

**New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda – Revised**  
**Tuesday – Thursday, June 23-25, 2020**  
[By Webinar](#)

Sending comments? Written comments must be received at the NEFMC office no later than 8:00 a.m., Thursday, June 18, 2020 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 [June 2020 meeting webpage](#).

**UPDATE:** Note that the timeslots for the Habitat Committee and Skate Committee reports have been revised.

**Tuesday, June 23, 2020**

- 9:00 a.m. Introductions and Announcements** (Chairman Dr. John Quinn)
- 9:10 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, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel
- 11:00 Executive Order 13921** (Council Executive Director Tom Nies)  
Discuss President Trump's May 7, 2020 Executive Order on Promoting American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth
- 11:30 2020-2024 Council Research Priorities** (Staff, SSC Chair Dr. Jason McNamee)  
Review list of 2020-2024 Council Research Priorities; Receive Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) recommendations on research priorities; discuss and approve final list
- 12:30 p.m. 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)
- 12:45 Lunch Break**
- 1:45 EBFM Committee Report** (John Pappalardo; Paula and David Jasinski, Green Fin Studio)  
Presentation on draft ecosystem-based fishery management (EBFM) public outreach materials produced by Green Fin Studio; EBFM Plan Development Team progress report on development of tangible worked examples to demonstrate the Council's example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP) for Georges Bank
- 3:45 Habitat Committee Report** (Eric Reid; Brian Hooker, BOEM; Emily Farr, NOAA Fisheries; Dr. Lyndie Hice-Dunton, ROSA)  
Update on development of habitat policies for aquaculture, submarine cables, and floating offshore wind; update on Northeast Regional Marine Fish Habitat Assessment; Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) briefing on June 2020 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Vineyard Wind project and other BOEM updates; briefing on Habitat Climate Vulnerability Assessment for the Northeast Region; update on Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA)

**Wednesday, June 24, 2020**

- 8:30 a.m. Monkfish** (Dr. Cate O'Keefe, Fishery Applications Consulting Team)  
Preliminary report on approaches to calculating discards deducted from the annual catch target to determine total allowable landings for the monkfish fishery
- 9:30 Scallop Committee Report** (Vincent Balzano)

Amendment 21: select preferred alternatives on action to address (1) Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area issues, (2) the Limited Access General Category (LAGC) possession limit, and (3) individual fishing quota (IFQ) transfers, approve Draft Environmental Assessment for public hearings; discuss amendment timeline; Scallop Research Set-Aside Program (RSA): approve 2021-2022 RSA priorities; Framework Adjustment 33: initiate action for 2021 fishery specifications and 2022 default specifications, discuss potential framework timelines due to survey delays related to COVID-19; provide Committee feedback on Executive Order 13921

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

**1:30 Skate Committee Report (Dr. Matt McKenzie)**

Northeast Skate Complex Amendment 5: progress report on Committee actions; Council discussion on whether to pursue development of a limited access program through this amendment

**3:00 Northeast Ocean Data Portal (Nick Napoli, NROC; Dr. Fiona Hogan, RODA)**

Progress report on collaborative effort between the Northeast Regional Ocean Council and the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance to update commercial fisheries data on portals

**3:15 Atlantic Herring Committee Report (Peter Kendall)**

Framework Adjustment 7: update on action to protect spawning herring on Georges Bank; report on leadership meeting with ASMFC on Atlantic herring management; Framework Adjustment 8: update on action for 2021-2023 specifications, potentially approve range of alternatives being developed to adjust measures in the herring plan that may inhibit the Atlantic mackerel fishery from achieving optimum yield; provide Committee feedback on Executive Order 13921

**Thursday, June 25, 2020**

**8:30 a.m. Small-Mesh Multispecies (Whiting) Report (Rick Bellavance)**

Framework Adjustment 62 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan: final action on measures to rebuild southern red hake; provide Committee feedback on Executive Order 13921

**10:00 Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Peer Review (Dr. Rich McBride; Review Panel Chair Dr. Jake Kritzer)**

Presentation on Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Working Group Report and Peer Review; Council discussion

**11:30 Petition for Rulemaking on Atlantic Cod (GARFO Regional Administrator Mike Pentony)**

GARFO briefing on request to consult with the Council on issues raised in a petition for rulemaking on Atlantic cod; Council discussion on how to address issues that may have merit

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

**1:30 Groundfish Committee Report (Terry Stockwell)**

Groundfish Monitoring Amendment 23: update on recent webinar hearings, discussion of timeline to reach final action; discuss and potentially approve Committee recommendations for adjustments to commercial and recreational measures to mitigate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including a possible request for emergency action – measures that may be discussed include commercial carry-over provisions and recreational measures for Gulf of Maine haddock and cod; Framework Adjustment 61: initiate action to include (1) 2021 total allowable catches for U.S./Canada stocks of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder, (2) 2021-2023 specifications for roughly half of the groundfish stocks, and (3) other measures; provide Committee feedback on Executive Order 13921

**4:30 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.**