



New England Fishery Management Council

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Daniel Salerno, *Acting Chair* | Cate O'Keefe, PhD *Executive Director*

Joint Monkfish-Skate Committee Meeting Agenda Wednesday, September 17, 2025 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**Hampton Inn, 20 Hotel Drive
South Kingstown, RI**

Webinar (registration link): <https://nefmc-org.zoom.us/joining/register/qyN11DUFRp-IM8T0mmwwtA>

Monkfish (M) and Skate (S) Committees	
Matt Gates, CT DEEP (M Chair)	Jackie Odell (M, S)
Scott Olszewski, RI DEM (M, S Chair)	John Pappalardo (M, S)
Peter Arrestad, CT DEP (S)	Ted Platz (M, S Vice-Chair)
Togue Braun (M, S)	Paul Risi, MAFMC (M)
Pete Christopher, GARFO (M)	Robert Ruhle, MAFMC (M)
Joseph Grist, MAFMC (S)	Kelly Whitmore, MADMF (M, S)
Eric Hansen (M, S)	Jake Wiscott, MAFMC (M)
Dr. Jay Hermsen, GARFO (S)	Lisa Wooleyhan, MAFMC (M)

9:00 **Introductions, approve agenda, 2025 timeline, and other updates**

9:20 **Monkfish and Skate Joint Advisory Panel report**

- Report on September 16th Joint Monkfish-Skate AP meeting including general discussion on fishery performance and recommendations on specifications

10:00 **Specifications Actions: Overfishing limits, Acceptable Biological Catch, associated specifications**

- Discuss 2025 NEFSC data updates, recommendations of the Scientific and Statistical Committee and associated specifications for monkfish and skates
- Recommend final preferred alternatives to the Councils on:
 - Monkfish Framework 17 (Fishing Year (FY) 2026-2030)
 - Skate Specifications for FY 2026-2030

12:30 **Lunch**

1:30 **Specifications Actions continued: Effort controls**

- Review Joint Plan Development Team tasking on monkfish and skate fishery effort and overlaps.
- Recommend final preferred alternatives to the Councils on monkfish and skate effort controls

3:30 **Break**

- 3:45 2026 Council work priorities related to monkfish and skates**
- Overview of July 28th Monkfish Catch per Unit Effort meeting
 - Overview of ongoing and planned Council work pertinent to monkfish and skates
 - Discuss possible 2026 Council priorities
- 4:30 Other business**
- Process for reviewing AP applications
- 5:00 Adjourn**

Meeting Documents (available at this [link](#))

1. Meeting/General information
 - a. Meeting agenda (this document)
 - b. Council staff presentation including timeline
 - c. Tasking memo from Monkfish and Skate Committee Chairs
2. Scientific and Statistical Committee meeting materials for [August 19, 2025](#), including NEFSC 2025 data updates for monkfish and skates, PDT memos to the SSC, and 2025 Risk Policy matrices
3. Monkfish Specifications Action
 - a. [SSC memo to NEFMC re Monkfish OFLs and ABCs, August 31, 2025](#)
 - b. Monkfish Framework Adjustment 17, draft
4. Skate Specifications Action
 - a. [SSC memo to NEFMC re Skate OFLs and ABCs, August 31, 2025](#)
 - b. Skate Specifications document, draft
5. Joint PDT analyses
 - a. Memo from Monkfish and Skate PDTs to Committees, [March 12, 2025](#)
 - b. Memo from Monkfish and Skate PDTs to Committees, September 9, 2025
6. Alternative Gear Marking Framework (*will be discussed by Advisory Panels; listed here for awareness*)
 - a. Presentation, GARFO staff
 - b. Draft Alternative Gear-Marking Framework, September X, 2025 (*if available*)
 - c. Past meeting materials (available at this [link](#))
7. 2026 Council priorities
 - a. Progress updates on Inflation Reduction Act projects from Climate and Ecosystem Steering Committee meeting, [September 2, 2025](#)
 - b. Materials for Executive Committee deliberation on EO 14276, [September 4, 2025](#)
8. Meeting summaries
 - a. Joint Monkfish-Skate PDT meeting, [July 16, 2025](#)
 - b. Monkfish Catch per Unit Effort meeting, July 28, 2025
 - c. Skate PDT meeting, August 5, 2025
 - d. Monkfish PDT meeting, August 7, 2025
 - e. Joint Monkfish-Skate PDT meeting, August 21, 2025
9. [2026-2028 Advisory Panel membership](#)
10. Correspondence