

New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda
Tuesday - Thursday, December 5-7, 2017
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Sending comments? Written comments must be received at the NEFMC office no later than 5 p.m., Wednesday, November 29, 2017 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.

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

- 9:00 a.m. Introductions and Announcements** (Chairman Dr. John Quinn)
- 9:05 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, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA Enforcement
- 10:30 Northeast Regional Ocean Council** (Nick Napoli)
Briefing on upgrades to the Northeast Ocean Data Portal
- 10:45 Skate Committee Report** (Dr. Matt McKenzie)
Framework Adjustment 5: consider options to exempt vessels from skate regulations when fishing exclusively within the NAFO Regulatory Area; take final action
- 11:05 American Lobster** (Toni Kerns, ASMFC)
Briefing on ASMFC's Draft Addendum XXVI to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster and Addendum III to the Jonah Crab plan; Council discussion on data collection needs
- 11:20 Habitat Committee Report** (Doug Grout; Brian Hooker, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management)
Progress report on Coral Amendment and Clam Dredge Framework; overview of proposed and ongoing offshore wind energy projects in the Northeast
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:45 North Atlantic Right Whales** (Mark Murray-Brown, GARFO)
Presentation on North Atlantic Right Whale Five-Year Review and reinitiation of formal consultation due to new information on the changed status of right whales
- 2:45 Atlantic Herring Committee Report** (Peter Kendall)
Amendment 8: select preferred alternatives for localized depletion and user conflicts; approve draft amendment for public hearing; Atlantic Herring Research Set-Aside Program: approve 2019-2021 priorities

Wednesday, December 6, 2017

- 8:30 a.m. Groundfish Operational Assessments** (NEFSC staff)
Report on results of 2017 operational assessments for 19 groundfish stocks
- 9:00 Scientific and Statistical Committee Report** (Jason McNamee)
Receive SSC recommendations for overfishing limits (OFLs) and acceptable biological catches (ABCs) for the following stocks and fishing years (FY): Atlantic sea scallops for FY 2018 with defaults for FY 2019; northern and southern silver hake and red hake for FY 2018-2020; all groundfish stocks for FY 2018-2020 except Georges Bank yellowtail flounder and Atlantic halibut
- 10:30 Groundfish Committee Report** (Terry Stockwell)
Framework Adjustment 57: final action on framework, which includes 2018-2020 fishery specifications and other management measures; 2018 total allowable catches (TACs) for U.S./Canada stocks of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder; Atlantic halibut accountability measures (AMs); recreational management measures; common pool trimester TAC adjustments; southern

windowpane flounder AMs; and potential consideration of a Georges Bank cod sub-ACL for the recreational fishery; Emergency Action: consider requesting emergency action to reduce catches of Georges Bank cod by implementing additional measures for the recreational fishery

12:30 p.m. Lunch Break

1:45 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)

2:00 Groundfish Committee Report Continued

4:45 Regulatory Reform Initiative (Executive Director Tom Nies)

Overview of Council plan to provide input to the National Marine Fisheries Service on regulatory reform mandated by Executive Orders 13777, 13771, and 13565

Thursday, December 7, 2017

8:30 a.m. 2018 Council Priorities – Final Action (Executive Director Tom Nies)

10:30 Scallop Committee Report (Vincent Balzano)

Framework Adjustment 29: final action on framework, which includes: (1) fishery specifications for the 2018 fishing year and default specs for 2019, (2) scallop fishery AMs for yellowtail flounder and windowpane flounder, (3) Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area modifications, and (4) measures to modify and/or create access area and open area boundaries consistent with potential changes to habitat and groundfish closed areas under Omnibus Habitat Amendment 2

12:30 p.m. Lunch Break

1:30 Scallop Committee Report Continued

2:45 Whiting Committee Report (Mark Gibson)

2018-2020 Specifications: final action; Amendment 22: progress report on triggered possession limit adjustments; approve limited access draft amendment for public hearing

3:45 Spiny Dogfish (Dr. David Pierce)

Specifications: review previously set 2018 specifications and discuss whether to recommend modifications

4:15 Other Business

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

This 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, 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.