

**New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda**  
**Tuesday – Thursday, April 13-15, 2021**  
[By Webinar](#)

Sending comments? Written comments must be received at the NEFMC office no later than 8:00 a.m., Thursday, April 8, 2021 to be considered at this meeting. Please address comments 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).

**IMPORTANT:** Due to ongoing federal and state travel restrictions and public safety guidelines related to [COVID-19](#), this meeting will be conducted by webinar. Please continue to monitor the Council's [April 2021 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 April 15, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. should email Janice Plante at [jplante@nefmc.org](mailto:jplante@nefmc.org) to get on the list.

**Tuesday, April 13, 2021**

**12:00 p.m. Reports on Recent Activities**

Council Chairman, 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, U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA Enforcement, and SAFMC Dolphin/Wahoo

**1:30 Climate Science at Northeast Fisheries Science Center** (Dr. Vince Saba, NEFSC)

Report on Northeast Fisheries Science Center efforts to address climate change impacts on fisheries

**2:15 Break**

**2:30 Northeast Region Coordinating Council (NRCC) Climate Change Scenario Planning Initiative** (Council Staff)

Report on the NRCC's scenario planning initiative to address climate change impacts and implications

**3:00 NOAA Listening Session on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad** (Dr. Paul Doremus, NOAA Fisheries)

NOAA listening session on Executive Order 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, focusing on Section 216(c), making fisheries and protected resources more resilient to climate change; Council recommendations and comments

**4:15 Congressional Update** (David Whaley)

Update on congressional activities; Council discussion

**Wednesday, April 14, 2021**

**9:00 a.m. Atlantic Herring Committee Report** (Rick Bellavance)

Progress report and discussion of next steps on actions to: (1) develop a rebuilding plan to address the overfished status of the Atlantic herring resource; (2) potentially adjust herring accountability measures; and (3) consider spawning closures on Georges Bank under Framework Adjustment 7

**11:00 Skate Committee Report:** (Dr. Matt McKenzie)

Northeast Skate Complex Amendment 5: review scoping comments and identify next steps; receive update on other 2021 skate priorities

**12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**

**1:30 Habitat Committee Report** (Eric Reid)

Habitat Management Areas (HMAs): progress report on assessing revisions to the HMA on the Northern Edge of Georges Bank; Aquaculture: discuss and receive feedback on a strategy for ongoing Council engagement and coordination with NOAA Fisheries; Offshore Energy: update on offshore wind developments in the Greater Atlantic Region

- 3:00 Atlantic Sea Scallop Biological Opinion** (Jen Anderson, GARFO)  
Progress report on 2021 Atlantic Sea Scallop Biological Opinion to address turtle interactions in the fishery
- 3:15 Scallop Report** (Vincent Balzano)  
Scallop Survey Working Group (SSWG): update on SSWG formation and recent activities, as well as other 2021 scallop priorities
- 4:15 Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel (NTAP)** (Terry Alexander)  
Report on March 19, 2021 meeting of the Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel; Council discussion

**Thursday, April 15, 2021**

- 9:00 a.m. State of the Ecosystem 2021** (Dr. Sean Lucey, NEFSC)  
Presentation on the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's State of the Ecosystem 2021 report
- 10:00 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)** (SSC Chair Dr. Jason McNamee)  
Receive SSC's recommendations on the State of the Ecosystem 2021 report; Council discussion
- 10:30 Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM) MSE Steering Committee** (Dr. Matt McKenzie)  
EBFM Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) Steering Committee update on EBFM public information workshop planning
- 11:00 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)
- 11:15 Groundfish Report** (Terry Alexander)  
Recreational Party/Charter Limited Entry: Council decision on next steps in response to feedback on the recreational groundfish party/charter fishery limited entry strawman
- 12:15 p.m. Other Business**

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

*This meeting is being held entirely 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.**