



New England Fishery Management Council

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Daniel Salerno, *Chair* | Cate O'Keefe, PhD, *Executive Director*

Joint New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Meetings of all Advisory Panels:

Input on Vessel Baseline Restrictions Evaluation

The New England and Mid-Atlantic Councils are holding three joint webinar meetings for the Advisory Panels to provide input to help inform the Councils' ongoing evaluation of vessel baseline restrictions. These restrictions apply to most commercial limited access fisheries managed by the Councils and require that vessel replacements or upgrades must be within 10% of the length and 20% of the horsepower of the permit's baseline vessel. Some industry participants have reported challenges in acquiring suitable replacement vessels or engines that meet these specifications, particularly for smaller vessels.

The Councils are evaluating these restrictions and may consider initiating a joint management action to consider possible modifications. Input provided by advisors during these meetings will help inform Council discussions of this issue. If the Councils agree to initiate a management action, work on an action would occur in 2027 and there would be additional opportunities for Advisory Panel and public input in the future.

Date and Time

Webinar Link

Webinar Thursday, May 21, 2026 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	https://nefmc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/PmGbLGFwS2uRxaWpZ23bUw
Webinar Thursday, May 21, 2026 6:00 – 8:00 PM	https://nefmc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/WYkJuslmRSeo94ftNEPV6g
Webinar Tuesday, May 26, 2026 2:00 – 4:00 PM	https://nefmc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/I27AMyKCR2qSG7SC6vqPBA

Agenda: During each meeting, Council staff will provide background information on vessel baseline restrictions, vessel data, and questions for consideration. Advisors will then have an opportunity to comment. Public comments will also be allowed.

Online access: These meetings will be broadcast online via Zoom. Use the above links to register. Use VoIP with a microphone and speakers for audio. A headset is recommended. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. For the best audio and visual experience, your Zoom desktop application must be updated prior to the meeting.

Call-in information: After registering for a meeting, the confirmation e-mail will include a call-in number. Please note that this is not a toll-free number.

Written comments: Members of the public may submit written comments directly to the New England Fishery Management Council. Written comments will be accepted **through Friday, May 29, 2026**. Comments should be addressed to: Cate O’Keefe, PhD, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill #2, Newburyport, MA 01950; and sent by postal mail or by email: comments@nefmc.org. Please note on your correspondence: **“Vessel Baseline Comments.”**

For information about meeting materials and detailed agenda, please consult the Councils’ websites at www.nefmc.org or www.mafmc.org.

These meetings will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

This schedule is subject to change. If you have questions, please call the Council office.

TA #: 26-82; 26-83; 26-84
cc: all Advisors; Council Members
Notice date: April 15, 2026