

New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda

Tuesday – Thursday, April 14-16, 2026
Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St, Portland, ME 04101
(207) 775-2311 | [Holiday Inn by the Bay](#)
[Webinar Registration](#)

Meeting registration and log-in information will be posted on the [April 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, April 9, 2026. Please address comments to 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 and be sure your Zoom version is updated.

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

9:00 a.m. Executive Committee Closed Session

Pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, this closed session of the Executive Committee will be held to discuss sensitive information about Council resources

10:00 a.m. 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, NOAA Enforcement, ICCAT/HMS/Dolphin-Wahoo

11:45 Executive Order 14276 “Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness” (Executive Director Cate O’Keefe) Review of EO14276 additional public comments received through December 2025; review Council’s September 2025 response and workplan

12:15 p.m. Lunch Break

1:45 NOAA Framework to Narrow Scope of NMFS Management and Science (Executive Director Cate O’Keefe) Update on Regional Working Group efforts to populate the “Risk/Value Matrix” for Council-managed stocks

2:30 Monkfish and Skate Coordinated Committee Report (Matt Gates, Scott Olszewski) Review and approve scoping document and schedule for a potential IFQ program for monkfish and/or skate wing fisheries; Receive white paper on summary of 2025 coordinated monkfish and skate activities

4:00 Locking Away Carbon on the Northeast Shelf and Slope (LOC-NESS) (Dr. Adam Subhas, WHOI) Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) presentation on LOC-NESS project

5:00 Council Adjourns

6:00 Council Public Outreach (Holiday Inn by the Bay, Port of Call Lounge) Public informational exchange to foster open lines of communication among all meeting attendees

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

- 9:00 a.m. State of the Ecosystem** (Dr. Joe Caracappa, NEFSC; SSC Chair Dr. Conor McManus)
Presentation on 2026 State of the Ecosystem Report for New England; SSC input; Council questions
- 10:45 Scientific and Statistical Committee Subpanel and Subcommittee** (SSC Chair Dr. Conor McManus)
SSC Subpanel review of monkfish Catch-per-Unit-Effort (CPUE) research; SSC Social Science Subcommittee updates
- 11:15 Holistic Strategic Plan Initiative** (Brett Wiedoff, The Parnin Group)
Presentation of the Holistic Strategic Plan draft report
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:45 Risk Policy Working Group** (Megan Ware; Dr. Lisa Kerr, UMaine)
Update on Risk Policy Concept revisions, including summary of SSC input; Overview of the University of Maine's technical analyses of applying the Risk Policy approach; updates on Risk Policy implementation
- 3:15 Atlantic Herring Committee Report** (Peter Whelan)
Update on the development of an action for Fishing Years (FY) 2027-2031 Atlantic herring specifications, river herring and shad management measures, and other measures
- 4:15 Open Period for Public Comment**
Public comments on Council issues that are not listed on the agenda

Thursday, April 16, 2026

- 9:00 a.m. Groundfish Committee Report** (John Pappalardo)
Redfish Exemption Program Review draft report
- 10:00 Fishery Independent Surveys/Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel** (Dr. Kathryn Ford, NEFSC)
Northeast Fisheries Science Center update on 2025/2026 survey seasons; Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel (NTAP) and Regional Industry Based Trawl Survey (RIBTS); other survey related topics
- 11:15 Council Planning** (Executive Director Cate O'Keefe)
Status and planning updates for Council activities, including Fishery Management Plan updates, Council priorities, IRA initiatives, 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, 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.