

New England Fishery Management Council
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Council Meeting Agenda
April 10-12, 2007
Hilton Mystic Hotel, 20 Coogan Boulevard
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Tuesday, April 10, 2007

- 9:00 a.m. Introductions and Announcements** (Council Chairman John Pappalardo)
- 9:05 Reports on Recent Activities**
Council Chairman, Executive Director, NMFS Regional Administrator, NOAA General Counsel, Northeast Fisheries Science Center and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council liaisons, and representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard, NMFS Enforcement and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
- 10:30 Review of NOAA's Aquaculture Program** (NOAA Aquaculture Program staff, Silver Spring, MD)
Briefing to highlight major provisions of the 2007 National Offshore Aquaculture Act
- 11:30 Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) Committee Report** (Dana Rice)
Update on progress to further develop alternatives for inclusion in the SBRM amendment
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:00 Summary of Regional MSA Implementation Planning** (NOAA Fisheries, Northeast Regional Office staff)
Presentation on recent NMFS/Council discussions to coordinate revisions to procedures triggered by reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
- 1:30 NOAA Scoping Hearing on Ending Overfishing** (NOAA Fisheries staff, Silver Spring, MD)
Session to solicit Council and public comments on the development of guidance that will address new Magnuson-Stevens Act requirements to end and prevent overfishing, including annual catch limits and accountability measures; once finalized, this guidance would be added to the National Standard 1 guidelines
- 3:00 Environmental Review Process** (Council staff)
Presentation of a strawman process prepared by east and west coast Councils for revised procedures to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as outlined in the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act; Council and public comments will be used to develop an NEFMC position on streamlining environmental impact assessment procedures for fishery management plans

Wednesday, April 11, 2007

- 8:30 a.m. Scallop Committee Report** (David Simpson)
- Select preferred alternatives and approve the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Amendment 11 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan
 - Consider initiation of Framework 20 to the Scallop FMP to extend measures implemented by emergency action to prevent overfishing through the end of fishing year 2007; the emergency action reduced the number of trips in the Elephant Trunk Area and will expire in December 2007; Framework 20 would contain measures to extend those measures through March 1, 2008
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:00 Scallop Committee Report - continued**
- 3:45 Scallop Survey Advisory Committee Report** (Committee Chairman Ron Smolowitz)
Update on progress to develop and test a prototype scallop survey dredge

- agenda continued on reverse side -

Times listed next to the agenda items are estimates and are subject to change.

4:00 Council Hearing on the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Omnibus Amendment 2 (Sally McGee)
Opportunity for the public to comment on Phase 1 of the EFH Omnibus Amendment Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement which contains the following components: EFH designation alternatives, Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC) alternatives, evaluation of prey species for the species in the Council's fishery management units and an evaluation of the potential impact of non-fishing activities on EFH

Thursday, April 12, 2007

8:30 a.m. Research Steering Committee Report (David Goethel)

- Summary of recently reviewed final cooperative reports and associated comments concerning the use of project results in management decision-making
- Recommendations for 2007 research priorities for Council consideration
- Review of the committee's discussion about the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's report on the impacts of fishing on groundfish spawning activities

9:30 Omnibus Sector Committee Report (John Nelson)
Update on the development of the omnibus sector amendment

10:00 Multispecies (Groundfish) Committee Report (Rip Cunningham)
➤ Receive an update on the development of Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP
➤ Review proposed sector operations plans for 2007 for the Cape Cod Commercial Hook Gear Sector and the Fixed Gear Sector and possible approval of Council comments and recommendations

11:30 Open Period Public Comments Open
Opportunity for brief comments from the public on items relevant to Council business, but not otherwise listed on the meeting agenda

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:00 Multispecies (Skate) Committee Report (Rip Cunningham)
Review of management advice from the Skate Plan Development Team and draft management alternatives for possible inclusion in a Skate Plan amendment ; discuss and if appropriate, approve a scoping document

2:00 Enforcement Committee Report (Rodney Avila)
Review committee progress, following the second in a series of meetings, to develop recommendations concerning the use of Vessel Monitoring Systems and other tools to address safety at sea, regulatory compliance and other fishery management -related activities

3:30 Other Business

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities.

Council member financial disclosure forms are available for examination at each meeting of the full Council.

Although other non-emergency issues not contained in 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 final actions or framework adjustments are available for public review prior to a final vote by the Council. Please check the Council website at www.nefmc.org or call (978) 465-0492 for copies. Please note that if you are submitting comments for Council consideration at this meeting, they must be received at the office at least 72 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

notice mailing date: March 20, 2007