



April 2026 Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 7 – Thursday, April 9, 2026

Westin New York Grand Central
 (212 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017; 212-490-8900)
 or via Webex webinar

This meeting will be an in-person meeting with a virtual option. Council members, other meeting participants, and members of the public will have the option to participate in person at the Westin New York Grand Central hotel or virtually via Webex webinar. Webinar connection instructions and briefing materials will be available at: <https://www.mafmc.org/briefing/april-2026>.

Tuesday, April 7th

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| 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Omnibus Essential Fish Habitat Amendment | (Tab 1) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review public input obtained during comment period – Review recommendations from Fishery Management Action Team (FMAT), Ecosystem and Ocean Planning (EOP) Committee and Advisory Panel, and staff – Consider final action and submission to NOAA Fisheries | |
| 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Habitat Activities Update – Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) Habitat and Ecosystem Services Division (HESD) | (Tab 2) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Presentation on activities of interest in the region | |
| 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Sturgeon Project Update – Dwayne Fox, Delaware State University | (Tab 3) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review preliminary results of project comparing catch rates of dogfishes and Atlantic Sturgeon in standard low-profile gillnets | |

Wednesday, April 8th

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| 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | Scup Winter I Quota Period Landings Threshold Analysis | (Tab 4) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review and consider potential management action | |
| 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Multi-Year Specifications | (Tab 5) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review staff memo and consider initiating an omnibus management action | |
| 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. | ----- LUNCH ----- | |
| 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Recreational Tilefish Permitting and Reporting Framework | (Tab 6) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review public comments and Tilefish Committee recommendations – Select preferred alternatives and take final action | |

- 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program Scoping for Monkfish and/or Skate Wings – Jennifer Couture, NEFMC (Tab 7)**
 – Review and approve scoping document
- 4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Spiny Dogfish Ageing Project Summary – Madison Philipp and Dr. Michelle Passerotti, NOAA Fisheries (Tab 8)**
 – Review results of project to improve dogfish ageing
- 4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Council Award Presentation**
 – Presentation of the 2025 Ricks E Savage Award

Thursday, April 9th

- 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Business Session**
- Committee Reports: (Tab 9)**
 – Scientific and Statistical Committee
 – Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel (NTAP)
- Executive Director’s Report – Dr. Chris Moore (Tab 10)**
- Organization Reports:**
 – NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, NOAA Fisheries Northeast Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Office of General Counsel, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, US Coast Guard
- Liaison Reports: (Tab 11)**
 – New England Council, South Atlantic Council
- Other Business and General Public Comment**

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

The above agenda items may not be taken in the order in which they appear and are subject to change, as necessary. Other items may be added, but the Council cannot take action on such items even if the item requires emergency action without additional public notice. Non-emergency matters not contained in this agenda may come before the Council and / or its Committees for discussion, but these matters may not be the subject of formal Council or Committee action during this meeting. Council and Committee actions will be restricted to the issues specifically listed in this agenda. Any issues requiring emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act that arise after publication of the Federal Register Notice for this meeting may be acted upon provided that the public has been notified of the Council’s intent to take final action to address the emergency. The meeting may be closed to discuss employment or other internal administrative matters.