

New England Fishery Management Council
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REVISED Council Meeting Agenda | April 24-26, 2012
Hilton Hotel, 20 Coogan Boulevard, Mystic, CT 06355-1900
Tel 860.572.0731 | Fax 860.572.0328

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

9:00 a.m. Introductions and Announcements (Chairman Rip Cunningham)

9:05 Reports on Recent Activities

Council Chairman, Executive Director, Acting NMFS Regional Administrator (to include a brief discussion about the possible establishment of a Standard Bycatch Reporting Methodology Committee), NOAA General Counsel, Northeast Fisheries Science Center and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council liaisons, and representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard, NMFS Enforcement/VMS, and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

10:45 Review of Experimental Fishery Permit (EFP) Applications/Tab 14 (Council staff Chris Kellogg)

Discuss Council comments on EFPs received since the last Council meeting

11:00 Discuss and Possibly Modify Council Priorities for 2012/Tab 1 (Executive Director Paul Howard)

Consider changes based on the added workload to address the ESA listing of Atlantic sturgeon

12:15 p.m. Lunch Break

1:15 Revise NEFMC Policies/Tab 1 (Paul Howard)

Consider revisions to Advisory Panel and Plan Development Team policies

1:30 Scallop Committee Report/Tab 4 (Mary Beth Tooley)

Approve research priorities to be used in soliciting proposals funded through the sea scallop research set-aside program; receive a presentation about future plans for the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's (NEFSC) federal sea scallop survey, including the integration of Habcam (towed underwater camera) results with existing survey technologies

3:00 Enforcement Committee Report/Tab 11 (Frank Blount)

Consider and possibly approve committee recommendations on the following:

- Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Amendment 5 management measures;
- NOAA's revised enforcement priorities;
- Measures related to coral reef protection;
- Monitoring of sector landings; and
- Correspondence to the Secretary of Commerce

4:15 Public Listening Session (Rip Cunningham)

Open and informal question and answer session for stakeholders, interested parties and the general public; this is an opportunity to ask questions about Council issues or comment on items relevant to Council business but not otherwise listed on this agenda; it will not replace the public's opportunity to make comments during Council consideration of any agenda item; more details will be available prior to the meeting

***** Please join the Council for a reception at Mystic Seaport Museum, 75 Greenmanville Rd. (Route 27), from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Park in the south lot across from the main entrance. From there, follow directions to the shipyard. *****

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

8:30 a.m. Protected Resources Issues/Tab 1 (NERO staff Kim Damon-Randall)

Overview of the status of Atlantic sturgeon and the implications of its ESA listing for NE Council FMPs and additional protected species updates

9:45 Monkfish Committee Report/Tab 10 (Mark Alexander)

Summary of recent committee meeting discussions, including potential remedies to address the bycatch of Atlantic sturgeon in the monkfish fishery; update on progress to develop Amendment 6 to the Monkfish FMP, an action that will include a catch share management alternative

10:15 Summary of the Assessment and Data Updates for 13 Northeast Groundfish Stocks through 2010/Tab 3

(Dr. James Weinberg and Dr. Paul Rago, Northeast Fisheries Science Center)

11:15 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Report/Tab 12 (Dr. Chris Legault, SSC Chairman)

Overview of the SSC's review of additional information relating to the status of Gulf of Maine cod

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:00 Groundfish Committee Report/Tab 3 (Terry Stockwell)
Further discuss the management of Gulf of Maine cod; provide an update on the committee's efforts to develop a number of solutions and remedies concerning the sector management program; update about other committee activities

6:00 * Public Hearing to Review Draft Amendment 5 to the Atlantic Herring FMP Amendment 5 *****
Management measures under consideration include adjustments to the fishery management program, reporting requirements and measures to address trip notification, carrier vessels and transfers of herring at-sea; a catch monitoring program also is being considered as well as measures to address river herring bycatch and criteria for midwater trawl vessel access to the year-round groundfish closed areas

Thursday, April 26, 2012

8:30 a.m. Whiting Committee Report/Tab 6 (David Goethel)
Review public hearing comments and approve final management measures for inclusion in Amendment 19 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP; the action would establish annual catch limits and accountability measures for stocks of red hake, silver hake and offshore hake

10:00 Habitat Committee Report/Tab 7 (David Preble)
Approval of deep sea coral alternatives for further analysis as part of the development of Habitat Omnibus Amendment 2

12:15 p.m. Lunch Break

1:15 Spiny Dogfish Fishery Management Plan Report/Tab 9 (Council staff)
Approve a range of alternatives for inclusion in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Amendment 3 to the Spiny Dogfish FMP; the document will be the subject of public review and further decision-making by the Mid-Atlantic and New England Councils

1:45 Update - Amendment 5 to the Atlantic Herring FMP/Tab 5 (Doug Grout)
Briefing on the development of Draft Amendment 5 to the Herring FMP and its Draft Environmental Impact Statement, including a review of public comments received during the Amendment 5 public hearings held in March, and the Amendment 5 timeline and schedule for completion

3:30 Other Business

*Times listed next to the agenda items are estimates and are subject to change.
This 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 copies or check the Council website at www.nefmc.org. **If you are submitting comments for Council consideration at this meeting they must be received at the Council office by 12 p.m. EST on Thursday, April 19, 2012.** Notice Issue: April 5, 2012.