

Possible Limited Access Program for the Recreational Groundfish Party and Charter Fishery *Public Listening Sessions*

Council Staff

Public comments accepted by
5pm on May 17, 2019



New England
Fishery Management Council

Public Listening Session Schedule

(2 hour duration each session)

Seabrook, NH – Thursday, April 4, Seabrook Public Library, 5:45pm

Avalon, NJ– Monday, April 8, ICONA Golden Inn (following MAFMC meeting), 6pm

Wells, ME – Thursday, April 18, Wells Public Library, 5:45pm

Narragansett, RI– Tuesday, April 23, University of Rhode Island, 6pm

Chatham, MA– Tuesday, May 7, Chatham Community Center, 6pm

Plymouth, MA– Wednesday, May 8, Hampton Inn, 6pm

Gloucester, MA– Thursday, May 9, Sawyer Free Library, 5:45pm

Webinar– Friday, May 10, 1 pm

Your comments are invited

The New England Fishery Management Council is considering the possibility of developing an amendment to the Fishery Management Plan for Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

The Council seeks comments from the public on the management of the recreational groundfish fishery.

Why is the Council seeking public input?

The Council is seeking public input on the possibility of initiating an amendment to develop a limited access program for the recreational groundfish party and charter fishery.

The Council heard from some recreational fishery participants indicating interest in developing a program, while others in the fishery did not agree with pursuing a program.

Given this split in views, the Council seeks feedback from the public on interest in developing a program, in order to assist the Council in deciding how to proceed.

What actions have already been taken?

In January 2018 at its first meeting of the year, the Council recommend refreshing the control date in the party/charter fishery.

The control date in the party/charter fishery was refreshed to March 19, 2018.

What should my comments address?

- **Goals and Objectives**- What would the goals and objectives of a limited access program be?
- **Definitions**- Would limited entry apply to all or a portion of the fleet? How would groundfish recreational for-hire be defined?
- **Permits/Vessels**- What would happen to the permits? Should the for-hire fleet be all limited access, or should there be an open access component with other constraints? Should there be vessel upgrade restrictions?
- **Measures**- What range of management measures would be considered for limited entry?
- **History**- How will history be used – would it be simple or complex?
- **New Entrants**- What opportunities will there be for new entrants?

How to submit a public comment

- Today at the listening session
- In writing:
 - Fax: (978) 465-3116;
 - Email: comments@nefmc.org
 - Mail: Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill #2
Newburyport, MA 01950
- Please note on your correspondence; “Listening Sessions for Possible Limited Access Program for the Recreational Party/Charter Fishery.”
- Closing Date: Friday, May 17, 2019, by 5pm



What happens next?

After information is gathered through the listening sessions, the Groundfish Committee will consider possibly recommending to the Council an initiation of an amendment, with input from the Recreational Advisory Panel and Groundfish Plan Development Team, through a series of public meetings during 2019.