

New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda
Tuesday - Thursday, June 28-30, 2022
Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland, ME 04101
tel: (207) 775-2311 | [Holiday Inn By the Bay](#)
[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, June 23, 2022 to be considered at this meeting. Please address comments to Council Chair Eric Reid or Executive Director Tom Nies 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 June 2022 meeting at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland, ME. 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. The Council continues to follow all public safety measures related to [COVID-19](#) and intends to do so for this meeting. The Council is encouraging all in-person participants to wear masks in the meeting room except when seated. Additional spacing between seats will be provided to allow for social distancing. Please participate remotely if you are experiencing COVID symptoms or do not feel well. Updates will be posted on the [Council's June 2022 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 Thursday, June 30, 2022 at 2:45 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, June 28, 2022

9:00 a.m. 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, ICCAT Advisory Committee, Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel, Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel (NTAP)

11:00 CCC Subcommittee on Area-Based Management (Council Chair Eric Reid)

Progress report on work by the Council Coordination Committee (CCC) Subcommittee on Area-Based Management to assist the CCC in responding to the 30x30 initiative in the draft White House report titled "Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful"

11:30 Northeast Climate Regional Action Plan (Dr. Vince Saba, NEFSC; Dr. Lisa Kerr, SSC Chair; Tom Nies, Council Executive Director)

Overview of Draft Northeast Climate Regional Action Plan to Implement the NOAA Fisheries Climate Science Strategy in 2022-2024; Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) feedback; approve Council comment letter

12:15 p.m. East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning (Staff)

Overview of the June 21-23, 2022 Scenario Creation Workshop and next steps under the East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning initiative; CCC response to NOAA Fisheries work on Council Governance Guidance

12:45 Lunch Break

2:00 Atlantic Herring Committee Report (Cheri Patterson)

Framework 7: update on action to protect adult spawning herring on Georges Bank; 2023-2025 Specifications: initial update; Industry-Funded Monitoring (IFM): potentially approve a change in herring priorities and initiate an action to address IFM in the Atlantic herring fishery

3:30 Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM) Committee (John Pappalardo; Tom Balf, Oceanvest)

EBFM Public Information Workshops: (1) preliminary summary of initial outreach to stakeholders; and (2) update on workshop planning; Prototype Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE): update on contractor solicitation to develop and conduct a Prototype MSE for EBFM and the Georges Bank example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP)

- 4:15** **2022-2026 Council Research Priorities** (Staff; SSC Chair Dr. Lisa Kerr)
Approve updates to 2022-2026 Council Research Priorities; receive SSC feedback on research priorities

Wednesday, June 29, 2022

- 9:00 a.m.** **National Equity and Environmental Justice Strategy** (Dr. Matt Cutler, NEFSC)
Presentation on NOAA Fisheries' Draft Equity and Environmental Justice (EEJ) Strategy to reduce barriers to underserved communities and incorporate EEJ into daily activities; Council comments
- 9:30** **2023 State-Space Modeling Research Track Assessment** (Dr. Tim Miller, NEFSC)
Educational overview and opportunity for Council questions on the 2023 research track assessment to explore the application and use of state-space models across many stocks in the Greater Atlantic Region
- 10:15** **Monkfish Committee Report** (Libby Etrie)
Framework 13: progress report on 2023-2025 fishery specifications and other measures; Monkfish Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program: approve 2023-2024 RSA priorities
- 11:45** **Eastern Georges Bank and Georges Bank Haddock Research Track Assessment** (Dr. Russ Brown, NEFSC)
Presentation on peer review results for Eastern Georges Bank and Georges Bank Haddock Research Track Assessment
- 12:30 p.m.** **Lunch Break**
- 1:45** **Groundfish Committee Report** (Rick Bellavance; Dr. Lisa Kerr, SSC Chair, GMRI)
Framework 65: progress report on action to include (1) 2023-2024 total allowable catches (TACs) for U.S./Canada shared resources on Georges Bank, (2) 2023-2024 specifications for Georges Bank cod and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder, (3) 2023-2025 specifications for 14 additional groundfish stocks, (4) revised rebuilding plans for Gulf of Maine cod and Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic winter flounder, (5) additional measures to promote stock rebuilding, and (6) acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rule revisions; Metrics for Amendment 23 Monitoring System Review: progress report; Atlantic Cod Research Track Assessment: update
- 3:45** **Groundfish Sectors** (Jackie Odell, Northeast Seafood Coalition; Hank Soule and David Leveille, Sector Managers)
Presentation on sector operations, including overview of core responsibilities, functions, goals, challenges, benefits to groundfish management, and opportunities to enhance interactions with the Council

Thursday, June 30, 2022

- 9:00 a.m.** **Atlantic Sturgeon Bycatch Working Group** (Spencer Talmage, GARFO)
Presentation on draft action plan to reduce Atlantic sturgeon bycatch in federal large-mesh gillnet fisheries by 2024; Council comments
- 9:30** **Habitat Committee Report** (Council Chair Eric Reid)
(1) Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC): final action on framework to designate a new HAPC in Southern New England; (2) Northeast Regional Habitat Assessment: products, outreach, and next steps, plus SSC feedback; (3) Aquaculture, Offshore Energy, and Cables: update on regional issues, including an overview of the May 19, 2022 Gulf of Maine Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Meeting and wind energy leasing issues in the federal waters of the Gulf of Maine, as well as information from BOEM about the upcoming Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the New York Bight lease areas
- 12:30 p.m.** **Lunch Break**
- 1:30** **Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan** (Marisa Trego, GARFO)

Presentation on the May 2022 Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team (TRT) meeting and update on Phase 2 amendments to the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan for U.S. East Coast gillnet fisheries, as well as Atlantic mixed species trap/pot and Mid-Atlantic lobster and Jonah crab trap/pot fisheries

- 2:15 Ropeless Fishing** (Henry Milliken, NEFSC)
Progress report on the Northeast Fisheries Science Center’s collaborative research on ropeless fishing to help reduce the risk of right whale entanglements with fishing gear
- 2:45 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)
- 3:00 Scallop Committee Report** (Melanie Griffin)
Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program: approve 2023-2024 RSA priorities; Specifications: initiate action for 2023 fishery specifications, 2024 default specifications, and other measures; Scallop Survey Working Group: update; Limited Access Leasing: update on scoping process; Nantucket Lightship scallop issues: update
- 4:30 Other Business**
Discuss NOAA scoping process to consider designating a national marine sanctuary in the Hudson Canyon area, as well as factors that will contribute to the determination; approve Council comments; address other business as needed

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.