



New England Fishery Management Council

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Council to Hold Seven In-Person Public Information Workshops on Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management

The New England Fishery Management Council has scheduled seven in-person public information [workshops](#) to help fishermen and other stakeholders learn more about ecosystem-based fishery management (EBFM).

The workshops will run for three hours each and cover: (1) how EBFM can be used as a tool to assess and manage fisheries in general; and (2) more specifically, how EBFM potentially could be used to regulate fisheries on Georges Bank. The Council has developed a [Draft Example Fishery Ecosystem Plan \(eFEP\) for Georges Bank](#) in preparation for further discussion.

EBFM Workshop Schedule

~ All Workshops Will Run From 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. ~

- **Gloucester, MA** – Tuesday, October 25, 2022
 - Maritime Gloucester, 23 Harbor Loop
- **Portland, ME** – Wednesday, October 26, 2022
 - DoubleTree Hotel, 363 Maine Mall Road
- **Chatham, MA** – Tuesday, November 1, 2022
 - Chatham Community Center, 702 Main Street
- **New Bedford, MA** – Wednesday, November 2, 2022
 - New Bedford Whaling Museum, 18 Johnny Cake Hill
- **Point Judith, RI** – Tuesday, November 8, 2022
 - Superior Trawl Conference Room, 55 State Street, Narragansett
- **Montauk, NY** – Wednesday, November 9, 2022
 - Montauk Playhouse and Community Center, 240 Edgemere Street
- **Manahawkin, NJ** – Thursday, November 10, 2022
 - Holiday Inn, 151 Route 72 West

Q: How many workshops do I need to attend? Is one enough?

A: The presentations and subject matter will be the same at each workshop. However, the discussion will vary depending on who's in the room and the level of engagement on each topic. Therefore, participants may benefit from attending more than one workshop and are welcome to do so.

What is Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM)?

EBFM is a holistic approach to fisheries management that considers the physical, biological, economic, and social interactions between the various parts of the ecosystem related to fisheries. The process considers the diverse needs and pressures on fish, fish habitat, and the food web within a geographically specific area, while also accounting for the needs of fishermen, our communities, and the economy.





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Q: Do I need to register for the workshops?

A: Registration is highly encouraged but not mandatory. Advance registration will help the Council plan for and better accommodate participants at each workshop. Just click on [this form](#) and check off which ones you plan to attend. These are in-person workshops with no webinar component.

Q: What will happen at these workshops? Will I be able to express my opinion?

A: Yes! Your comments are important to the Council. The workshops include a mix of presentations and breakout sessions. The presentations will cover:

- An [introduction](#) to ecosystem-based fishery management;
- An overview of [catch ceilings and floors](#) as used in EBFM management; and
- The [science](#) supporting EBFM.

Register for the
EBFM
Workshops
> [HERE](#) <



Scan the QR code above with your phone camera to get to the Council's EBFM Public Information Workshops and Outreach Materials. The webpage is partially pictured at right.

The Council will be conducting public information workshops to help inform fishermen and other stakeholders about ecosystem-based fishery management (EBFM) and its potential application to a Georges Bank Ecosystem Production Unit. The Council has been referring to this approach as an example Fishery Management Plan for Georges Bank (eFEP).

Information about the workshops and all related documents will be posted on this webpage as they become available.

How Does EBFM Work?
In EBFM, management objectives and multiple factors of ecosystem health are considered before **management decisions** are made. Scientists analyze these factors and provide advice to managers who then make decisions about **catch ceilings**. Factors analyzed include: Climate & Weather, Fishing Fleet Information (Size and gear type), Energy Flow, Predator and Prey Relationships, Habitat Quality, and the needs of Fishermen, Coastal Communities, and the Economy.

Climate & Weather
Weather patterns and changing climate lead to ecosystem shifts.

Fishing Fleet Information
Number of boats and types of gear.

Energy Flow Through the Ecosystem

Habitat
Healthy fish stocks need healthy habitat.

Product or Prey
A predator-prey relationship contributes to a resilient ecosystem.

Fishermen, Coastal Communities, & the Economy
Economic and cultural objectives of multiple stakeholders.

Catch Ceilings

Related Committees

- Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management Committee

Quick Links

- Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for Georges Bank eFEP Steering Committee
- Watch the Introductory Video

EBFM Public Outreach Materials

EBFM Workshops - Supporting Documents

- EBFM Outreach in Support of Upcoming NEFMC Workshops
- Meeting Notice with all Workshop Dates
- Register for the Workshops > HERE

Following each presentation, attendees will participate in breakout sessions to discuss the contents of what was presented. Everyone will have a chance to ask questions and express opinions and concerns. The Council is interested in hearing your views on the strengths and weaknesses of EBFM



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and how it compares to the current single-species approach to fishery management.

Q: What kinds of questions will I likely be asked?

A: Workshop organizers have developed several questions to spur the discussion. Here are two examples.

What opportunities do you see to use EBFM to improve existing assessment and management systems?

What do we stand to gain or lose in shifting towards an EBFM approach?

Q: How can I prepare for the workshops?

A: The Council has posted an extensive mix of professionally developed EBFM outreach materials on [this webpage](#). Here's what you'll find there.

- Supporting documents for the EBFM workshops, including the [meeting notice](#) with all workshop dates and details, a link to the [registration form](#), and an EBFM outreach [report](#) that was produced in preparation for the workshops.
- Four stakeholder brochures for: [\(1\)](#) Commercial Fishermen and Seafood Dealers and Processors; [\(2\)](#) Commercial Pelagic Fishermen and Recreational Anglers; [\(3\)](#) Environmental Organizations and the General Public; and [\(4\)](#) a summary.
- Two infographics, a [Guide to the eFEP for Georges Bank](#), an [EBFM Glossary of Terms](#), four presentations, background documents, and more, including a five-minute [introductory video](#) (cover image shown below).



Don't forget to watch the Council's [five-minute introductory video](#) titled "Stakeholder Perspectives" to hear what people are saying about EBFM. The video, which was produced with contracted support from [Green Fin Studio](#), provides a simple overview of a complex topic.

QUESTIONS? Contact Senior Fishery Analyst Andrew Applegate, the Council's EBFM lead, at aapplegate@nefmc.org.