

New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda
Tuesday - Thursday, December 4-6, 2018
Hotel Viking, One Bellevue Avenue, Newport, RI 02840
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Sending comments? Written comments must be received at the NEFMC office no later than 8 a.m., Thursday, November 29, 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, December 4, 2018

9:00 a.m. 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, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC), Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA Enforcement, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary

10:30 International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas Advisory Committee (Rick Bellavance)
Report from October 17-18, 2018 meeting of the Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section of ICCAT

10:45 Research Set-Aside Program Review (Dr. Mike Sissenwine)
Progress Report on Research Set-Aside Program Review

11:00 Small-Mesh Multispecies (Whiting) Committee Report (Terry Alexander)
Amendment 22: review public comments and take final action on limited access and related measures

12:30 p.m. Lunch Break

1:45 Enforcement Committee Report (Eric Reid)
Enforcement recommendations/concerns on: Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan; cod discards; Codend Compliance Assistance Program; OMEGA Mesh Gauge (with demonstration); and other issues

2:30 Habitat Committee Report (Doug Grout)
Clam Dredge Framework: final action on alternatives to consider continued surfclam fishery access and potential mussel dredge access to Great South Channel Habitat Management Area, Enforcement Committee recommendations on framework alternatives; Offshore Energy: update

Following the close of Council business, NOAA Fisheries will hold a feedback session to solicit suggestions for improving communication and utilization of results achieved by the Saltonstall-Kennedy (S-K) Grant Program.

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

8:30 a.m. Saltonstall-Kennedy (S-K) Grant Program (Dan Namur, NOAA Fisheries Financial Assistance Division Chief)
Overview of S-K program, including information on priority setting, funding, proposal reviews, and decision-making process for issuing awards; Council opportunity to provide feedback

9:00 Measuring the Effects of Catch Shares (Jill Swasey, MRAG Americas Inc. – New England)
Report on project to measure ecological, social, economic, and governance effects of catch shares in the groundfish fishery; short demonstration on use of 14 neutral, scientific indicators

9:15 Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel (Terry Stockwell)
Report from November 19 meeting of the Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel Working Group

9:35 Groundfish Committee Report (Terry Stockwell)
Framework Adjustment 58: final action, including (1) 2019 TACs for shared U.S./Canada stocks on Georges Bank, (2) rebuilding plans for several stocks, (3) minimum size exemptions for vessels fishing in NAFO waters, and (4) extension of scallop fishery measure for triggering GB yellowtail flounder accountability measures; Monitoring Amendment 23: progress report; Fishery Data for Stock Assessment Working Group: update

11:45 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Report (SSC Chair Dr. Jason McNamee)

Receive SSC's 2019-2020 overfishing limit (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) recommendations for Atlantic sea scallops and 2019-2021 OFL and ABC recommendations for Atlantic herring

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)

Framework Adjustment 30: final action to set 2019 specifications, 2020 default specifications, and standard default measures

3:30 Atlantic Herring (Peter Kendall)

Council discussion/comment on NOAA Fisheries proposed rule to set catch limits for the 2019 fishing year

4:00 Revised Stock Assessment Process (Deputy Director Chris Kellogg)

Report on Northeast Regional Coordinating Council's decisions for revising the stock assessment process and assessment scheduling

Following the close of Council business, NOAA Fisheries will hold a second feedback session to solicit suggestions for improving communication and utilization of results achieved by the Saltonstall-Kennedy (S-K) Grant Program.

Thursday, December 6, 2018

8:30 a.m. Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM) (John Pappalardo)

Georges Bank example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP): progress report on development of an eFEP framework; Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE): brief introduction to MSE usage for EBFM

9:00 Spiny Dogfish (Jason Didden, MAFMC staff)

2019-2021 Specifications: final action

9:30 Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) (Jason Didden, MAFMC)

Report on three-year SBRM review

10:00 Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team (ALWTRT) (Terry Alexander; Colleen Coogan, GARFO)

ALWTRT: report on October meeting, next steps; Ropeless Consortium: report on November meeting

11:15 Fishery Dependent Data Initiative (Barry Clifford, GARFO)

Annual report on GARFO/NEFSC efforts to modernize fishery dependent data collection

12:15 p.m. Lunch Break

1:15 Council Priorities (Executive Director Tom Nies)

Final action on 2019 Council priorities for all committees and Council responsibilities

3:30 Research Steering (Executive Director Tom Nies)

Council discussion and decision-making on future of the Research Steering Committee

3:45 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.