

## New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda – Revised\*

Tuesday - Wednesday, April 14-15, 2020

[By Webinar](#)

Sending comments? Written comments must be received at the NEFMC office no later than 8:00 a.m., Thursday, April 9, 2020 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](mailto:comments@nefmc.org).

**IMPORTANT:** Due to federal and state travel restrictions and updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding the new coronavirus, [COVID-19](#), this meeting will be conducted by webinar. Please monitor the Council's [April 2020 meeting webpage](#) for additional information.

**UPDATE:** In light of this unforeseen pandemic and the economic, social, and public health consequences that are rapidly unfolding, the Council may discuss requests for emergency action that come up during the meeting. Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to implement emergency regulations to address fishery emergencies.

### Tuesday, April 14, 2020

- 9:00 a.m. Introductions and Announcements** (Chairman Dr. John Quinn)
- 9:10 Reports on Recent Activities**  
Council Chairman (including a discussion of medium-range Council planning and the Northeast Multispecies Amendment 23 timeline), 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, U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA Enforcement, Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel, International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Advisory Committee
- 10:45 Ecosystem Status Report** (Dr. Sean Lucey, NEFSC)  
Presentation on the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's State of the Ecosystem 2020 report
- 11:45 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)** (SSC Chair Dr. Jason McNamee)  
Receive SSC recommendations on NEFSC's State of the Ecosystem 2020 report
- 12:00 p.m. EBFM Committee Report** (John Pappalardo)  
Progress report on stakeholder engagement/public information workshops focusing on Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM) and the approach used for the Council's example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP) for Georges Bank
- 12:15 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)
- 12:30 Lunch Break**
- 1:30 Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary** (Superintendent Pete DeCola, Dave Wiley, SBNMS)  
Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (SBNMS) activities update; presentation on SBNMS Condition Report and review of sanctuary's management plan
- 2:30 Red Hake Research Track Assessment** (Northeast Fisheries Science Center)  
Report on March 9-12, 2020 Red Hake Stock Structure Research Track Assessment peer review meeting
- 3:15 Small-Mesh Multispecies (Whiting) Report** (Rick Bellavance)  
Update on action to rebuild southern red hake
- 3:45 Atlantic Herring Committee Report** (Peter Kendall)

Framework Adjustment 7: update on action to protect spawning herring on Georges Bank; NEFMC/ASMFC: consider requesting NOAA send letter to ASMFC outlining differences between Council and Commission authorities related to Atlantic herring management; Framework Adjustment 8: update on action for 2021-2023 specifications and possible adjustment of herring measures that potentially inhibit the Atlantic mackerel fishery from achieving optimum yield

**5:00**      **Closed Session** (Council Chairman Dr. John Quinn)  
Closed session to discuss personnel issues

**Wednesday, April 15, 2020**

- 8:30 a.m.**      **Atlantic Sea Scallop Biological Opinion** (Jen Anderson; GARFO)  
Briefing on the National Marine Fisheries Service's decision to reinstate consultation on the 2012 Atlantic Sea Scallop Biological Opinion due to the fishery exceeding its incidental take statement for turtles
- 9:30**          **Scallop Committee Report** (Vincent Balzano) \*  
Amendment 21: approve range of alternatives for action to address (1) Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area issues, (2) the Limited Access General Category (LAGC) possession limit, and (3) individual fishing quota (IFQ) transfers; Emergency Acton: consider requests for emergency action that involve potential carryover of certain fishing year 2019 allocations into fishing year 2020
- 11:30**        **North Atlantic Right Whales** (Jen Anderson, GARFO)  
Briefing on issues related to the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team, the North Atlantic Right Whale Biological Opinion, and timeline for upcoming action
- 12:00 p.m.**   **Recreational eVTRs** (Council staff) \*  
Discuss and determine appropriate mechanism to require recreational party/charter vessels to submit vessel trip reports (VTRs) electronically as eVTRs for all fisheries managed by the New England Fishery Management Council. Potential options include initiating an omnibus framework adjustment or requesting that NMFS use its authority under Section 305(d) of the MSA to extend the recently adopted commercial eVTR requirement to cover New England party/charter vessels
- 12:45**        **Lunch Break**
- 1:30**          **Groundfish Emergency Action** (Chairman Dr. John Quinn) \*  
Consider requesting secretarial emergency action to allow an increase in carryover of unused 2019 groundfish annual catch limits into the 2020 fishing year
- 2:00**          **Groundfish Catch Share Program Review** (Terry Stockwell; Jill Swasey, MRAG Americas Inc.)  
Presentation on Groundfish Catch Share Program Review final report; Council discussion
- 3:30**          **Other Business**
- 3:45**          **Break**
- 4:00**          **Groundfish Monitoring Amendment 23 Public Hearing** (Terry Stockwell)  
Public hearing on Draft Amendment 23 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan, which is being developed to improve catch reporting in the commercial groundfish fishery

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

*This meeting is being held entirely by webinar. Council member financial disclosure forms are available for examination on the Council website.*

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.**