing limits (OFLs) and ABCs for GB yellowtail flounder and Northeast skate complex; receive SSC working group update
- 10:00 Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC)** (Terry Stockwell)  
Review and possibly approve TMGC recommendations for 2018 total allowable catches (TACs) for shared U.S./Canada groundfish stocks on Georges Bank
- 11:00 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)
- 11:15 Groundfish Committee Report** (Terry Stockwell)  
Framework Adjustment 57: (1) receive update on framework, which includes 2018-2020 fishery specifications, 2018 TACs for U.S./Canada stocks, Atlantic halibut accountability measures (AMs), recreational management measures, common pool trimester TAC adjustments, and southern windowpane flounder AMs; (2) receive TMGC's TAC recommendations for U.S./Canada shared stocks; and (3) receive

SSC's 2018-2019 GB yellowtail flounder OFL and ABC recommendations; Groundfish Monitoring Amendment 23: receive progress report

**12:15 p.m. Lunch Break**

**1:45 Groundfish Committee Report Continued**

**3:45 Skate Committee Report** (Dr. Matt McKenzie)

Annual Monitoring Report: receive report on fishing year (FY) 2016; Framework Adjustment 5: consider final action to allow barndoor skate landings and establish FY 2018-2019 specifications, including possession limits; Amendment 5: update on development of a limited access program for the Northeast skate complex

**Thursday, September 28, 2017**

**8:30 a.m. 2018 Council Priorities – Initial Discussion** (Executive Director Tom Nies)

**9:30 Scallop Committee Report** (Mark Alexander)

Framework Adjustment 29: receive 2017 survey results and progress report on framework, which includes: (1) fishery specifications for the 2018 fishing year and default specs for 2019, (2) scallop fishery AMs for yellowtail flounder and windowpane flounder, (3) Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area modifications, and (4) Closed Area I Scallop Access Area changes to be consistent with pending habitat area revisions

**11:00 Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management Committee Report** (John Pappalardo)

Georges Bank eFEP: receive report on development of a “worked example” (i.e. demonstration) using operating and/or assessment models for a Georges Bank Ecosystem Production Unit

**11:45 Habitat** (Dr. John Quinn)

Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment, Clam Dredge Framework, and Wind Energy Development: receive brief updates on each

**12:15 p.m. Lunch Break**

**1:30 Council Program Review Update** (Executive Director Tom Nies)

**2:00 Research Steering Committee Report** (Mark Alexander)

Receive report on: (1) developing a process to prioritize Council research priorities; (2) providing input to the Northeast Cooperative Research Program; and (3) reviewing collaborative research projects

**2:15 Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM)** (GARFO, NEFMC staff)

SBRM Omnibus Framework: final action to address assigning at-sea observers to lobster pot fleet in an unbiased manner through the Northeast Fishery Observer Program; SBRM Three-Year Report: update

**3:00 Other business**

The Council may go into closed session following other business to discuss ongoing litigation

*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](http://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.**