



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
DRAFT AMENDMENT 23 TO THE NORTHEAST MULTISPECIES
FISHERY**

The New England Fishery Management Council is conducting several public hearings to solicit comments regarding the range of alternatives under consideration in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Amendment 23 to the Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) Fishery Management Plan. More specifically, the Council is seeking feedback from the public on which alternatives should be selected and why. The alternatives address adjustments to the groundfish monitoring program to improve the reliability and accountability of catch reporting in the commercial groundfish fishery and to ensure the monitoring program is providing accurate catch information. These hearings are being held by the Council in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The Council plans to take final action on the amendment during its June 2020 meeting in Freeport, ME.

This hearing is the first of the series; the remaining hearings will be announced in a separate notice.

Date and Time

Location

<p>Wednesday, April 15, 2020 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (following the NEFMC Meeting by webinar)</p>	<p>Webinar Hearing Register to participate - https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8766043774885604099. Call in information: +1 (213) 929-4232 Access Code: 771-577-358</p>
--	--

Council staff will brief the public on Draft Amendment 23 before receiving comments on the amendment. The hearing will begin promptly at the time indicated above. If all attendees who wish to do so have provided their comments prior to the end time indicated, the hearing may conclude early. To the extent possible, the Council may extend hearings beyond the end time indicated above to accommodate all attendees who wish to speak.

Documents are available on the Council’s website (<https://www.nefmc.org/library/amendment-23>) or may be obtained by contacting the Council office at (978) 465-0492.

Members of the public may submit oral and/or written comments at any public hearings or submit written comments directly to the New England Fishery Management Council. Please note on your correspondence “DEIS for Amendment 23 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP”. Written comments must be received on or before May 22, 2020. Written comments received on or before May 22, 2020, as well as comments provided at the hearings, will be reviewed by the Council’s Groundfish Committee and full Council at subsequent meetings. Note that this is an **extension** from the originally published comment deadline of May 22, 2020.

Written comments should be sent to:

Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950
Fax (978) 465-3116
Email: comments@nefmc.org with “DEIS for Amendment 23 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP” in the subject line

More info on back

Public Participation by Webinar: The Council will collect oral comments during the webinar public hearing. The Chair will run the meeting and, in an orderly fashion, call on individuals who use the “Raise Hand” button on the webinar and indicate their wish to speak. You **must** register for the webinar if you plan to provide oral comments. Those who call-in by telephone without registering for the webinar and entering the PIN provided will be in listen-only mode. Individuals are encouraged to submit written comments ahead of time and throughout the public comment period.

- Here is the “[Remote Participation Guide](https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/NEFMC-meeting-remote-participation_200402_162618.pdf)” with instructions for how to provide oral comments during the webinar meeting. For those receiving a paper copy of this notice, the direct link to the Remote Participation guide is https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/NEFMC-meeting-remote-participation_200402_162618.pdf

These meetings will be recorded. Consistent with 16 USC 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request. These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities.

Directions: Please contact the Council office for directions to the above meetings.

cc: Council Members, Groundfish Cte., AP, PDT and IP’s
Notice date: March 20, 2020