

**Tuesday – Thursday, June 27-29, 2023**  
**Hilton Garden Inn, 5 Park Street, Freeport, ME 04032**  
**tel: (207) 865-1433 | [Hilton Garden Inn Freeport](#)**  
**[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, June 22, 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](mailto: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 June 2023 meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn in Freeport, ME. 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 June 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 Tuesday, June 27, 2023 at 12:00 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](mailto:jplante@nefmc.org) to get on the list.*

**Tuesday, June 27, 2023**

**9:00 a.m. Introductions and Announcements** (Council Chair Eric Reid)

**9:05 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

**10:30 CCC Subcommittee on Area-Based Management** (Council Chair Eric Reid)

Presentation on final report from the Council Coordination Committee's Subcommittee on Area-Based Management

**11:00 Skate Committee Report** (Scott Olszewski)

2024-2025 Specifications: progress report and potential initiation of framework to include measures to expand possession of smooth and barndoor skates; Thorny Skate: presentation on final white paper with potential approaches to support thorny skate rebuilding; Council discussion

**12:00 p.m. 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)

**12:15 Lunch Break**

**1:30 Atlantic Herring Committee Report** (Cheri Patterson)

Inshore Midwater Trawl Closure: approve problem statement for action to revisit Amendment 8 exclusion zone; River Herring/Shad: consider change in priorities to identify time/area closure options to reduce bycatch in midwater trawl and small-mesh bottom trawl fisheries

**3:15 National Standard 4, 8, and 9 Guidelines** (Kelly Denit, NOAA Fisheries)

Presentation on comment opportunity under advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) for updating National Standard Guidelines 4, 8, and 9; SSC and staff input on guidelines; Council comments

- 4:30 National Standard 1 Technical Guidance for Reference Points and Status Determinations (Staff)**  
Brief overview of NOAA's Technical Guidance for National Standard 1 Reference Points and Status Determinations; Council discussion on process for developing comments

**Wednesday, June 28, 2023**

- 9:00 a.m. GARFO/NEFSC Draft Strategic Plan (GARFO Regional Administrator Mike Pentony)**  
Presentation on the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office and Northeast Fisheries Science Center draft strategic plan; request for Council review of draft
- 9:30 Groundfish Committee Report (Council Vice Chair Rick Bellavance; SSC Chair Dr. Lisa Kerr)**  
Framework Adjustment 66: initiate action for specifications and management measures that may include: (1) 2024-2026 specifications for redfish, northern windowpane flounder, and southern windowpane flounder, (2) 2024-2025 specifications for white hake and U.S./Canada resources of Eastern Georges Bank cod, Eastern Georges Bank haddock, and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder, (3) a revised white hake rebuilding plan, and (4) Atlantic halibut management measures; Gulf of Maine Haddock: consider potential change in Council priorities to revise Gulf of Maine haddock specifications for 2024 and 2025 in Framework 66; Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rules: initiate framework to revise ABC control rules for groundfish, receive Scientific and Statistical Committee feedback on control rules; Atlantic Cod Management Transition Plan: update
- 12:00 p.m. Monkfish Research Set-Aside Program Working Group (Libby Etrie)**  
Progress report on Council priority to review and improve the Monkfish Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program
- 12:30 Lunch Break**
- 1:45 Monkfish/Dogfish Joint Action to Reduce Atlantic Sturgeon Bycatch (Libby Etrie)**  
Approve range of alternatives for joint New England/Mid-Atlantic Council framework adjustment to reduce monkfish and dogfish large-mesh gillnet fishery interactions with Atlantic sturgeon
- 3:15 Electronic Monitoring and Reporting Grant Program (Gray Redding, NFWF Fisheries Conservation Program Manager)**  
Presentation on the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) competitive grant funding programs, including the Electronic Monitoring and Reporting Program and the New England Gear Innovation Fund, a new program that seeks to address right whale fishing gear entanglement issues
- 3:45 East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning (Staff)**  
Review findings from the February 2023 East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning Summit; receive Northeast Region Coordinating Council (NRCC) feedback on summit findings; Council discussion on findings and next steps

**Thursday, June 29, 2023**

- 9:00 a.m. Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM) Committee (John Pappalardo; Dr. Gavin Fay, UMass-Dartmouth SMAST; SSC Subpanel Chair Dr. Sam Truesdell)**  
Prototype Management Strategy Evaluation (pMSE): final report on pMSE for EBFM and the Georges Bank example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP); SSC subpanel suggestions to improve results of pMSE's model scenarios; EBFM Deep-Dive Public Information Workshops: update
- 11:15 Scallop Committee Report (Melanie Griffin)**  
Atlantic Sea Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program: approve longer-term RSA survey awards, survey guiding principles, and 2024-2025 RSA priorities; Specifications: initiate action for fishing year 2024 specifications, 2025 defaults, and other measures; **NOTE:** The Northern Edge will be discussed under the Habitat Committee report
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:30 Habitat Committee Report (Council Chair Eric Reid; BOEM)**

Northern Edge: progress report and timeline for action to potentially authorize scallop fishery access to the habitat management area at the top of Closed Area II on Georges Bank; Essential Fish Habitat Review: work plan update; Offshore Energy and Habitat-Related Work: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) update on Gulf of Maine offshore wind call area; other wind developments

**3:00 Risk Policy Working Group (Megan Ware)**

Update on Risk Policy Working Group's progress in addressing terms of reference

**3:30 Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) (Karyl Brewster-Geisz, NOAA Fisheries; Council Vice Chair Rick Bellavance; Mike Pierdinock)**

1. NOAA Fisheries HMS Management Division: presentation on (a) proposed rule for Amendment 15 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS Fishery Management Plan; (b) the advance notice of proposed rulemaking on electronic reporting; and (c) scoping for Amendment 16 shark issues; 2. HMS Advisory Panel: report on May meeting; 3. Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to the International Commission on the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT): report on April meeting

**4:30 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](http://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.**