

New England Fishery Management Council
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Council Meeting Agenda | June 18-20, 2013
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Tuesday, June 18, 2013

9:00 a.m. Introductions and Announcements (Council Chairman Rip Cunningham)

9:10 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, NOAA Enforcement and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

10:30 Herring Committee Report (Doug Grout)

Initiate Framework Adjustment 3 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP) which will include alternatives to establish river herring/shad catch caps for the Atlantic herring fishery; review available fishery information, a summary of the May 23, 2013 Herring PDT/Mackerel Monitoring Committee Report, a summary the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's development of river herring/shad catch caps for the mackerel fishery, and any related committee recommendations; provide guidance to further develop the Framework 3 alternatives

12:30 p.m. Lunch Break

1:40 Open Period for Public Comments (Rip Cunningham)

Opportunity for the public to provide brief comments on items relevant to Council business but not listed on the agenda

2:00 Update on the Status of Atlantic Sturgeon (Kim Damon-Randall, NERO)

2:45 Overview of a Proposed Mussel Farm off MA (David Alves/Harry Mears, NERO)

Opportunity for Council and public comments on a proposed commercial scale mussel farm 8.5 miles off Cape Ann, MA; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently reviewing the proponents application for a permit

3:30 Summary of the 2013 Monkfish Operational Stock Assessment Update

(Dr. Jim Weinberg, NEFSC and Dr. John Annala, GMRI and peer review panel member)

4:00 Scientific and Statistical Committee Report (Dr. Jake Kritzer, SSC Chairman)

Overview of the SSC's discussions about the monkfish assessment and the development of an Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) recommendation; SSC conclusions and recommendations about the approach used by the Council's Groundfish Closed Area Technical Team to spatially analyze juvenile and spawning protection for key groundfish stocks

5:00 Adjourn for the Day

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

8:30 a.m. Adding ACE Trades to Net Revenue Estimates (Drew Kitts and Chad Demarest, Social Sciences Branch NEFSC)

Results of an analysis that incorporates annual catch entitlement (ACE) trading costs and revenues into the net revenue estimates that were provided in the Branch's fishing year 2011 report on economic performance of the groundfish fishery; update on progress towards a full profitability assessment

9:30 Groundfish Committee Report (Terry Stockwell)

Consider and approve committee recommendations concerning the development of Amendment 18 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP, in particular any revisions to the goals and objectives of the amendment; possibly initiate a framework adjustment to the FMP to modify rebuilding plans and other measures

11:00 Habitat Committee Report (David Preble)

Final review of the Memorandum of Understanding developed in cooperation with the MAFMC and SAFMC concerning deep sea coral protection, management and areas of responsibility

11:15 Joint Habitat/Groundfish Committee Report (David Preble/Terry Stockwell)
Approve spatial management alternatives for analysis in the Essential Fish Habitat Omnibus #2 Amendment Draft Environmental Impact Statement

12:15 p.m. Lunch Break

1:30 Joint Habitat/Groundfish Committee Report – Continued Until the Meeting Adjourns for the Day

6:15 (est.) Post- Meeting Presentation: Defining the Ecological Impacts of Spiny Dogfish in Southern New England
(Dr. James Sulikowski, University of New England)

Thursday, June 20, 2013

8:30 a.m. Transboundary Management Guidance Committee Report (Rip Cunningham)

Discuss options for trading quota under the provisions of the U.S./Canada Resource Sharing Understanding; possibly initiate an action to implement U.S./Canada trading mechanisms

10:00 Enforcement Committee Report (Frank Blount)

Review and discuss and/or approve recommendations concerning a new Council Enforcement Policy (as proposed by NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Coast Guard), and minimizing the use of fishing vessel compartments to hide illegal fish

10:30 Monkfish Committee Report (Tom Dempsey)

- Initiate Framework 8 to consider and implement Annual Catch Targets (ACTs), days-a-sea (DAS) and trip limit specifications for the 2014-2016 fishing years, and any other changes to the management program recommended by the committee;
- Receive an update on Amendment 6 development, including possible formal action to remove the Individually Transferrable Quota (ITQ) alternative;
- Consider any changes to the Research Set-Aside Program priorities

11:45 Lunch Break

12:45 p.m. Overview of the Northeast Regional Ocean Council's Planning Initiatives and Council Discussion (Doug Grout and John Weber, NROC) Overview of the Northeast Regional Ocean Council's draft goals for regional ocean planning and potential actions; briefing on its series of public meetings held to date

1:30 Standard Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) Report (Douglas Potts, NERO)

Review and approve a draft environmental assessment for the SBRM Omnibus Amendment for the purpose of receiving Council and public comments

3:00 Other Business

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

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities

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

Although other non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subjects 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 call (978) 465-0492 for copies or check the Council website - www.nefmc.org. If you are submitting comments for Council consideration at this meeting, they must be received at the Council office by 12 p.m. EDT on June 13, 2013. Notice Issue, May 29, 2013