

**New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda**  
**Monday - Thursday, September 23-26, 2019**  
**Beauport Hotel, 55 Commercial Street, Gloucester, MA 01930**  
**tel: (978) 282-0008 | <https://www.beauporthotel.com>**

Sending comments? Written comments must be received at the NEFMC office no later than 8 a.m., Thursday, September 19, 2019 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).

**Monday, September 23, 2019**

- 1:30 p.m. Introductions and Announcements** (Chairman Dr. John Quinn)
- 1:35 Swearing-In of Reappointed Council Members** (Sarah Heil, Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries)
- 1:45 Election of 2019-2020 Officers**
- 2:05 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, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
- 3:30 Atlantic Herring Committee Report** (Peter Kendall)  
Georges Bank Spawning: presentation on draft discussion document, possible Council action on next steps; Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE): update on debrief of MSE process used for acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rule in Amendment 8 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP)
- 4:45 Alewife/Blueback Herring Endangered Species Act (ESA) Listing Decision** (Jean Higgins, GARFO)  
Presentation on NOAA Fisheries "not warranted" decision on proposed river herring ESA listing

**Tuesday, September 24, 2019**

- 8:30 a.m. Commercial Electronic Vessel Trip Reports (eVTRs)** (Staff)  
First NEFMC framework meeting for Commercial eVTR Omnibus Action being developed with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council for all species managed by both Councils
- 9:30 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Report** (SSC Vice Chair Dr. Lisa Kerr)  
Receive SSC's overfishing limit (OFL) and ABC recommendations for: Georges Bank yellowtail and the Northeast skate complex for fishing years 2020-2021; monkfish for 2020-2022, and deep-sea red crab for 2020-2023
- 10:30 Monkfish Committee Report** (Libby Etrie)  
Framework Adjustment 12: final action for 2020-2022 fishing year specifications and other measures
- 11:15 Deep-Sea Red Crab Report** (Jessica Joyce, Tidal Bay Consulting)  
Final action on 2020-2023 fishing year specifications
- 11:45 Skate Committee Report** (Dr. Matt McKenzie)  
Framework Adjustment 8: final action on 2020-2021 fishing year specifications and other measures; Annual Monitoring Report: receive fishing year 2018 report for the Northeast skate complex
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:45 Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management Committee Report (EBFM)** (John Pappalardo)  
Georges Bank example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP): receive draft report, provide Council comment; EBFM Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE): receive steering committee progress report

**Wednesday, September 25, 2019**

- 8:30 a.m. Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel** (Terry Alexander)  
Report from June 21 and July 29, 2019 meetings
- 9:00 Groundfish Catch Share Program Review** (Gulf of Maine Research Institute, MRAG Americas Inc.)  
Receive overview from GMRI on nine port meetings conducted in July and August to collect public comment on Council's Groundfish Catch Share Program Review; receive update from MRAG Americas Inc. on technical working group's progress on catch share program review
- 9:45 Enforcement Committee Report** (Mark Godfroy)  
Receive enforcement recommendations on: Groundfish Codend Compliance Assistance Program (CAP); Groundfish Catch Share Program Review; groundfish sector management compliance improvement; and Groundfish Monitoring Amendment 23
- 10:45 NMFS Draft Policy Directive on EM Video Retention Periods** (Brett Alger, NOAA Fisheries; Council staff)  
Receive presentation on National Marine Fisheries Service's Draft Policy Directive on Electronic Monitoring (EM) Video Retention Periods; review and approve draft Council comments on guidance
- 11:15 Transboundary Resources Assessment Committee (TRAC) Report** (Tara Trinko Lake, NEFSC)  
Receive TRAC summary of 2018 assessment results for Eastern Georges Bank cod, Eastern Georges Bank haddock, and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder
- 11:45 Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC) Report** (Terry Stockwell)  
Review and approve TMGC recommendations for 2020 total allowable catches for shared U.S./Canada groundfish stocks on Georges Bank
- 12:00 p.m. Groundfish Committee Report Part 1** (Terry Stockwell)  
Framework Adjustment 59: receive progress report on action that includes (1) 2020 TACs for U.S./Canada stocks; (2) 2020-2022 specifications for 15 Northeast multispecies stocks, addressing commercial/recreational allocation if raised by MRIP data; and (3) removing allocation to Closed Area I Haddock Special Access Program
- 12:30 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 Part 2** (Terry Stockwell)  
Monitoring Amendment 23: approve Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for public hearings; select preliminary preferred alternatives

**Thursday, September 26, 2019**

- 8:30 a.m. 2020 Council Priorities – Initial Discussion** (Executive Director Tom Nies)
- 9:45 Scallop Committee Report** (Vincent Balzano)  
Framework Adjustment 32: (1) receive progress report on action to set 2020 fishery specifications, 2021 defaults, and measures to mitigate impacts on Georges Bank yellowtail flounder, (2) receive overview of 2019 surveys; Amendment 21: progress report on action to address (1) Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) Management Area issues, (2) Limited Access General Category (LAGC) possession limit, and (3) IFQ transfers
- 12:00 p.m. Small-Mesh Multispecies (Whiting) Report** (Terry Alexander)  
Annual Monitoring Report: receive fishing year 2018 overview; Southern Red Hake: update on rebuilding measures
- 12:45 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:45 Habitat Committee Report** (Doug Grout)

Habitat-Related Work: update on development of additional policies related to non-fishing activities;  
Offshore Energy: (1) update on ongoing activities in the Northeast Region; and (2) overview of updated joint  
New England/Mid-Atlantic Council offshore wind webpage

- 3:15      Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Advisory Panel (AP), ICCAT Advisory Committee** (Rick Bellavance)  
Receive report from September 4-5, 2019 HMS AP meeting and September 5-6 International Commission for  
the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Advisory Committee meeting
- 3:30      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](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.**