



New England Fishery Management Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 3, 2020

PRESS CONTACT: Janice Plante
(607) 592-4817, jplante@nefmc.org

Council Calendar: Here's the August/September 2020 Meeting and Public Hearing Lineup – Join Our Webinars!

The New England Fishery Management Council has scheduled numerous public hearings, advisory panel meetings, and committee meetings throughout August and September to address actions related to Atlantic sea scallops, groundfish, Atlantic herring, skates, habitat, ecosystem-based fishery management, and more. Webinar registration links and related documents are – or soon will be – posted on each of the respective hearing/meeting webpages. Here's the lineup.

SKATES – Thursday, August 6: The Council's Skate Committee will meet by webinar at 9:00 a.m. to continue developing and clarifying the problem statement, goals, and objectives for Amendment 5 to the Northeast Skate Complex Fishery Management Plan (FMP). This action is considering whether to limit access to the skate wing and bait fisheries. Meeting materials and the webinar registration link are at [Skates August 6](#).

SKATES – Thursday, September 10: The Skate Committee and Skate Advisory Panel (AP) will meet jointly to continue discussing Amendment 5. Details will be forthcoming at [Skates September 10](#).

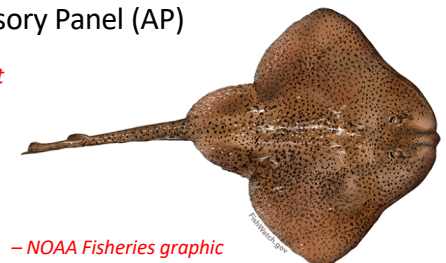
SCALLOPS – PART 1: The Council is conducting [four public hearings by webinar](#) on Amendment 21 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop FMP. The public hearing document and all related materials are posted at [Amendment 21](#). Webinar registration information and key documents also are posted on each of the public hearing webpages:

- [Wednesday, August 5 at 6:00 p.m.](#)
- [Wednesday, August 12 at 4:00 p.m.](#)
- [Thursday, August 27 at 4:00 p.m.](#)
- [Wednesday, September 2 at 6:00 p.m.](#)

Amendment 21 includes measures related to: (1) the Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) Management Area; and (2) the Limited Access General Category (LAGC) Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) component of the fishery.

SCALLOPS – PART 2: **Save these dates!** The Council's Scallop AP and Scallop Committee will meet to discuss Amendment 21 and other scallop-related issues in

Winter skate (at right) is the primary species for human consumption in the wing fishery.



– NOAA Fisheries graphic

Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel (NTAP)

NTAP WORKING GROUP – Monday, August 3: The working group will meet by webinar from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Learn more [here](#).

NTAP – Friday, August 7: The full trawl advisory panel will meet from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. by webinar to discuss: (1) timing concerns due to COVID-19; (2) door testing on the NOAA ship Henry B. Bigelow; (3) the 2020 research update; and (4) the swept area integration update. More information and the webinar registration link are posted [here](#).





New England Fishery Management Council

late-September. More information will become available after the webinar public hearings have concluded.

- **Scallop Advisory Panel Webinar Meeting:** [Wednesday, September 23](#)
- **Scallop Committee Webinar Meeting:** [Friday, September 25](#)

GROUND FISH PART 1: The Council is continuing to hold public hearings on [Groundfish Monitoring Amendment 23](#). In addition to the webinar hearings already held on April 15, May 12, May 21, July 16, and July 29, the Council has scheduled the following additional hearings. Webinar links and related materials are available on each of the hearing webpages.

- [Thursday, August 6 at 4:00 p.m.](#) – This is a general webinar for all states, and it is the only hearing that includes a conference call option for participants who are more comfortable calling in by telephone without using a computer or tablet.
- [Monday, August 10 at 6:00 p.m.](#) – This webinar hearing will have a New Hampshire/Maine geographic focus.
- [Wednesday, August 26](#) – This hearing is under development. It will be held one of two ways: (a) as a webinar hearing; or (b) as an outdoor, in-person hearing at a location in the Greater Boston area. The decision about whether to hold the hearing outdoors and in person will be based on COVID-19 pandemic guidance from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, weather, and other factors as determined by the Executive Director in consultation with the Council Chair. Additional information will be posted as soon as possible on the hearing [webpage](#).

GROUND FISH PART 2: The Council's Groundfish Committee, Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP), and Recreational Advisory Panel (RAP) will meet [by webinar in mid-August](#) to discuss the Conservation Law Foundation petition for rulemaking on [Atlantic cod, Framework Adjustment 61](#), and other groundfish-related issues.

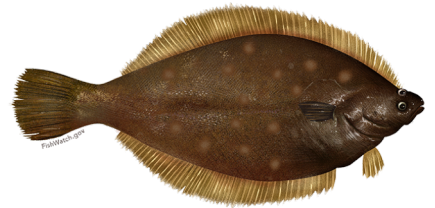
- [RAP – Monday, August 17 at 10:00 a.m.](#)
- [GAP – Tuesday, August 18 at 10:00 a.m.](#)
- [Groundfish Committee – Wednesday, August 19 at 9:30 a.m.](#)

The GAP and Committee will meet again in late-September to discuss Amendment 23 and other groundfish issues. Keep checking the meeting webpages for upcoming information and webinar links.

- [GAP – Monday, September 21](#)
- [Groundfish Committee – Tuesday, September 22](#)



*Above, Atlantic pollock.
Below, yellowtail flounder.
– NOAA Fisheries graphic*



– NOAA Fisheries graphic

SPINY DOGFISH – Wednesday, August 19: The Mid-Atlantic and New England Councils' Joint Spiny Dogfish Advisory Panel will meet via webinar from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. to develop a Fishery Performance Report and/or other recommendations for spiny dogfish specifications. The webinar link is posted [here](#).



New England Fishery Management Council

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE (SSC) – Monday, August 24: The SSC [will meet](#) to discuss groundfish-related issues, including: (1) the recent U.S./Canada Transboundary Resources Assessment Committee ([TRAC](#)) meeting results; (2) overfishing limit and acceptable biological catch levels for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder for the 2021 and 2022 fishing years; and information from the Groundfish Plan Development Team on possible rebuilding approaches for white hake. Here is the meeting [webpage](#).

HABITAT – Thursday, August 20: The Council's Habitat Advisory Panel and Habitat Committee will meet jointly by webinar at 9:00 a.m. to discuss, among other issues: (1) habitat-related aspects of offshore wind development; (2) progress on the development of habitat policies for aquaculture, submarine cables, and floating offshore wind; (3) the recent Executive Order on Promoting Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth; and (4) habitat-related work priorities for 2021. Meeting materials and the webinar registration link are at [Habitat August 20](#).

ECOSYSTEM-BASED FISHERY MANAGEMENT (EBFM) – Tuesday, September 8: The EBFM Committee will meet to continue planning for outreach workshops using: (1) the Council's example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP) for Georges Bank; and (2) public outreach materials developed by [Green Fin Studio](#). More information will be available soon at [EBFM September 8](#).

Atlantic Herring Four Meetings Coming Up!



ATLANTIC HERRING – Tuesday, August 25: The Council's Herring Advisory Panel [will meet](#) at 9:30 a.m. to: (1) review the results of the [2020 Spring Management Track Assessment for Atlantic herring](#); and (2) continue work on Framework Adjustment 8 to the Atlantic Herring FMP. The framework contains specifications for the 2021-2023 fishing years for herring and adjustment of measures that potentially inhibit the mackerel fishery from achieving optimum yield. The webinar link is posted at [Herring August 25](#).

ATLANTIC HERRING – Thursday, August 27: The Council's Herring Committee [will meet](#) at 9:30 a.m. to discuss the same issues as the AP. The webinar link is posted at [Herring August 27](#).

ATLANTIC HERRING – Tuesday, September 22: **Save this date!** The Herring AP will meet again in preparation for the full Council meeting the following week. Keep tabs on [AP September 22](#).

ATLANTIC HERRING – Thursday, September 24: **Save this date!** The Herring Committee will meet as well. Keep checking [Herring Committee September 24](#) for more information.

The Council's Executive Committee will meet on [Tuesday, September 15](#).

The full New England Council will meet [September 29 through October 1, 2020](#)