

New England Fishery Management Council  
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**New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda**  
**Tuesday - Thursday, January 26-28, 2016**  
**Sheraton Harborside Hotel, 250 Market Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801**  
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Sending comments? If you would like your written comments to be considered at this meeting, they must be received at the NEFMC office no later than 12 noon, Thursday, January 21, 2016. Please address them to Council Chairman Terry Stockwell or Executive Director Tom Nies. Email submissions should be sent to [comments@nefmc.org](mailto:comments@nefmc.org).

**Tuesday, January 26, 2016**

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

**9:05 Reports on Recent Activities** Council Chairman and Executive Director, NOAA Regional Administrator (Greater Atlantic Region/GAR), 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

**11:30 Sea Scallop Committee Report** (Mary Beth Tooley)  
Receive an update on the February sea scallop workshop being held to explore concerns about inshore scallop fishing in the Northeast

**12:00 p.m. Open Period for Public Comments** (Terry Stockwell)  
Opportunity for the public to provide brief comments on issues relevant to Council business but not listed on this agenda for formal discussion (speakers are asked to sign up beforehand and limit remarks to between 3-5 minutes)

**12:15 Lunch Break**

**1:30 Risk Policy Working Group Update** (Mary Beth Tooley)  
Receive an update on finalizing a "roadmap" that contains guidance on implementation of the NEFMC's approved risk policy

**2:00 Atlantic Herring Committee Report** (Peter Kendall)

- Review the development of Amendment 8 --- the focus of the action is to establish long-term harvest strategies for Atlantic herring, including an acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rule that explicitly accounts for herring's role in the ecosystem and the issue of localized depletion;
- Discuss revising the Georges Bank haddock catch cap accountability measure through a framework adjustment to the Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP);
- Discuss the use of portside data in river herring/shad catch cap monitoring

**Wednesday, January 27, 2016**

**8:30 a.m. Overview of NOAA Fisheries Fishery Dependent Data Project** (GAR staff)  
Receive a report on the NOAA Fisheries data project prior to Council and public discussion on the topic

**9:30 Observer Policy Committee Report** (Terry Stockwell)  
Select preferred alternatives among the omnibus elements in the Industry-Funded Monitoring (IFM) Amendment and approve the associated draft Environmental Assessment for purposes of public review; the action will address standard cost responsibilities, framework provisions for IFM programs, service provider requirements, a prioritization process to allocate federal funding, and a monitoring set-aside option; the Council is expected to select preferred alternatives for the herring and mackerel alternatives at its April 2016 meeting

**12:00 p.m. Lunch Break**

**1:15 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Report (Dr. Jake Kritzer)**

Review SSC recommendations, if any, for a revised overfishing limit and an acceptable biological catch for witch flounder for fishing years 2016-2018; receive an update on additional topics discussed by the SSC at their January 20 meeting, as appropriate

**2:00 Groundfish Committee Report (Frank Blount)**

Take final action on the 2016-2018 fishery specifications for witch flounder (preliminary values were selected at the December 2015 Council meeting); receive a committee update on the development of measures to address the 2016 groundfish priorities, including potential changes to the at-sea monitoring program and the management process for recreational fishing

**3:30 Review NOAA's Draft Guidance for Conducting Catch Share Program Reviews (Council staff)**

Review NOAA's Catch Share Guidance document and review/approve NEFMC comments on the draft

**Thursday, January 28, 2016**

**8:30 a.m. Small Mesh Multispecies Committee Report (Mark Gibson)**

Review scoping comments for Amendment 22 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP and approve the range of issues to be addressed in the action; the major topic under consideration is the development of a limited access program for the small mesh fishery comprised of whiting (silver and offshore hake) and red hake

**9:30 Presentation on the Northeast Region's Revised Stock Assessment Process (Dr. Bill Karp, Science Director, NEFSC)**

Discuss Northeast Regional Coordinating Council-recommended changes to the Stock Assessment Workshop/Stock Assessment Review Committee process

**10:30 Other Business**

*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 subject of formal action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to the 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 [www.nefmc.org](http://www.nefmc.org) under Council Meetings on our home page or call (978) 465-0492 for paper copies.**