

New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda
Monday - Thursday, September 24-27, 2018
Hotel 1620 Plymouth Harbor, 180 Water Street, Plymouth, MA 02360
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Sending comments? Written comments must be received at the NEFMC office no later than 8 a.m., Thursday, September 20, 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.

Monday, September 24, 2018

- 2:00 p.m. Introductions and Announcements** (Chairman Dr. John Quinn)
- 2:05 Swearing-In of Reappointed Council Members** (Regional Administrator Mike Pentony)
- 2:15 Election of 2018-2019 Officers**
- 2:35 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, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA Enforcement
- 4:05 Small-Mesh Multispecies (Whiting) Committee Report** (Vincent Balzano)
Annual Monitoring Report: receive fishing year 2017 overview; Amendment 22: review public comments and receive status report on limited access and related measures; regulatory efficiency review: approve committee recommendations to streamline small-mesh multispecies regulations

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

- 8:30 a.m. Research Set-Aside Program (RSA) Review** (Dr. Mike Sissenwine)
Provide Council input and recommendations to RSA Program Review panel
- 9:00 Atlantic Herring and Atlantic Sea Scallop Benchmark Stock Assessments** (Dr. Jim Weinberg, NEFSC)
Receive summary of results from benchmark assessments conducted during the 65th Stock Assessment Workshop/Stock Assessment Review Committee (SAW/SARC)
- 10:15 Scallop Committee Report** (Vincent Balzano)
Framework Adjustment 30: receive (1) update on action to set 2019 specifications, 2020 default specs, and standard default measures, and (2) overview of 2018 surveys; General Category Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Fishery Component: receive update on IFQ trip limit analysis; 2018 scallop priorities: receive progress report
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:45 Atlantic Herring Committee Report** (Peter Kendall)
Amendment 8: final action on amendment to (1) establish an acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rule for Atlantic herring, and (2) address potential localized depletion and user conflicts in the fishery; 2019-2021 specifications: progress report and discussion of potential independent action by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to set 2019 catch limits if needed

Wednesday, September 26, 2018

- 8:30 a.m. Revised Stock Assessment Process** (Deputy Director Chris Kellogg)
Receive update on the Northeast Regional Coordinating Council's progress in revising the stock assessment process and assessment scheduling
- 9:15 Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel** (Terry Stockwell)
Report from June 19, 2018 meeting
- 9:30 Transboundary Resources Assessment Committee (TRAC) Report** (Kathy Sosebee, NEFSC)

Receive TRAC summary of 2017 assessment results for Eastern Georges Bank cod, Eastern Georges Bank haddock, and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder

- 10:15 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Report Part 1** (SSC Chair Jason McNamee)
Receive SSC's 2019-2020 overfishing limit (OFL) and ABC recommendations for Georges Bank yellowtail
- 10:35 Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC) Report** (Terry Stockwell)
Review and approve TMGC recommendations for 2019 total allowable catches for shared U.S./Canada groundfish stocks on Georges Bank
- 11:05 Scientific and Statistical Committee Report Part 2** (SSC Chair Jason McNamee)
Receive SSC's comments on rebuilding strategies for several groundfish stocks
- 11:45 Groundfish Committee Report** (Terry Stockwell)
Framework Adjustment 58: approve range of alternatives; Groundfish Monitoring Amendment 23: progress report; Fishery Dependent Data Working Group: progress report
- 12:25 p.m. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)** (Brian Hooker)
Brief invitation for Council members and the public to attend BOEM "open office" in the Plympton Room to provide input and speak to BOEM staff regarding: the New York Bight Area Identification; the Vineyard Wind Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS); the South Fork Wind Farm Construction and Operations Plan (COP); and other issues of interest
- 12:30 Lunch Break**
- 1:45 Groundfish Committee Report Continued**
- 2:45 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)
- 3:00 Council Program Review** (Executive Director Tom Nies)
Receive progress report on Council responses to external program review
- 3:30 Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Advisory Panel (AP)** (Rick Bellavance)
Receive report from September 5-6, 2018 HMS AP meeting, including comments on proposed shortfin mako shark measures and other issues
- 3:45 North Atlantic Shortfin Mako Sharks** (NMFS/NOAA Fisheries HMS Staff)
NMFS/NOAA Fisheries consultation with Council on HMS Amendment 11 to address overfishing and rebuild North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks
- 4:15 Marine Recreational Information Program** (Richard Cody, NOAA Fisheries)
Presentation on recent changes to the NOAA Fisheries Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP)

Thursday, September 27, 2018

- 8:30 a.m. 2019 Council Priorities – Initial Discussion** (Executive Director Tom Nies)
- 9:30 Habitat Committee Report** (Doug Grout)
Clam Dredge Framework: discuss alternatives to consider continued surfclam dredge fishery access to Great South Channel Habitat Management Area and possible consideration of mussel dredge exemption; Offshore energy: update on ongoing activities in the Northeast; introduction to Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA)
- 11:30 Research Steering Committee Report** (Dr. Matt McKenzie)
Receive committee report on future of Research Steering Committee, updates on improving communication of research priorities and data needs, and other related issues
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**

- 1:30** **Legislative Update** (David Whaley)
Overview of ongoing fisheries-related legislation on Capitol Hill, including reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, with opportunity for Council discussion
- 1:45** **Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM)** (Dr. Lisa Kerr; John Pappalardo)
Center for Independent Experts EBFM Strategy Review: receive final report; Georges Bank example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP): progress report; EBFM Roadmap: review and approve comments on NOAA's regional implementation plan
- 3:45** **Skate Report** (Dr. Matt McKenzie)
Receive fishing year 2017 annual monitoring report for the Northeast skate complex
- 4:05** **Fisheries Allocation Policy Directive** (Executive Director Tom Nies)
Discuss NMFS policy directive and associated procedural directives for reviewing fisheries allocations, which include identifying "triggers" to initiate an allocation review
- 4:35** **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.