

New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda
Tuesday – Thursday, February 1-3, 2022
[By Webinar](#)

Sending comments? Written comments must be received at the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) office no later than 8:00 a.m., Thursday, January 27, 2022 to be considered at this meeting. Please address comments to Council Chair Eric Reid or Executive Director Tom Nies at: NEFMC, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950. Email submissions should be sent to comments@nefmc.org.

IMPORTANT: Due to ongoing public safety considerations related to [COVID-19](#), this meeting will be conducted by webinar. Please monitor the Council's [February 2022 meeting webpage](#) for updates.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: The Council's "Guidelines for Providing Public Comments" can be found [here](#). Anyone interested in speaking during the open period for public comment on February 2, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. should email Janice Plante at jplante@nefmc.org to get on the list.

EMERGENCY ACTION: Please note that the Council will discuss a request for secretarial emergency action related to the Great South Channel Habitat Management Area under the Habitat Committee report.

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

10:00 a.m. Reports on Recent Activities

Council Chair, 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 (ASMFC), U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA Enforcement, Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel (NTAP)

12:00 p.m. Skate Committee Report (Scott Olszewski)

Framework Adjustment 9: final action to revise (1) the Northeast Skate Complex Fishery Management Plan's objectives; and (2) conditions for open access federal skate fishing permits

12:30 Lunch Break

1:45 Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM) Report (John Pappalardo)

Brief updates on: (1) informational EBFM workshops using public outreach materials, focusing on potential application to a Georges Bank example fishery ecosystem plan (eFEP); and (2) initial work to develop a Beta Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for EBFM and the Georges Bank eFEP

2:15 Habitat Committee Report (Council Chair Eric Reid)

(1) Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs): initiate framework to designate HAPCs in Southern New England; (2) Great South Channel Habitat Management Area (GSCHMA): receive report on discussion between New England/Mid-Atlantic Council leadership about Great South Channel HMA and consider next steps, including a clam industry request for secretarial emergency action; (3) Offshore Energy and Habitat-Related Work: update

4:30 Closed Session (Council Chair Eric Reid)

Closed session to discuss: (1) Scientific and Statistical Committee appointments; (2) Council policies on U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) harassment in the workplace issues

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

9:00 a.m. Scallop Committee Report (Melanie Griffin)

Evaluation of Rotational Management Program: receive and discuss final report; Scallop Survey Working Group: update; Limited Access Leasing: initial update on scoping for potential development of leasing program

10:30 Atlantic Sturgeon Bycatch Working Group (Spencer Talmage, GARFO)

Presentation on formation of working group and planned activities

- 11:15 International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)** (Rick Bellavance; Sarah McLaughlin, NOAA Fisheries)
Report on: (1) results from the 27th Regular Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas; and (2) recommendations from the Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section of ICCAT
- 12:00 p.m. 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)
- 12:15 Lunch Break**
- 1:30 Congressional Update** (Dave Whaley)
Update on legislative activities; Council discussion
- 2:30 Atlantic Mackerel** (Jason Didden, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council staff)
Briefing on Atlantic mackerel stock status and work by the Mid-Atlantic Council to revise the mackerel rebuilding program based on results from the 2021 management track stock assessment
- 3:15 East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning** (Staff)
Update on East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning initiative, including: (1) summary of August/September 2021 kick-off webinars to introduce scenario planning to stakeholders; and (2) outline of next steps, including information about February/March 2022 webinars to explore physical, biological, and social/economic drivers and uncertainties about how the marine ecosystem could be affected by climate change

Thursday, February 3, 2022

- 9:00 a.m. Groundfish Committee Report** (Rick Bellavance; Dr. Russ Brown, NEFSC; Dr. Erik Chapman, UNH; Dr. Lisa Kerr, GMRI)
(1) Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Workshops: presentation on final report, Council discussion; (2) Atlantic Cod Research Track Working Group: progress report, Council discussion on potential number of cod stocks for assessment purposes and potential management units; and (3) Recreational Measures: provide recommendations to the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office on fishing year 2022 recreational measures for Gulf of Maine cod and Gulf of Maine haddock
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:30 Groundfish Committee Report Continued**
- 3:30 Other Business**

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, 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.