

New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda
Tuesday – Thursday, January 30-February 1, 2024
The Venue at Portwalk Place, 22 Portwalk Place, Portsmouth, NH 03801
tel: (603) 422-6114 | [The Venue at Portwalk Place](#)
[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, January 25, 2024 to be considered at this meeting. Please address comments to Council Chair Eric Reid or Executive Director Cate O’Keefe at: NEFMC, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950. Email submissions should be sent to 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 January 2024 meeting at The Venue at Portwalk Place in Portsmouth, NH. This will be a hybrid meeting with in-person participation, coupled with a webinar option for individuals who cannot or prefer not to attend in person. Updates will be posted on the [Council’s January 2024 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, January 30, 2023 at 1:45 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 to get on the list.*

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

- 9:00 a.m. Closed Session** (Council Chair Eric Reid)
Council discussion on Scientific and Statistical Committee appointments
- 9:30 Introductions and Announcements** (Council Chair Eric Reid)
- 9:35 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, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and ICCAT Advisory Committee
- 10:45 Risk Policy Working Group Report** (Megan Ware)
Progress report on addressing Terms of Reference 1 and 2 to revise the Council’s Risk Policy
- 12:00 p.m. Aquaculture** (Kevin Madley, GARFO; Chris Schillaci, NCCOS)
GARFO and NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science update on revised siting for Blue Water Fisheries offshore aquaculture project
- 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 Herring Committee Report** (Cheri Patterson)
Amendment 10: update on action to minimize user conflicts in the Atlantic herring fishery; review draft scoping document and scoping meeting schedule
- 4:00 Congressional Update** (Dave Whaley)
Update on legislative activities; Council questions

- 5:00 Council Adjourns**
- 6:00 Council Public Outreach** (AC Hotel, Lobby Level, 299 Vaughn Street, 4-minute walk from the Council meeting room at The Venue at Portwalk Place)
Informational exchange to foster open lines of communication among Council members, staff, industry, and meeting attendees; all are welcome; light snacks provided

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

- 9:00 a.m. Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology** (Staff)
Presentation on three-year review of the Northeast Region's Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology
- 9:45 NEFSC Fishery Monitoring and Research Division** (Katherine "KB" McArdle and Dr. Anna Mercer, NEFSC)
Report on Northeast Fishery Monitoring and Research Division activities, including: (1) status of ongoing responsibilities; (2) at-sea monitoring and observer program activities; and (3) cooperative research updates
- 11:45 Industry-Based Surveys** (Dr. Kathryn Ford, NEFSC)
Overview of Northeast Fisheries Science Center white paper outlining potential plans for industry-based surveys to complement federal spring and fall bottom trawl surveys on the *Henry B. Bigelow*; Council input on research priorities for consideration in future industry-based survey
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:45 Marine Recreational Information Program Fishing Effort Survey** (Dr. Katherine Papacostas, NOAA Fisheries)
NOAA Fisheries presentation on Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP); update on status of Fishing Effort Survey (FES)
- 2:45 Groundfish Committee Report** (Rick Bellavance)
Recreational Measures: provide recommendations to GARFO on fishing year 2024 recreational measures for Georges Bank cod, Gulf of Maine cod, and Gulf of Maine haddock; Atlantic Cod Management Transition Plan: update; Metrics for Amendment 23 Monitoring System Review: progress report; 2024 Groundfish Priorities: update on workplan for year ahead
- 4:45 Whiting Report** (Rick Bellavance)
Revisit fishing year 2024-2026 specifications approved in December 2023 for small-mesh multispecies (whiting) fishery to address southern red hake rebuilding

Thursday, February 1, 2024

- 9:00 a.m. Spiny Dogfish Committee** (Nichola Meserve, NEFMC committee co-chair; Jason Didden, MAFMC staff)
Review, discuss, and approve fishing year 2024-2026 spiny dogfish specifications
- 10:00 Monkfish Report** (Matt Gates)
Framework 15: progress report on joint New England/Mid-Atlantic Council action to reduce monkfish/dogfish large-mesh gillnet fishery interactions with Atlantic sturgeon
- 11:30 On-Demand Fishing Gear Conflict Working Group** (Mike Pierdinock)
Update on working group activities to prevent or reduce potential gear conflicts between mobile, fixed, and recreational gear and on-demand or ropeless fishing gear
- 12:00 p.m. Black Sea Bass Research Track Stock Assessment** (Dr. Larry Alade, NEFSC)
Presentation on peer-reviewed 2023 Black Sea Bass Research Track Stock Assessment
- 12:30 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, 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.