

**New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda**  
**Tuesday – Thursday, June 22-24, 2021**  
[By Webinar](#)

Sending comments? Written comments must be received at the NEFMC office no later than 8:00 a.m., Thursday, June 17, 2021 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 ongoing public safety considerations related to [COVID-19](#), this meeting will be conducted by webinar. Please continue to monitor the Council's [June 2021 meeting webpage](#).

**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 June 22, 2021 at 10:45 a.m. should email Janice Plante at [jplante@nefmc.org](mailto:jplante@nefmc.org) to get on the list.

**Tuesday, June 22, 2021**

**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 (NEFSC), Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC), Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA Enforcement, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, and Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel

**10:45 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)

**11:00 Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful** (NOAA Fisheries leadership; Council staff)  
NOAA Fisheries briefing on draft White House report, "Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful," with discussion on how it applies to fisheries; report on formation of Council Coordination Committee (CCC) subcommittee on area-based management

**11:30 Electronic Monitoring Procedural Directive** (Brett Alger, NOAA Fisheries; Executive Director Tom Nies)  
Receive presentation on draft National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS/NOAA Fisheries) procedural directive on applying information law to electronic monitoring (EM) data in U.S. fisheries; approve Council comments

**12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**

**1:30 Habitat Committee Report** (Eric Reid; Peter Burns, GARFO; Andy Lipsky, NEFSC; Brian Hooker, BOEM)  
Offshore Wind: GARFO, NEFSC, and BOEM updates on offshore wind-related projects and activities; Council Habitat-Related Work: update on efforts to revise Council's Wind Energy Policy, receive other habitat project updates

**3:00 Scallop Committee Report** (Vincent Balzano)  
Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program: approve 2022-2023 RSA priorities; Framework 34: initiate action for 2022 fishery specifications, 2023 default specs, other measures; Rotational Management Program Evaluation: update; Leasing Petition: review Scallopers Campaign letter to NMFS requesting secretarial action to implement a scallop leasing program, approve Council response

**4:30 Atlantic Sea Scallop Biological Opinion** (Bill Barnhill, GARFO)  
Update on 2021 Atlantic Sea Scallop Biological Opinion to address turtle interactions in the fishery

**Wednesday, June 23, 2021**

**9:00 a.m. Atlantic Herring Committee Report** (Rick Bellavance, SSC Chair Dr. Jason McNamee)

Framework Adjustment 9: (1) receive Scientific and Statistical Committee recommendations on herring rebuilding plan alternatives to address the overfished status of Atlantic herring, and (2) receive update on

the framework's rebuilding plan alternatives and measures to potentially adjust herring accountability measures; Framework Adjustment 7: update on action to protect adult spawning herring on Georges Bank

**11:30**      **2021-2025 Council Research Priorities:** (Staff; SSC Chair Dr. Jason McNamee)  
Review list of 2021-2025 Council Research Priorities; receive SSC recommendations on research priorities; discuss and approve final list

**12:30 p.m.**   **Lunch Break**

**1:30**      **Groundfish Report** (Terry Alexander; Dr. Mackenzie Mazur, GMRI; SSC Chair Dr. Jason McNamee)  
ABC Control Rules: (1) receive presentation on draft report titled "Evaluation of Alternative Harvest Control Rules for New England Groundfish," (2) receive SSC comments on ABC control rule presentation and report, (3) Council discussion on ABC control rules draft report and SSC comments; Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Working Groups: progress report; Framework Adjustment 63: initiate action to include (1) 2022 total allowable catches (TACs) for U.S./Canada shared resources on Georges Bank (GB), (2) 2022-2024 specifications for GB cod, Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod, GB haddock, and GOM haddock, (3) 2022-2023 specifications for GB yellowtail and 2022 specifications for white hake, and (4) other measures

**Thursday, June 24, 2021**

**9:00 a.m.**   **Skate Committee Report** (Dr. Matt McKenzie)  
2022-2023 Specifications: update; Amendment 5 to the Northeast Skate Complex Fishery Management Plan: update; Control Dates: consider updating control dates for skate wing and skate bait fisheries

**11:00**      **Financial Disclosures and Recusal** (Executive Director Tom Nies)  
Approve Council comments on draft NMFS policy directive and procedural guidance for financial disclosures and recusals for regional fishery management councils

**11:30**      **Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM) MSE Steering Committee Report** (Dr. Matt McKenzie)  
Approve plan for informational workshops using public outreach materials and focusing on potential application to a Georges Bank example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP)

**12:30 p.m.**   **Lunch Break**

**1:00**      **Southeast For-Hire Electronic Reporting Requirements** (Rick Bellavance)  
Update on NOAA Fisheries Southeast Region for-hire electronic reporting requirements and application to New England recreational party/charter vessels with permits for South Atlantic species; approve draft response letter

**1:30**      **Highly Migratory Species (HMS)** (Tom Warren, NOAA Fisheries)  
Presentation on Amendment 13 to the Consolidated Atlantic HMS Fishery Management Plan, which focuses on bluefin tuna issues; Council comments on proposed rule

**2:00**      **HMS Advisory Panel and ICCAT Advisory Committee** (Rick Bellavance)  
Reports on recent meetings of: (1) NOAA Fisheries' Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel; and (2) the Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

**2:15**      **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](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.**