

**New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda**  
**Tuesday - Thursday, January 24-26, 2017**  
**Sheraton Harborside Hotel, 250 Market Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801**  
**tel: (603) 431-2300 | <http://www.sheratonportsmouth.com>**

Sending comments? Written comments must be received at the NEFMC office no later than 5 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2017 to be considered at this meeting. Please address them to Council Chairman Dr. John Quinn or Executive Director Tom Nies at: NEFMC, 50 Water St., Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950. Email submissions should be sent to [comments@nefmc.org](mailto:comments@nefmc.org).

**Tuesday, January 24, 2017**

- 9:00 a.m. Introductions and Announcements** (Chairman Dr. John Quinn)
- 9:05 Reports on Recent Activities**  
Council Chairman, Council Executive Director, NOAA's Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) Regional Administrator, NOAA General Counsel, Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC), Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA Enforcement
- 10:45 Monkfish Report** (Vincent Balzano)  
Receive overview of Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council discussions about Framework Adjustment 10 and Amendment 6; revisit postponed motion from November regarding trip-boat requirements for gillnetters using 10" and larger-size mesh
- 11:00 Industry-Funded Monitoring (IFM) Omnibus Amendment** (Carrie Nordeen, GARFO)  
Review public comments on IFM Omnibus Amendment and select preferred alternatives
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:15 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)
- 1:30 Atlantic Herring Committee Report** (Peter Kendall)  
Take final action on Framework Adjustment 5 to potentially modify Georges Bank haddock bycatch accountability measures in the herring midwater trawl fishery; and, related to Amendment 8: (a) review Management Strategy Evaluation workshop results; (b) preview potential alternatives for acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rule; and (c) receive brief update on localized depletion and user conflict measures under development
- 5:00 Skate Scoping Hearing** (Dr. Matt McKenzie)  
Public scoping hearing to solicit initial input on Northeast Skate Complex Amendment 10 to potentially limit access to the skate bait and skate wing fisheries

**Wednesday, January 25, 2017**

- 8:30 a.m. Closed Session** (Dr. John Quinn)  
Consult on Scientific and Statistical Committee appointments for 2017-2019
- 8:45 Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)** (Brian Hooker)  
Update on New York commercial wind energy lease sale and revised environmental assessment
- 9:45 Cooperative Research Review** (Dr. Jon Hare, NEFSC)
- 10:10 Lenfest Fishery Ecosystem Task Force** (Lenfest staff)  
Receive overview of Task Force's "Building Effective Fishery Ecosystem Plans" report

- 11:00 Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management Report** (John Pappalardo)  
Receive committee progress report on development of operating models and a draft example Georges Bank Ecosystem Production Unit Fishery Ecosystem Plan
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:30 Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW)/Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC) Report** (Dr. Jim Weinberg)  
Receive presentation on SAW/SARC 62 results for witch flounder and black sea bass
- 2:30 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Report** (Jason McNamee)  
Provide overfishing limit (OFL) and ABC recommendations for witch flounder
- 3:15 Groundfish** (Terry Stockwell)  
Final action on 2017-2019 witch flounder specifications for Framework 56; provide recommendations to GARFO on fishing year (FY) 2017 Gulf of Maine cod and haddock recreational measures; revisit postponed motion from November requesting FY 2017 exemption from southern windowpane flounder AM; receive 2017 groundfish priorities work update

**Thursday, January 26, 2017**

- 8:30 a.m. Council Programmatic Review** (Executive Director Tom Nies)  
Initial planning discussion
- 9:30 Fishery Dependent Data Visioning Project** (Barry Clifford, GARFO)  
Report on GARFO/NEFSC efforts to modernize fishery dependent data collection
- 10:30 Marine Mammal Commission (MMC)** (Rebecca Lent, MMC)  
Agency overview and mandates; preview of April 5-7, 2017 annual meeting agenda
- 12:00 p.m. Other Business**

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

*The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Council member financial disclosure forms are available for examination at the meeting.*

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.**