



## New England Fishery Management Council

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Daniel Salerno, *Chair* | Cate O’Keefe, PhD, *Executive Director*

### NOTICE OF SCOPING MEETINGS

#### For Monkfish and Skate Fisheries

The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is conducting five scoping meetings to solicit comments on ideas for fishery improvements in the monkfish and skate fisheries. The scoping is designed to identify the challenges the monkfish and skate fishing sectors are grappling with and to identify possible management measures for the Council to address those challenges in the future. In June of 2026, the Council will consider comments received during scoping and in December of 2026, the Council will consider these comments when developing 2027 Council work priorities. Given monkfish is jointly managed with the Mid-Atlantic Council, during its August 2026 meeting, the Mid-Atlantic Council will receive the same scoping summary and an update on any outcomes of the June 2026 New England Council meeting.

#### Date and Time

#### Location

<b>Portland, ME</b> Monday, April 27, 2026 4:00 – 6:30 PM	The Westin Portland Harborview Hotel 157 High Street, Portland, ME 04101 Telephone: (207) 775-5411
<b>New Bedford, MA</b> Wednesday, April 29, 2026 4:00 – 6:30 PM	Fairfield Inn & Suites 185 MacArthur Drive. New Bedford, MA 02740 Telephone: (774) 634-2000
<b>Riverhead, NY</b> Thursday, April 30, 2026 4:00 – 6:30 PM	Cornell Cooperative Extension Suffolk County The meeting is held in the 1 <sup>st</sup> floor conference room 423 Griffing Avenue, Riverhead, NY 11901 Telephone: (631) 727-7850
<b>Manahawkin, NJ</b> Tuesday, May 5, 2026 4:00 – 6:30 PM	Stafford Township The meeting is held in the Council Room 260 East Bay Avenue, Manahawkin, NJ 08050 Telephone: (609) 597-1000
<b>Webinar</b> Monday, May 11, 2026 4:00 – 6:30 PM	<a href="https://nefmc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/CjSy3wZ4SfSBSOgc87uRiQ">https://nefmc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/CjSy3wZ4SfSBSOgc87uRiQ</a> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

*Directions to the meetings are available by contacting the Council office.*

During each meeting, Council staff will brief the public on the monkfish and skate priority ideas discussed to date, along with an overview of recent work completed, to serve as a starting point before receiving comments.

Members of the public may submit oral and/or written comments at any public hearing or submit written comments directly to the New England Fishery Management Council.

Written comments will be accepted from **Monday, April 20 through Monday, May 18, 2026**. Comments should be addressed to: Cate O’Keefe, PhD, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill #2, Newburyport, MA 01950; and sent by postal mail or by email: [comments@nefmc.org](mailto:comments@nefmc.org). Please note on your correspondence: “Monkfish and Skate Fishery Improvements Scoping Comments.”