

New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda

Tuesday – Thursday, September 23-25, 2025
Beauport Hotel, 55 Commercial Street, Gloucester MA 01930
(978) 282-0008 | [Beauport Hotel](#)
Webinar Registration Option

Meeting registration and log-in information will be posted on the [Council's September 2025 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, September 18, 2025. Please address comments to Acting Council Chair, Daniel Salerno or Executive Director Cate O'Keefe and **Mail to:** NEFMC, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950, or **Email to:** comments@nefmc.org

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 in person comments** please use the sign-up sheet on the table at the entrance to the Council meeting room.
- **For remote comments** please email Alex Dunn at adunn@nefmc.org to be added to the commenter list.

ZOOM WEBINAR PARTICIPATION

Please refer to the Council's [Zoom Remote Participation Guide](#) for instructions on navigating the platform.

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

9:00 a.m. Introductions and Announcements (Acting Council Chair Daniel Salerno)

9:05 Swearing-In of New and Reappointed Council Members (GARFO)

9:15 Election of 2025-2026 Officers

9:30 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, NOAA Enforcement, Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel

10:45 Executive Order 14276 (Council staff)

Council approval of recommendations for Executive Order 14276 "Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness" to reduce burdens on domestic fishing and increase seafood production

11:30 Management Flexibility Action (Council staff)

Council final action on omnibus measures to address management flexibility, including specification frequency, rollover provisions, in-season adjustment authority, and other measures

12:15 p.m. Lunch Break

1:45 Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel (Daniel Salerno)

Report on NTAP's July meeting and update about the NTAP Working Group on the Regional Industry-Based Trawl Survey (RIBTS) Phase 1 and 2 pilot project

2:15 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Report (SSC Chair Dr. Conor McManus)

Presentation on the SSC's overfishing limit (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) recommendations for northern and southern monkfish and the skate complex; Scallop specification setting process review and recommendations

- 3:00 Monkfish and Skate Committees Report** (Matt Gates and Scott Olszewski)
Monkfish Framework 17: Council final action to set specifications for the northern and southern monkfish management areas for fishing years 2026-2028 and 2029-2030 defaults; Skate Specifications: Council final action to set specifications for the skate complex for fishing years 2026-2027 and 2028-2030 defaults
- 5:00 Council Adjourns**
- 6:00 Council Public Outreach** (Beauport Hotel)
Informational exchange to foster open lines of communication among Council members, staff, industry, and meeting attendees; all are welcome

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

- 9:00 a.m. NEFSC Cooperative Research Branch** (Dr. Anna Mercer, NEFSC)
Update of recent activities of the Cooperative Research Branch
- 9:30 Scallop Committee Report** (Melanie Griffin)
Framework Adjustment 40: preliminary overview of 2025 surveys, update on framework action for 2026 fishing year specifications and 2027 defaults; Scallop Strategic Plan: progress update; LAGC IFQ Program Review: progress update.
- 11:00 Groundfish Committee Report** (Daniel Salerno, Acting Chair)
Amendment 25 Revision: Council final action on amendment to incorporate four cod stock units into the Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) Fishery Management Plan, including reference points, status determination criteria, and management measures required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act; Framework 72: update
- 12:15 p.m. Council Photo**
- 12:30 Lunch Break**
- 2:00 Habitat Committee Report** (Melissa Smith)
Council final action on Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) framework to revise EFH designations for Atlantic herring, Atlantic cod, skates, and monkfish
- 3:30 Climate and Ecosystem Steering Committee** (John Pappalardo)
Presentation on process mapping and communications subcommittee activities, updates on the Council's portfolio of IRA projects, updates on regional climate forecast and ecosystem initiatives
- 4:15 Open Period for Public Comment**
Public comments on Council issues that are not listed on the agenda (please limit remarks to 3-5 minutes)

Thursday, September 25, 2025

- 9:00 a.m. On-Demand Gear Conflict Working Group** (Mike Pierdinock; Caroline Potter, Alli Murphy, GARFO)
Joint New England and Mid-Atlantic Council Omnibus Alternative Gear-Marking Framework Adjustment: Council final action on framework to revise regulations to allow the use of fixed gear without a persistent buoy line in New England and Mid-Atlantic fisheries; ODWG Terms of Reference: presentation of final report for TOR 3B for reducing gear interactions and Council approval
- 11:00 Initial Discussion of 2026 Council Priorities** (Executive Director Cate O'Keefe)
- 11:15 Council Planning** (Executive Director Cate O'Keefe)
Planning updates: 2025 Council Priorities, action timelines, and other activities
- 11:45 Other Business**
- 12:00 p.m. Council Adjourns**

Times listed next to the agenda items are estimates and subject to change.

This meeting is being held in person and 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, or call (978) 465-0492 for copies.

This meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 USC 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.