

**New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda**  
**Tuesday – Thursday, September 28-30, 2021**  
[By Webinar](#)

Sending comments? Written comments must be received at the NEFMC office no later than 8:00 a.m., Thursday, September 23, 2021 to be considered at this meeting. Please address comments to Acting Council Chairman Eric Reid 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 public safety considerations related to [COVID-19](#), this meeting will be conducted by webinar. Please continue to monitor the Council's [September 2021 meeting webpage](#) for updates.

**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 September 30, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. should email Janice Plante at [jplante@nefmc.org](mailto:jplante@nefmc.org) to get on the list.

**Tuesday, September 28, 2021**

- 9:00 a.m. Introductions and Announcements** (Acting Chairman Eric Reid)
- 9:10 Swearing-in of New and Reappointed Council Members** (GARFO Regional Administrator Mike Pentony)
- 9:20 Election of 2021-2022 Officers**
- 9:40 Reports on Recent Activities**  
Council Acting 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 (ASMFC), U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA Enforcement, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, NOAA Fisheries Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel
- 11:30 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA)** (Executive Director Tom Nies)  
Receive overview of H.R. 4690, "Sustaining America's Fisheries for the Future Act of 2021," a bill to reauthorize the MSA; Council discussion; approve Council comments
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:30 Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP)** (Colleen Coogan, Marisa Trego, GARFO)  
GARFO presentation on: (1) ALWTRP Phase 1 final rule for Northeast lobster and Jonah crab trap/pot fisheries; and (2) ALWTRP Phase 2 scoping on potential measures for U.S. gillnet and other trap/pot fisheries to reduce entanglements of North Atlantic right whales, humpback whales, and fin whales with commercial fishing gear; Council discussion and input on scoping comments
- 3:00 Atlantic Herring Committee Report** (Rick Bellavance)  
Framework Adjustment 9: final action on (1) rebuilding plan to address the overfished status of Atlantic herring; and (2) adjustment of herring accountability measures
- 5:00 NS 1 Draft Tech Memo on Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) for Data-Limited Stocks** (Executive Director Tom Nies)  
Receive overview of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) National Standard 1 Technical Guidance Memo on managing with ACLs for data-limited stocks in federal fishery management plans; approve Council comments

**Wednesday, September 29, 2021**

- 9:00 a.m. Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)** (Dr. Mike Sissenwine)  
Report on NAFO's 43<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting
- 9:15 SSC Social Science Subpanel Review of Recent Groundfish and Scallop Frameworks** (Dr. Lindsey Williams)

Presentation on Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC) Social Science Subpanel Review of socioeconomic information in Groundfish Framework Adjustment 59 and Scallop Framework Adjustment 32; Council discussion

- 10:00 Scallop Committee Report** (Melanie Griffin)  
Framework Adjustment 34: summary of 2021 scallop survey results and update on development of 2022 fishery specifications, 2023 default specs, and inclusion of Amendment 21 measures in Framework 34; Evaluation of Rotational Management Program: progress report; Scallop Survey Working Group: update
- 11:30 Transboundary Resources Assessment Committee (TRAC)** (Tara Trinko Lake)  
Receive TRAC summary of 2021 assessment results/updates for Eastern Georges Bank cod, Eastern Georges Bank haddock, and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder
- 12:00 p.m. Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Report** (SSC Chair Dr. Jason McNamee)  
Receive SSC recommendations on overfishing limits (OFLs) and acceptable biological catches (ABCs) for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder for fishing years 2022 and 2023
- 12:15 Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC) Report** (Libby Etrie)  
Review and approve TMGC recommendations for 2022 total allowable catches (TACs) for shared U.S./Canada stocks on Georges Bank
- 12:30 Lunch Break**
- 1:30 Groundfish Committee Report** (Rick Bellavance)  
Framework Adjustment 63: progress report on action that includes (1) 2022 TACs for U.S./Canada shared resources on Georges Bank (GB), (2) 2022-2023 specifications for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder, (3) 2022-2024 specifications for Georges Bank cod and Gulf of Maine cod, (4) possible adjustment of 2022 specs for Georges Bank and Gulf of Maine haddock, (5) adjustment of 2022 specs for white hake based on rebuilding plan, (6) additional measures to promote stock rebuilding, and (7) alternatives for setting groundfish default specifications; Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Workshops: consider measures that can be adopted regardless of assessment outcomes
- 4:15 Skate Committee Report** (Libby Etrie)  
2022-2023 Specifications: receive SSC recommendations on overfishing limit and acceptable biological catch; Council final action
- 4:45 Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel (NTAP):** (Dr. Mike Sissenwine)  
Update on recent NTAP meetings; approve revised charter

**Thursday, September 30, 2021**

- 9:00 a.m. Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM) Committee Report** (John Pappalardo)  
Committee update on: EBFM public information workshops; National Standard 1 issues related to potentially managing catches by stock complex rather than as individual stocks; and report on potential committee recommendation for example EBFM Management Strategy Evaluation exercise
- 10:00 Habitat Committee Report** (Eric Reid)  
Receive updates on: (1) recent Council comments to federal agencies on offshore wind projects and other issues; (2) upcoming comment opportunities; and (3) other habitat-related work
- 10:45 Monkfish Committee Report** (Libby Etrie)  
Report on committee discussion of analyses of discard estimation methods and potential next steps
- 11:15 Peer Review Report on June 2021 Management Track Stock Assessments** (Dr. Mark Terceiro, NEFSC)  
Northeast Fisheries Science Center presentation on peer review of June 2021 Management Track Stock Assessments for black sea bass, scup, Atlantic mackerel, and golden tilefish
- 11:45 Whiting Committee Report** (Rick Bellavance)  
Overview of committee discussion on 2020 Annual Monitoring Report and whether management adjustments are needed

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

**1:30 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)

**1:45 2022 Council Priorities – Initial Discussion (Executive Director Tom Nies)**

Initial discussion on 2022 Council Priorities for all fishery management plans and other Council responsibilities

**2:45 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.**