

New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda

Tuesday – Thursday, September 15-17, 2026
Hotel 1620, 180 Water Street, Plymouth, MA 02360
(508) 747-4900 | [Hotel 1620](#)
[Webinar Registration](#)
September 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, September 10, 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, September 15, 2026

- 9:00 a.m. Introductions and Announcements** (Council Chair Daniel Salerno)
- 9:05 Swearing-In of New and Reappointed Council Members** (GARFO)
- 9:15 Election of 2026-2027 Officers**
- 9:30 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
- 10:45 Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel** (Daniel Salerno)
Report on NTAP’s July meeting; Update on Regional Industry-Based Trawl Survey (RIBTS)
- 11:15 Northeast Fisheries Science Center Cooperative Research Branch** (Dr. Anna Mercer, NEFSC)
Presentation on cooperative research activities
- 12:00 p.m. Council Photo/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 herring; Summary of the Dynamic Reference Points Workshop recommendations
- 2:45 Atlantic Herring Committee Report** (Peter Whelan)
Final action to set Atlantic herring specifications for FY2027-2031; Updates on river herring and shad management measures
- 4:45 Open Period for Public Comment**
Public comments on Council issues that are not listed on the agenda
- 5:00 Council Adjourns**

6:00 Council Public Outreach (Hotel 1620)
Public informational exchange to foster open lines of communication among all meeting attendees

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

9:00 a.m. Vessel Baseline Evaluation (Council Staff)
Report on the evaluation of vessel baseline restrictions across New England and Mid-Atlantic limited access fisheries

10:00 a.m. Habitat Committee Report (Melissa Smith)
Final action on 2026 EFH Framework; Report on the evaluation of the Great South Channel clam dredge exemption program

11:30 Scallop Committee Report (Melanie Griffin)
Update on action to set scallop specifications for FY2027 and FY2028 (default) and Framework 42 measures to develop sub-management units in NGOM and regional allocations of Limited Access DAS

12:30 p.m. Lunch Break

1:45 Regional Stock Prioritization (Council Staff)
Presentation of the Regional Stock Prioritization results and NRCC recommendations

2:45 Executive Order 14276 (Council Staff)
Review EO14276 priority recommendations included in the July 2nd letter to the Council from NOAA Fisheries

3:45 2027 Council Priorities (Executive Director Cate O’Keefe)
Discussion and possible action to set specific 2027 Council Priorities for fishery management plans and other Council activities

Thursday, September 17, 2026

9:00 a.m. Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team (Corie Grewal, Jennifer Goebel, GARFO)
Presentation on scoping for future Take Reduction Plan rulemaking

9:30 Holistic Strategic Plan Initiative (Council Staff)
Presentation of the Implementation Plan and approval of the Council’s Holistic Strategic Plan

11:00 Offshore Wind Regional Fund Administration (Deirdre Boelke, Fisheries Insight Network)
Presentation of 11-State Regional Fund Administration draft fisheries compensation program design and public comment opportunities

11:30 Council Planning (Executive Director Cate O’Keefe)
Status and planning updates for Council activities, including FMPs, priorities, IRA, and other initiatives

11:45 Other Business

12:00 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.