

New England Fishery Management Council
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Council Meeting Agenda
Tuesday - Thursday, April 21-23, 2015
Hilton Hotel, 20 Coogan Boulevard, Mystic, CT 06355-1900
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Submitting Comments? If you plan to submit written comments to be considered at this meeting, they must be received at the NEFMC office by 12 p.m. EDT on Thursday, April 16, 2015, and should be addressed to Chairman Terry Stockwell or Executive Director Tom Nies. Emails should be sent to comments@nefmc.org.

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

9:00 a.m. Introductions and Announcements (Council Chairman Terry Stockwell)

- 9:05 Closed Session** (Terry Stockwell) Approve additional Scientific and Statistical Committee appointments for 2015-2017
- 9:15 Reports on Recent Activities** Council Chairman and Executive Director, NOAA Fisheries Regional Administrator (Greater Atlantic Region), NOAA General Counsel, Northeast Fisheries Science Center and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council liaisons, and representatives of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA Enforcement, and the Northeast Regional Planning Body
- 10:30 Annual Overview of the Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions on Council Member Financial Disclosure and Recusal Requirements** (Mitch MacDonald)
- 11:00 Observer Committee Report** (Terry Stockwell) Review and approve committee recommendations for additional industry-funded portside sampling and electronic monitoring options in the Atlantic herring fishery; these options are intended to be considered in an omnibus amendment currently under development to address industry-funded monitoring across all federally managed fisheries in the Northeast
- 11:30 Monkfish Committee Report** (Dr. John Quinn) Receive an update on the development of Framework Adjustment 9 to the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP), including Monkfish Plan Development Team analyses on use of less than 10-inch mesh stand-up gillnets while on a monkfish day-at-sea, and on allowing a vessel to switch from a monkfish day to a monkfish research set-aside day while at sea
- 12:00 Open Period for Public Comments** (Terry Stockwell) Opportunity for the public to provide brief comments on issues that are relevant to Council business but not listed on this agenda for formal discussion (speakers are asked to sign up before hand and limit remarks to between 3-5 minutes)

12:15 p.m. Lunch Break

- 1:15 Groundfish Committee Report** (Frank Blount)
- Presentation on the Northeast Fisheries Science Center report *Performance of the Northeast Multispecies Groundfish Fishery*, May 2013- April 2014 (Dr. Tammy Murphy and Chad Demarest, NEFSC Social Sciences Branch);
 - Approve the Amendment 18 Draft Environmental Impact Statement to the Northeast Multispecies FMP and identify preferred alternatives for the purpose of review at public hearings; the amendment focuses on accumulation limits and fleet diversity

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

- 8:00 a.m. Overview of a NOAA Fisheries proposed rule to revise the guidelines for National Standard (NS) 1, 3, and 7 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act** (Deb Lambert, NOAA Fisheries Office of Sustainable Fisheries) the proposals are intended to clarify and streamline the NS Guidelines
- 9:00 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Report** (presenter TBD) Review the SSC's discussions on NOAA's proposed changes to the National Standard Guidelines and on the agency's Draft Climate Science Strategy

- 9:30 Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Committee Report** (Terry Stockwell) The Council will:
- Receive an updated status report on the Northeast Continental Shelf Marine Ecosystem (Dr. Michael Fogarty and Dr. Sarah Gaichas);
 - Review committee recommendations on a process to develop an EBFM policy; and
 - Review committee comments on NOAA's Draft Climate Science Strategy
- 11:00 Habitat Committee Report** (David Preble) Approve final management measures for inclusion in Omnibus Essential Fish Habitat Amendment 2; pending NOAA Fisheries approval, measures could affect all NEFMC FMPs
- **Details:** Receive an introduction to the amendment measures followed by a focus on the Gulf of Maine habitat and spawning management areas; any adjustments to previously approved Essential Fish Habitat designations will also be considered on this day.

12:30 p.m. Lunch Break

- 1:30 Habitat Committee Report** – the above topics will continue to be addressed until meeting adjournment

Thursday, April 23, 2015

- 8:00 a.m. Continue consideration of Habitat Amendment 2 measures** (David Preble)
- **Details:** During this time period the focus will be on the Stellwagen Dedicated Habitat Research Area.

- 9:30 Continue consideration of other Habitat Amendment 2 measures**
- **Details:** The focus will be on the Georges Bank and Great South Channel/Southern New England habitat and spawning management areas.

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

- 1:00 Continue with the remaining Habitat Amendment 2 issues described above**

- 5:30 Other Council Business**

- 6:00 Adjourn meeting**

The Council encourages and appreciates your participation in the federal fisheries management process.

*Times listed next to the agenda items are estimates and are subject to change.
The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities
Council member financial disclosure forms are available for examination at the meeting.*

Although other non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subjects 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 call (978) 465-0492 for paper copies or check www.nefmc.org under Council Meetings on our home page.**