



## New England Fishery Management Council

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John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

**\*\*REVISED\*\***

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

The New England Fishery Management Council is conducting additional public hearings to solicit comments regarding the range of alternatives under consideration in the Draft 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 Magnuson-Stevens Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

The Council plans to take final action on the amendment during its September 2020 meeting.

Three of the four public hearings listed below will have a geographical focus. During these hearings, Council staff will present information on vessel profiles to illustrate example economic costs for the designated states or regions. Participants are encouraged to attend the webinar for their respective state or region but may attend any webinar. Vessel profile information for all states will be provided on the Council website.

*Due to the evolving situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council scheduled these hearings as webinars. Additional hearings will be announced in a separate notice.*

#### **Date and Time**

#### **Location/Geographical Focus**

<b>Wednesday, July 29, 2020 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Webinar Hearing – RI and CT/Mid-Atlantic (NY/NJ/DE/MD/VA/NC)*</b> Register to participate – <a href="https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4552271017165912332">https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4552271017165912332</a> Call in information: +1 (562) 247-8422 Access Code: 632-535-527 * CT and Mid-Atlantic presented as a region.
<b>Thursday, July 30, 2020 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Webinar Hearing – MA</b> Register to participate – <a href="https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3530306844985146892">https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3530306844985146892</a> Call in information: +1 (415) 930-5321 Access Code: 230-075-756
<b><i>NOTE: New Time and Date</i> Monday, August 10, 2020 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Webinar Hearing – NH and ME</b> Register to participate – <a href="https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1484010152577816332">https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1484010152577816332</a> Call in information: +1 (415) 930-5321 Access Code: 587-188-268
<b>Thursday, August 6, 2020 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Conference Call Option with Webinar Hearing – General/All States</b> Link to attend (no registration needed) – <a href="https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/697496061">https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/697496061</a> Call in information: +1 (408) 650-3123 Access Code: 697-496-061

*More info on back*

The hearing will begin promptly at the time indicated above, and Council staff will brief the public on Draft Amendment 23 before receiving comments on the amendment. 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 "Draft Amendment 23 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP". Written comments must be received on or before August 31, 2020. Written comments received on or before August 31, 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 previously published comment deadline of June 30, 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](mailto:comments@nefmc.org) with "Draft Amendment 23" in subject line

**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 and unable to be heard. The exception is the webinar with conference call option to be held August 6, 2020, that will allow individuals to call in and join the webinar without registration.

The direct link to the Remote Participation guide with instructions for how to provide oral comments during the webinar meeting is [https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/NEFMC-meeting-remote-participation\\_generic.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/NEFMC-meeting-remote-participation_generic.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.*

cc: Council Members, Groundfish Cte., AP, PDT and IP's  
Notice date: July 7, 2020