

New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda

Tuesday – Thursday, December 2–4, 2025

Newport Harbor Hotel and Marina, 49 Americas Cup Avenue, Newport, RI USA 02840

(401) 847-9000 | [Newport Harbor Hotel and Marina](#)

[Webinar Registration](#)

Meeting registration and log-in information will be posted on the [December 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 Tuesday, November 25, 2025. 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 - [Zoom Remote Participation Guide](#)

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

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 information about Council resources

10:30 Introductions and Announcements (Council Chair Daniel Salerno)

10:35 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, Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) report, International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) report

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:30 NOAA Guidance to Councils on Financial Disclosures and Voting Recusals (Mitch MacDonald, NOAA GC) NOAA General Counsel briefing on disclosure of financial interests and voting recusal regulations for regional fishery management council members

2:00 Status of Regional Science and Management (Executive Director Cate O’Keefe)

Update on status of regional capacity for science and management support

2:30 Whiting Committee Report (Jackie Odell)

2025 Monitoring Report: overview of Whiting Plan Development Team’s review of the 2024 small-mesh multispecies (whiting) fishery and recommendations from the Advisory Panel and Committee

3:30 Spiny Dogfish Report (Jason Didden, Mid-Atlantic Council staff)

Framework Including Accountability Measures Modifications and 2026-2027 Specifications: 1) review recommendations from the Mid-Atlantic SSC, Monitoring Committee, AP, staff, and Joint Committee; 2) review the MAFMC’s adopted alternatives; 3) select preferred alternatives and Council final action

5:00 Council Adjourns

6:00 Council Public Outreach (Newport Harbor Hotel and Marina – Saltwater Lounge)

Informational exchange among Council members, staff, industry, and meeting attendees; all are welcome

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

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

- 9:30 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC Vice Chair Dr. Ed Camp)**
Presentation on Scientific and Statistical Committee's overfishing limit (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) recommendations for Atlantic sea scallops
- 10:15 Scallop Committee Report (Melanie Griffin)**
Framework 40: final action on 2026 fishery specifications, 2027 default specifications, and other measures; presentation of final report of the Scallop Strategic Plan and Council approval
- 12:00 Lunch Break**
- 1:30 Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC)**
Review, discuss, and approve TMGC recommendations for 2026 total allowable catches (TACs) for three shared U.S./Canada groundfish resources on Georges Bank – Eastern Georges Bank cod, Eastern Georges Bank haddock, and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder
- 2:15 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC Vice Chair Dr. Ed Camp)**
Presentation on Scientific and Statistical Committee's overfishing limit (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) recommendations for Acadian redfish, white hake, winter flounder, yellowtail flounder, Georges Bank cod, and Georges Bank haddock
- 3:45 Groundfish Committee Report (John Pappalardo)**
Framework Adjustment 72: final action to set specifications for several groundfish stocks for fishing years 2026-2030, U.S./Canada TACs for 2026, and other management measures

Thursday, December 4, 2025

- 9:00 a.m. Holistic Strategic Plan Initiative (Brett Wiedoff, The Parnin Group)**
Update on development of the Council's Holistic Strategic Plan initiative
- 10:00 Open Period for Public Comment**
Public comments on Council issues that are not listed on the agenda (please limit remarks to 3-5 minutes)
- 10:15 2026 Council Priorities (Executive Director Cate O'Keefe)**
Final action on 2026 Council Priorities for all fishery management plans and other Council responsibilities
- 11:30 Council Planning (Executive Director Cate O'Keefe)**
Planning updates: 2025 Council Priorities status, IRA Initiatives, 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. Audio files of these recordings will be available on the NEFMC website.