

Council Meeting Agenda
Tuesday - Thursday, June 16-18, 2015 | Hotel Viking, 1 Bellevue Avenue, Newport, RI 02840
tel 401.847.3300 | www.hotelviking.com/

You are invited to attend a public information session at the hotel on Monday, June 15 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. about Omnibus Habitat Amendment 2. The NEFMC staff will discuss the impacts of a new Georges Bank alternative identified at its April Council meeting.

Tuesday, June 16, 2015

8:30 a.m. Introductions and Announcements (Council Chairman Terry Stockwell)

8:35 Reports on Recent Activities

Council Chairman, Executive Director, NOAA Fisheries Regional Administrator (Greater Atlantic Region), 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 Office of Law Enforcement

9:45 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 (please sign up beforehand and limit remarks to less than five minutes)

10:00 Proposed Guidelines for National Standard 1, 3, and 7 (Tom Nies) Finalize Council comments on a proposed rule to revise the guidelines for National Standards 1, 3, and 7 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

11:30 Habitat Committee Report (David Preble)

Finalize Remaining Management Measures for Inclusion in Omnibus Essential Fish Habitat Amendment 2 Select Georges Bank habitat management areas and mortality alternatives, as well as spawning alternatives for Georges Bank/Southern New England and the Gulf of Maine; review and approve the amendment for submission to NMFS; pending NOAA Fisheries approval, measures could affect all NEFMC fishery management plans

12:30 p.m. Lunch Break

1:30 Habitat Committee Report – to be continued until meeting adjournment for the day

Wednesday, June 17, 2015

8:30 a.m. Atlantic Herring Operational Assessment Report (Dr. Jim Weinberg, NEFSC) Receive a report on the Atlantic herring operational stock assessment held in April 2015

9:00 Herring Committee Report (Doug Grout/Terry Stockwell)

Amendment 8 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP)

- Review a report from the Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management (EBFM) Plan Development Team about the development of alternatives for a herring acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rule that includes the role of herring in the ecosystem;
- Receive a report from the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) on the development of an ecosystem-based ABC control rule for Atlantic herring;
- Consider recommendations from the Joint Herring/EBFM Committee meeting;
- Review Amendment 8 scoping comments; and
- Provide guidance on the development of Amendment 8 goals and objectives and ABC control rule alternatives

11:30 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Report (SSC member tba) Receive SSC comments on the Atlantic herring operational assessment and related catch advice, including a recommendation for an ABC

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:00 Herring Committee Report - continued from the previous herring discussion

2016-2018 Atlantic Herring Fishery Specifications

- Possibly select a preferred alternative for the 2016-2018 herring ABC and take action on other fishery specifications for this time period; and
- Provide guidance on the development of options for Atlantic herring sub-ACLs, provisions to address research set-asides, and river herring/shad catch caps to be included in the specifications package

3:00 Council Coordination Committee (CCC) Reports (Terry Stockwell/Tom Nies) Review and discuss the following reports in advance of this June's CCC meeting: 1.) Draft CCC white paper: *Integrating NEPA Compliance into a Reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act*; 2.) Draft CCC working group report: *Criteria for Initiating Fisheries Allocation Reviews*; and 3) Draft NOAA white paper: *Cooperative Research and Cooperative Management*

Thursday, June 18, 2015

- 8:30 a.m. Overview of a March 2015 Review of the Sea Scallop Survey Methodologies Used in the Northeast** (Dr. Paul Rago, NEFSC)
Overview of the major points provided by an independent peer review panel in a report titled *Summary Report of the Sea Scallop Survey Methodologies and their Integration for Stock Assessment and Fishery Management (April 9, 2015)*
- 9:15 Scallop Committee Report** (Mary Beth Tooley)
- **Amendment 19 to the Sea Scallop FMP** Discuss development of an action intended to address issues associated late implementation of fishery specifications;
 - **Framework Adjustment 27 to the FMP** Initiate action to set fishery specifications for fishing year 2016 and default measures for 2017; approve research priorities for the 2016-2017 scallop research set-aside program; and receive an update on a draft white paper and potential workshop that would focus on concerns raised about scallop fishing patterns in nearshore areas
- 11:15 Monkfish Committee Report** (Dr. John Quinn)
Framework Adjustment 9 to the Monkfish FMP Review and select final measures that would promote greater operational flexibility in the fishery; the provisions, among others to be addressed, could allow fishermen to declare a Northeast multispecies day-at-sea in the Northern Fishery Management Area, and a monkfish day-at-sea in the Southern Fishery Management Area, and allow the re-declaration of a monkfish day to a monkfish research (RSA) day while at sea
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:15 Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW) Working Group Formation** (Dr. Jim Weinberg, NEFSC) Report on draft guidelines concerning the formation of and participation in the SAW working groups
- 1:45 Trawl Survey Advisory Panel Report** (Dr. William Karp, NEFSC) Review and finalize the panel's purpose, objectives, scope and deliverables (Terms of Reference)
- 2:15 Electronic Monitoring Working Group Report** (Peter Kendall) Receive an update on the group's recent activities
- 2:30 Groundfish Committee Report** (Frank Blount)
- **Framework Adjustment 55 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP** Initiate action on specifications for all groundfish stocks for fishing years 2016-2018, including the three U.S./Canada stocks for fishing year 2016
 - **At-Sea Monitoring (ASM)** Receive an overview of an analysis of industry costs for ASM and potentially discuss changes to the Groundfish FMP to address industry concerns around the feasibility of the existing requirement that sectors assume some of the costs of the ASM program
- 4:00 Other Business**

Submitting Comments? If you plan to submit written comments to be considered at this meeting, they must be received at the NEFMC office by 12 p.m. EDT on Thursday, June 11, 2015, and should be addressed to Chairman Terry Stockwell or Executive Director Tom Nies. Emails should be sent to comments@nefmc.org.

Please Note - 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 issues specifically listed in this notice and any 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 on the emergency.

**Documents pertaining to Council actions are available for review prior to a final vote by the Council.
Please check the Council website, www.nefmc.org, or call (978) 465-0492 for copies.**