New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda

Tuesday – Thursday, December 8-10, 2026
Hotel Viking, 1 Bellevue Avenue, Newport, RI 02840
844-806-4895 | Hotel Viking
Webinar Registration
December 2026 Meeting webpage

HOW TO GIVE COMMENTS AT A COUNCIL MEETING

Written Comments: Written comments that address specific items listed on the meeting agenda or issues that will be brought up under the open period for public comment must be received by Thursday, December 3, 2026. Please address comments to Council Chair, Daniel Salerno or Executive Director Cate O'Keefe and **Mail to**: NEFMC, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950, or **Email to**: comments@nefmc.org

Public Comments: Interested members of the public may address the Council for up to three minutes. Please review the Council's *Guidelines for Providing Public Comments*.

- **For in person comments** please use the sign-up sheet on the table at the entrance to the Council meeting room.
- **For remote comments** please email Alex Dunn at adunn@nefmc.org to be added to the commenter list.

ZOOM WEBINAR PARTICIPATION

Please refer to the Council's *Zoom Remote Participation Guide* for instructions and be sure your Zoom version is updated.

Tuesday, December 8, 2026

9:00 a.m. **Executive Committee Closed Session**
Pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, this closed session of the Executive Committee will be held to discuss information about Council resources

10:30 **Introductions and Announcements** (Council Chair Daniel Salerno)

10:35 **Reports on Recent Activities**
Council Chair, Council Executive Director, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) Regional Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) General Counsel, Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC), Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC), Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA Enforcement, HMS/ICCAT

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

1:30 **NOAA Guidance to Councils on Financial Disclosures and Voting Recusals** (Scott Sakowski, NOAA GC)
NOAA General Counsel briefing on disclosure of financial interests and voting recusal regulations for regional fishery management council members

2:00 **Council Coordination Committee Report** (Council Staff)
Report on the October 2026 Council Coordination Committee (CCC) meeting

2:45 **Northeast Region Coordinating Council Report** (Council Staff)
Report on the November 2026 Northeast Region Coordinating Council (NRCC) meeting

3:45 **Open Period for Public Comment**
Public comments on Council issues that are not listed on the agenda

4:15 **Council Adjourns/Closed Session SSC Appointments** (Council Chair Daniel Salerno)
Council discussion on Scientific and Statistical Committee appointments

6:00 **Council Public Outreach** (Hotel Viking)
Public informational exchange to foster open lines of communication among all meeting attendees

Wednesday, December 9, 2026

9:00 a.m. **2027 Council Priorities** (Executive Director Cate O'Keefe)
Final action on 2027 Council Priorities for all fishery management plans and other Council responsibilities

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

1:30 **Scientific and Statistical Committee Report** (SSC Chair Dr. Conor McManus)
Presentation on the SSC's overfishing limit (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) recommendations for Atlantic sea scallops, small-mesh multispecies, and several groundfish stocks

3:00 **Scallop Committee Report** (Melanie Griffin)
Final action to set specifications for scallops for fishing years 2027 and 2028 (default)

Thursday, December 10, 2026

9:00 a.m. **Small-Mesh Multispecies (Whiting) Committee Report** (Jackie Odell)
Final action to set specifications for small-mesh multispecies stocks for fishing years 2027-2031, and other management measures

10:30 a.m. **Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC)** (Council Staff)
Approve TMGC recommendations for 2027 total allowable catches (TACs) for shared U.S./Canada groundfish resources on Georges Bank (Eastern Georges Bank cod and haddock, and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder)

11:15 **Groundfish Committee Report** (Terry Alexander)
Final action on Framework 74 to set specifications for several groundfish stocks for fishing years 2027-2031, U.S./Canada TACs for 2027, and other management measures

12:45 **Council Planning** (Executive Director Cate O'Keefe)
Status and planning updates for Council activities, including FMPs, priorities, IRA, and other initiatives

12:50 **Other Business**

1:00 p.m. **Council Adjourns**

Times listed next to the agenda items are estimates and subject to change.
This meeting is being held in person and by webinar. Council member financial disclosure forms are available on the Council website.

Although other non-emergency issues not contained on 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 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 check the Council's website, nefmc.org, or call (978) 465-0492 for copies. This meeting will be recorded, consistent with 16 USC 1852. Audio files of these recordings will be available on the NEFMC website.