

Council Meeting Agenda | Tuesday-Thursday, September 30-October 2, 2014
Cape Codder Resort, 1225 Iyannough Road, Hyannis, MA 02601
tel 855.861.4370 | fax 508.771.6564 | <http://www.capecodderresort.com/>

Submitting Comments? If you plan to submit written comments for consideration at this meeting, they must be received at the NEFMC office by noon EST on Thursday, Sept. 25, 2014. If using email, please send them to comments@nefmc.org.

Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2014

8:30 a.m. Introductions and Announcements (Council Chairman Terry Stockwell)

8:35 Swearing-in of New and Reappointed Council Members (John Bullard, GARFO Regional Administrator)

8:45 Election of 2014-2015 Council Officers

9:30 Summary of the 59th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop/Stock Assessment Review Committee (Tab #3) (Dr. Jim Weinberg, NEFSC) Overview of information concerning the status of Gulf of Maine haddock and Atlantic sea scallops, including the findings of the peer reviewers

10:15 Transboundary Resources Assessment Committee (TRAC) Report (Tab #3) (Loretta O'Brien, NEFSC) Summary of results from the 2014 Eastern Georges Bank cod, Eastern Georges Bank haddock and the Georges Bank yellowtail flounder assessments

11:00 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Report (Tab #12) (Dr. Steve Cadrin, SMAST, and Jason McNamee, RI DEM) Presentation of the SSC's overfishing limit and acceptable biological catch recommendations for stocks of Gulf of Maine haddock and Gulf of Maine cod, Georges Bank yellowtail flounder, four small-mesh multispecies stocks (northern and southern whiting and northern and southern red hake), and Atlantic sea scallops; the committee's report also will include comments on the draft ABC risk policy statement provided by the Risk Policy Working Group

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:00 Scientific and Statistical Committee Report – continued

2:00 Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC) Report (Tab #3) (Terry Stockwell) Consider and possibly approve the TMGC's recommendations for fishing year 2015 quotas for Eastern Georges Bank cod and Eastern Georges Bank haddock and the Georges Bank stock of yellowtail flounder; receive a report on other TMGC issues

3:15 Sea Scallop Committee Report (Tab #4) (Mary Beth Nickell-Tooley) Discuss and possibly modify the management measures under consideration for Framework Adjustment 26 to the Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP), including a review of 2014 survey results, potential fishery specifications, and other measures

Exempted Fishing Permit Information Session at the Cape Codder Resort at 6:00 p.m. or directly following adjournment of the Council meeting; Learn more about the EFP process and get the latest update about ongoing Closed Area EFPs; Hosted by NOAA Fisheries and GMRI

Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2014

8:30 a.m. Groundfish Committee Report (Tab #3) (Frank Blount) Northeast (Groundfish) Multispecies FMP issues to be addressed:

- Gulf of Maine Cod Information – Receive report on the Gulf of Maine cod 2014 assessment update (Dr. Paul Rago, NEFSC)
- Consideration of Council Actions – Discuss the Gulf of Maine cod issues arising from the assessment and peer review; these could include but are not limited to a request for emergency action or other approaches that may be identified at the meeting
- Framework Adjustment 53 - Approve the range of alternatives for inclusion in this action; measures under consideration may address Gulf of Maine cod; other issues include fishing year 2015-2017 specifications for several groundfish stocks, windowpane flounder sub-annual catch limits and accountability measures, expansion of the Gulf of Maine cod spawning closure, a rollover provision that would apply to groundfish fishery specifications, and several other measures
- Amendment 18 - Approve several alternatives to be considered for inclusion in this action; these will address accumulation limits and an inshore/offshore line to address the concentration of fishing effort in the inshore Gulf of Maine

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:00 Groundfish Issues - *continued*

4:30 Observer Policy Committee (Tab #15) (Terry Stockwell) Update concerning the development of an Omnibus Industry-Funded Monitoring Amendment and summary report from the committee meeting; consider and possibly approve committee recommendations of alternatives for inclusion in the amendment

Thursday, Oct. 2, 2014

8:30 a.m. Abbreviated Reports on Recent Activities (Tab #1)Council Chairman (this report will include a brief description of bluefin tuna management issues and motions), Executive Director, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office Regional Administrator, 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 and NOAA Enforcement

9:30 Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management (EBFM) Committee Report (Tab #2)(Tom Dempsey) Progress report on recent work, including a summary of perspectives of stakeholders, climate change vulnerability and governance, and related issues

10:45 Northeast Fisheries Science Center Report on its Stock Assessment Update Process (Tab #1)(Dr. Paul Rago, NEFSC)

11:45 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 consideration (speakers are asked to sign up beforehand and limit remarks to between 3-5 minutes)

Noon Lunch Break

1:00 p.m. Risk Policy Working Group Report (Tab #15)(Mary Beth Nickell-Tooley) Approve the Draft Risk Policy Statement developed by the policy working group and briefly discuss steps to apply it across all NEFMC fishery management plans

2:00 Whiting Committee Report (Tab #6) (Vincent Balzano) Approve a range of management adjustments to be included in a 2014 specifications document, pending a decision on the scope of issues to be addressed in this action (whether to address overfishing of northern red hake); the Council also could initiate a framework adjustment in lieu of developing a specifications document

4:00 Initial Discussion of 2015 Management Priorities (Tab #1)(Executive Director Tom Nies)

5:00 Other Business

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 - www.nefmc.org. Mail date 9/9/2014.

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.