

**New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda**  
**Tuesday – Thursday, September 29-October 1, 2020**  
[By Webinar](#)

Sending comments? Written comments must be received at the NEFMC office no later than 8:00 a.m., Thursday, September 24, 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 [September 2020 meeting webpage](#).

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** The Council's "Guidelines for Providing Public Comments" can be found [here](#).

**Tuesday, September 29, 2020**

- 9:00 a.m. Introductions and Announcements** (Chairman Dr. John Quinn)
- 9:10 Swearing-in of New and Reappointed Council Members** (GARFO Regional Administrator Mike Pentony)
- 9:20 Election of 2020-2021 Officers**
- 9:40 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, Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel (NTAP), Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), SAFMC Dolphin/Wahoo, Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel
- 11:30 Skate Committee Report** (Dr. Matt McKenzie)  
Annual Monitoring Report: overview of fishing year 2019; Northeast Skate Complex Amendment 5: progress report on development of problem statement, goals, and objectives for development of a limited access program through this amendment
- 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 Spring 2020 Management Track Assessments** (Northeast Fisheries Science Center)  
Report on peer reviewed Spring 2020 Management Track Assessments for Atlantic herring, longfin squid, butterfish, and surfclams and ocean quahogs
- 2:30 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Report – Part 1** (SSC Chair Dr. Jason McNamee)  
Receive SSC recommendations on Atlantic herring overfishing limits (OFLs) and acceptable biological catches (ABCs) for fishing years 2021-2023
- 2:50 Atlantic Herring Report** (Rick Bellavance)  
Framework Adjustment 8: final action for 2021-2023 specifications and adjustments to measures in the herring plan that may inhibit the Atlantic mackerel fishery from achieving optimum yield; Framework Adjustment 7: update on action to protect spawning herring on Georges Bank; Council/ASMFC Herring Management Coordination: working group and leadership team update
- 5:00 North Atlantic Right Whales** (GARFO)  
Update on status of North Atlantic Right Whale Draft Biological Opinion and upcoming rulemaking

*At 6:00 p.m. or shortly following the close of Council business, the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) will host a virtual roundtable to gather input from New England fishermen and other industry stakeholders on two topics: (1) the impacts of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing on the U.S. fishing industry; and (2) the impacts of seafood imports on U.S. products and markets. All stakeholders are encouraged to join the discussion. No preregistration is needed. Just join the webinar at [USITC Roundtable](#).*

**Wednesday, September 30, 2020**

- 8:30 a.m. Groundfish Committee Report – Part 1** (Terry Alexander)  
Groundfish Monitoring Amendment 23: review public hearing comments; take final action on measures to improve the accuracy and accountability of catch reporting in the commercial groundfish fishery, including the level of at-sea monitoring coverage to be required on groundfish sector trips, among other actions
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:30 Groundfish Committee Report – Part 1 Continued** (Terry Alexander)
- 3:00 Groundfish Committee Report – Part 2** (Terry Alexander)  
Petition on Rulemaking for Atlantic Cod: receive Committee, GAP, and RAP input; Council discussion
- 4:00 Transboundary Resources Assessment Committee (TRAC)** (Tara Trinko Lake)  
Receive TRAC summary of 2020 assessment results for Eastern Georges Bank cod, Eastern Georges Bank haddock, and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder
- 4:20 Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC) Report** (Chairman Dr. John Quinn)  
Review and approve TMGC recommendations for 2021 total allowable catches for shared U.S./Canada stocks on Georges Bank
- 4:35 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Report – Part 2** (SSC Chair Dr. Jason McNamee)  
Receive SSC recommendations for OFLs and ABCs for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder for fishing years 2021 and 2022; receive SSC input on possible rebuilding approaches for white hake
- 4:55 Groundfish Committee Report – Part 3** (Terry Alexander)  
Framework Adjustment 61: progress report on 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, (3) white hake rebuilding, and (4) other measures; Council action on Georges Bank yellowtail OFLs and ABCs for Framework 61

**Thursday, October 1, 2020**

- 8:30 a.m. Habitat Committee Report** (Eric Reid)  
Brief update on offshore wind development activities
- 8:45 Scallop Committee Report** (Vincent Balzano)  
Amendment 21: review public hearing comments, take final action on measures 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; Framework 33: preliminary overview of 2020 surveys; progress report on 2021 fishery specifications, 2022 default specifications, and other measures
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:15 Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM) Committee Report** (John Pappalardo; Dave and Paula Jasinski, Green Fin Studio)  
Georges Bank example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP): (1) approval of EBFM public outreach materials, including stakeholder profiles, brochures, two completed infographics, presentations, an introductory video, and other tools for public outreach; (2) committee recommendations and Council approval of an EBFM workshop format using the eFEP and public outreach materials; and (3) presentation of tangible worked examples developed by the Plan Development Team to demonstrate the eFEP catch framework for Georges Bank

- 3:15**      **Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (SBNMS)** (Superintendent Pete DeCola; Chief Economist Danielle Schwarzmann, SBNMS)  
Presentation on two pre-COVID-19 economic reports supporting the SBNMS Management Plan Review: (1) a fisheries report analyzing commercial fishing and recreational for-hire fishing activity within SBNMS and the economic contributions of these activities; and (2) a whale watching report summing up data/economic contributions
- 3:45**      **2021 Council Priorities – Initial Discussion** (Executive Director Tom Nies)  
Initial discussion on 2021 Council Priorities, including identification of potential actions that respond to the May 7, 2020 Executive Order on Promoting American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth
- 5:00**      **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.**