

New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda
Monday – Thursday, September 26-29, 2022
Beauport Hotel, 55 Commercial Street, Gloucester, MA 01930
tel: (978) 282-0008 | [Beauport Hotel](#)
[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, September 22, 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 September 2022 meeting at the Beauport Hotel in Gloucester, MA. 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. Please participate remotely if you are experiencing COVID symptoms or do not feel well. Updates will be posted on the [Council's September 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, September 29, 2022 at 1:30 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.*

Monday, September 26, 2022

- 1:00 p.m.** **Introductions and Announcements** (Council Chair Eric Reid)
- 1:05** **Swearing-in of New and Reappointed Council Members** (GARFO Regional Administrator Mike Pentony)
- 1:15** **Election of 2022-2023 Officers**
- 1:30** **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, Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel, South Atlantic Council Dolphin/Wahoo
- 3:30** **Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel (NTAP)** (Daniel Salerno)
Report on NTAP's July and August meetings
- 3:45** **East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning** (Staff)
Examine the four scenarios developed during the East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning initiative's June workshop and August deepening webinars; discuss next steps for developing Council recommendations to inform the 2023 summit

Tuesday, September 27, 2022

- 9:00 a.m.** **Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary** (Captain Pete DeCola, Sanctuary Superintendent)
NOAA presentation on revised management plan for Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
- 10:00** **Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument** (Dr. Cori Kane, NOAA Fisheries)
Update and consult with Council on NOAA Fisheries process for drafting regulatory actions to formally close fishing within the boundaries of the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Marine Monument; provide updated timeline for USFWS/NMFS public scoping for the draft Monument Management Plan

- 10:20 Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary** (Council Executive Director Tom Nies)
Discuss: (1) NOAA scoping process to consider designating a national marine sanctuary in the Hudson Canyon area; (2) NOAA letter seeking input on Council involvement in preparing draft regulations; and (3) next steps for developing a response
- 10:40 Scallop Committee Report** (Melanie Griffin; SSWG Co-Chairs Dr. Bill DuPaul and Peter Chase)
Scallop Survey Working Group (SSWG) presentation on final report
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:15 Scallop Committee Report Continued** (Melanie Griffin)
Framework 36: preliminary overview of 2022 surveys, progress report on action for 2023 fishery specifications, 2024 default specifications, and other measures; Limited Access Leasing: receive summary of scoping comments, Council decision on whether to initiate an amendment to consider alternatives

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

- 8:30 a.m. Closed Session** (Council Chair Eric Reid)
Closed session to discuss internal administrative matters regarding policies for preventing harassment of Council staff and all other Council process participants
- 9:00 Atlantic Herring and Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Winter Flounder Management Track Stock Assessments Peer Review** (Dr. Jon Deroba, NEFSC)
Presentation on peer review results for Atlantic Herring and Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Winter Flounder Management Track Stock Assessments
- 9:45 American Plaice Research Track Peer Review** (Dr. Larry Alade, NEFSC)
Presentation on peer review results for American Plaice Research Track Assessment
- 10:15 Transboundary Management Guidance Committee Background** (Council Staff)
Briefing on the Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC) and the process used for managing shared U.S./Canada resources on Georges Bank
- 11:00 Transboundary Resources Assessment Committee** (U.S. Co-Chair Dr. Talya ten Brink, NEFSC)
Presentation on TRAC summary of 2022 assessment results/updates for Eastern Georges Bank cod, Eastern Georges Bank haddock, and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder
- 11:45 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Report Part 1** (SSC Chair Dr. Lisa Kerr)
Receive SSC recommendations on overfishing limits (OFLs) and acceptable biological catches (ABCs) for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder for fishing years 2023 and 2024; presentation on other groundfish-related items, including Gulf of Maine cod rebuilding approaches, Georges Bank cod ABCs for 2023 and 2024, and OFLs and ABCs for Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic winter flounder for 2023, 2024, and 2025
- 12:30 p.m. Transboundary Management Guidance Committee** (U.S. Co-Chair Libby Etrie)
Review and approve TMGC recommendations for 2023-2024 total allowable catches (TACs) for shared U.S./Canada resources on Georges Bank
- 12:45 Lunch Break**
- 2:00 Groundfish Committee Report** (Rick Bellavance)
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

3:00 Atlantic Herring Committee Report and SSC Report Part 2 (Cheri Patterson; SSC Chair Dr. Lisa Kerr)
Receive SSC recommendations for OFLs and the ABCs for Atlantic herring for fishing years 2023, 2024, and 2025; Council final action on specifications for 2023-2025; Framework 7: consider change in priorities to discontinue work on action to protect adult spawning herring on Georges Bank

4:15 Habitat Committee Report (Council Chair Eric Reid)
Aquaculture: discuss and possibly initiate a framework adjustment to facilitate offshore Atlantic salmon aquaculture; Dedicated Habitat Research Areas (DHRAs): GARFO update on three-year review of DHRAs in Omnibus Essential Fish Habitat Amendment 2; Great South Channel Habitat Management Area (HMA): discuss utility of exempted fishing permit study for management of fishing gear impacts; Offshore Energy and Habitat-Related Work: BOEM Gulf of Maine wind update, other ongoing work updates

***Offshore Wind Informational Session:** After the Council concludes its business for the day, fisheries liaisons from several offshore wind-energy development companies will host an informational meet-and-greet poster session. All are welcome to attend.*

Thursday, September 29, 2022

9:00 a.m. NEFSC Northeast Fishery Monitoring and Research Division (Amy Martins, Acting Division Chief, NEFSC)
Report on Northeast Fishery Monitoring and Research Division: (1) status of ongoing responsibilities; (2) at-sea monitoring and observer program activities, funding status, and coverage update; and (3) cooperative research update

10:30 Monkfish Committee Report (Libby Etrie)
Monkfish Fishery Performance Report: presentation on final report; Framework Adjustment 13: update on development of 2023-2025 specifications and other measures

11:15 Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM) Committee (John Pappalardo)
EBFM Public Information Workshops: update on workshop planning; Prototype Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE): update on Prototype MSE for EBFM and the Georges Bank example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP); National Standard 1: update on discussions with NOAA Fisheries on National Standard 1 application to eFEP catch management framework

12:00 Skate Report (Staff)
2022 Northeast Skate Complex Annual Monitoring Report: presentation on annual monitoring report covering the 2021 skate fishing year and Skate Plan Development Team work to improve methods for catch accounting, specifications, and in-season quota monitoring; Council discussion

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)

1:50 Right Whale Speed Rule and Ropeless Fishing (Dr. Caroline Good, NOAA Fisheries; and Dr. Mike Asaro, NEFSC)
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) presentation on proposed regulatory changes to reduce vessel strikes to North Atlantic right whales, Council comments; NEFSC presentation on "Draft Ropeless Fishing Roadmap: A Strategy to Develop On-Demand Fishing;" Council feedback

2:30 National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy (Russell Dunn, NOAA Fisheries)
Presentation on NOAA's Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy; consider whether to submit Council comments on updated policy

3:15 Initial Discussion on 2023 Council Priorities (Executive Director Tom Nies)

4:45 Other Business

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.