

Tuesday – Thursday, April 18-20, 2023
Hilton Hotel, 20 Coogan Boulevard, Mystic, CT 06355
tel: (860) 572-0731 | [Hilton Mystic](#)
[Webinar Registration Option](#)

Sending comments? Written comments must be received at the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) office no later than 8:00 a.m., Thursday, April 13, 2023 to be considered at this meeting. Please address comments to Council Chair Eric Reid or Executive Director Tom Nies at: NEFMC, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950. Email submissions should be sent to comments@nefmc.org. ** Written comments must address items listed on the agenda for this meeting or issues that will be brought up under the open period for public comment.

IMPORTANT: *The Council will hold its April 2023 meeting at the Hilton Hotel in Mystic, CT. A webinar option will be available for individuals who cannot or prefer not to attend in person. The Council continues to follow all public safety measures related to [COVID-19](#) and intends to do so for this meeting. Please participate remotely if you are experiencing COVID symptoms or do not feel well. Updates will be posted on the [Council's April 2023 meeting webpage](#).*

PUBLIC COMMENTS: *The Council's "Guidelines for Providing Public Comments" can be found [here](#). Anyone interested in speaking during the open period for public comment on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 1:45 p.m. should fill out the sign-up sheet on the table at the entrance to the Council meeting room. To speak remotely, email Janice Plante at jplante@nefmc.org to get on the list.*

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

- 9:00 a.m. Closed Session** (Council Chair Eric Reid)
Closed session to discuss executive director search
- 9:30 Introductions and Announcements** (Council Chair Eric Reid)
- 9:35 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
- 10:45 Monkfish Report** (Libby Etrie)
Update on work to review and improve the Monkfish Research Set-Aside Program
- 11:00 Protected Resources – Atlantic Sturgeon** (Staff)
Update on joint New England/Mid-Atlantic Council action to reduce sturgeon bycatch in monkfish and dogfish gillnet fisheries; initiate Monkfish Framework Adjustment 15
- 11:30 On-Demand/Ropeless Fishing Gear Conflict Working Group** (Staff)
Update on formation of new working group to address preventing gear conflicts with on-demand/ropeless fishing gear
- 12:00 p.m. NOAA Fisheries National Seafood Strategy** (Michael Rubino, NOAA Fisheries)
Presentation and Council comments on the draft NOAA Fisheries National Seafood Strategy
- 12:30 Lunch Break**
- 1:45 Socioeconomic Survey of Hired Captains and Crew in New England and the Mid-Atlantic** (Matt Cutler, NEFSC)
Presentation on Northeast Fisheries Science Center survey to assess current social/economic conditions of commercial fishing crews; the survey is a follow-up to NEFSC's 2018-2019 study to determine demographic, well-being, and work condition changes over time

- 2:15 Enforcement Committee Report** (Pat Keliher)
Enforcement Committee feedback on: (1) on-demand/ropeless fishing gear and Gear Conflict Working Group; (2) Atlantic Salmon Aquaculture Framework; (3) reducing gillnet/protected resources interactions; (4) NOAA Office of Law Enforcement priorities; and (5) Council enforcement-related work priorities for 2023
- 2:45 Scallop Committee Report** (Melanie Griffin)
Update on scallop work priorities for 2023, including changes to the Scallop Research Set-Aside Program; **NOTE:** potential scallop fishery access to the Northern Edge will be discussed next under the Habitat Committee report
- 3:05 Habitat Committee Report** (Council Chair Eric Reid)
Northern Edge: (1) consider both Habitat Committee and Scallop Committee input, (2) discuss and potentially approve preliminary goals and objectives for possible management action, and (3) consider initiating action to revise the habitat management area (HMA) on the Northern Edge of Georges Bank to authorize scallop fishery access to the area; Aquaculture: final action on framework adjustment to facilitate offshore Atlantic salmon aquaculture; Offshore Energy and Habitat-Related Work: update

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

- 9:00 a.m. Groundfish Committee Report** (Rick Bellavance; SSC Vice Chair Dr. Cate O'Keefe)
Metrics for Amendment 23 Monitoring System Review: (1) progress report on developing performance metrics and indicators for review process to evaluate new groundfish monitoring system under Amendment 23, and (2) Scientific and Statistical Committee feedback on metrics and indicators; Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rules: progress report on facilitated process to develop new ABC control rules for groundfish; Atlantic Cod Management Transition Plan: update; Addressing Canadian Halibut Catch Swings in U.S. Management: update; Gulf of Maine Haddock: Council discussion
- 12:00 p.m. Skate Committee Report** (Scott Olszewski)
Update on work under 2023 skate priorities
- 12:30 Lunch Break**
- 1:45 Open Period for Public Comment**
Opportunity for the public to provide brief comments on issues relevant to Council business but not listed on this agenda (please limit remarks to 3-5 minutes)
- 2:00 Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM) Committee** (John Pappalardo)
Prototype Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE): progress report on prototype MSE planning meetings for EBFM and the Georges Bank example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP); EBFM Public Information Workshops: committee advice on conducting deep-dive workshops
- 2:30 State of the Ecosystem** (Dr. Sean Lucey, NEFSC)
Presentation on the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's State of the Ecosystem 2023 New England report
- 3:30 Scientific and Statistical Committee** (SSC Vice Chair Dr. Cate O'Keefe)
SSC feedback on EBFM pMSE strategy and the State of the Ecosystem 2023 report for New England
- 4:15 Congressional Update** (Dave Whaley)
Update on legislative activities; Council discussion

Thursday, April 20, 2023

- 9:00 a.m. Atlantic Herring Committee Report** (Cheri Patterson)
River Herring/Shad: (1) update on coordinated work with ASMFC and MAFMC, and (2) PDT analysis of recent low river herring/shad estimates in the Atlantic herring fishery; Inshore Midwater Trawl Closure: update on action to revisit Amendment 8 closure

- 12:00 p.m. Marine Resource Education Program (MREP)** (Liz Moore, Gulf of Maine Research Institute)
Presentation on the Marine Resource Education Program; overview of science and management components
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:30 Understanding Uncertainty: Stock Projections** (Staff)
Informational overview and Council discussion on uncertainty in stock projections with two examples from recent frameworks
- 2:45 Risk Policy Working Group** (Staff)
Discussion of and decision on terms of reference for revising the Council's Risk Policy; Council guidance to Risk Policy Working Group
- 3:45 Other Business**

Times listed next to the agenda items are estimates and are subject to change.

This meeting is being held in person and by webinar. Council member financial disclosure forms are available for examination 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, www.nefmc.org, or call (978) 465-0492 for copies.

This meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 USC 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.