

# New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda

Wednesday – Thursday, January 28-29, 2026  
Webinar Only  
[Webinar Registration](#)

Meeting registration and log-in information will be posted on the [January 2026 meeting webpage](#).

## **HOW TO GIVE COMMENTS AT A COUNCIL MEETING**

**Written Comments:** Written comments that address specific items listed on the meeting agenda or issues that will be brought up under the open period for public comment must be received by Thursday, January 22, 2026. Please address comments to Council Chair, Daniel Salerno or Executive Director Cate O’Keefe and **Email to:** [comments@nefmc.org](mailto:comments@nefmc.org) or **Mail to:** NEFMC, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

**Public Comments:** Interested members of the public may address the Council for up to three minutes. Please review the Council’s [Guidelines for Providing Public Comments](#).

- For remote comments please email Alex Dunn at [adunn@nefmc.org](mailto:adunn@nefmc.org) to be added to the commenter list.

## **ZOOM WEBINAR PARTICIPATION - [Zoom Remote Participation Guide](#)**

### Wednesday, January 28, 2026

9:00 a.m. **Closed Session – Voting Council Members** (Dr. Rachel Feeney, Council SSC Coordinator)  
Council discussion on Scientific and Statistical Committee appointments

10:00 **Introductions and Announcements** (Council Chair Daniel Salerno)

10:05 **Reports on Recent Activities**  
Council Chair, 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 (MAFMC), Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE)

11:15 **Marine Recreational Information Program** (Dr. Katherine Papacostas, NOAA Fisheries)  
NOAA Fisheries presentation on Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) Fishing Effort Survey study including updates on the follow-up study, calibration, and peer review

12:00 p.m. **Lunch Break**

1:00 **Groundfish Committee Report** (John Pappalardo)  
Recreational Measures recommendations for Fishing Year 2026 for cod and haddock

2:00 **Scallop Committee Report** (Melanie Griffin)  
Limited Access General Category Individual Fishing Quota (LAGC IFQ) Program Review final report and approval

3:00 **Habitat Committee Report** (Melissa Smith)  
Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Review: initiate framework to revise EFH designation for several stocks

3:30 **IRA Project Updates** (Michelle Bachman, Council IRA Coordinator)  
Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) initiatives update, including status updates and timing for milestones and activities

5:00 **Council Adjourns**

### Thursday, January 29, 2026

9:00 a.m. **Risk Policy Working Group** (Megan Ware)  
Update on the status of the Council’s revised Risk Policy and activities of the Risk Policy Working Group

**10:15** **Open Period for Public Comment**

**10:30** **Holistic Strategic Plan Initiative** (Brett Wiedoff, The Parnin Group)  
Summary of the Parnin Group's Holistic Strategic Plan Workshop

**12:00** **Council Planning** (Executive Director Cate O'Keefe)  
Planning updates: Groundfish, Scallops, Monkfish, Skate, Herring, Small-Mesh Multispecies workplans and action timelines for 2026 Council Priorities and other activities

**12:45** **Other Business**

**1:00 p.m.** **Council Adjourns**

*Times listed next to the agenda items are estimates and subject to change.  
This meeting is being held by webinar. Council member financial disclosure forms are available on the Council website.*

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](http://www.nefmc.org), or call (978) 465-0492 for copies. This meeting will be recorded, consistent with 16 USC 1852. Audio files of these recordings will be available on the NEFMC website.