

New England Fishery Management Council
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Council Meeting Agenda | November 18-20, 2008
Sheraton Ferncroft Hotel
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Tel (978) 777-2500 | Fax (978) 750-7959

Tuesday, November 18, 2008

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/VMS and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

11:00 Review of Draft Amendment 1 to the Consolidated Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan – Essential Fish Habitat (Chris Rilling, NMFS, Silver Spring, MD)

Briefing on action to update HMS Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) designations, identify new Habitat Areas of Particular Concern and analyze fishing and non-fishing impacts on EFH

11:45 Open Period for Public Comments (Council Chairman John Pappalardo)

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

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:00 Research Steering Committee (RSC) Report (David Goethel)

Review of preliminary work on the NEFMC's 5-year research priorities, possible revisions to the evaluation criteria used to review cooperative research projects and RSC comments on several cooperative research project final reports

1:45 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Report (Dr. Steve Cadrin)

- Overview of the recent national SSC workshop held on Nov. 12-14, 2008 in HI;
- Review of advice concerning analyses provided in Amendment 3 to the Skate Fishery FMP;
- Review and approval of 5-year research priorities; and
- Review and possible approval of comments on the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking concerning National Standard 2 for fishery conservation and management (as provided for in the Magnuson-Stevens Act)

3:15 Spiny Dogfish Committee Report (Frank Blount)

Final meeting to consider alternatives to adjust stock status determination criteria (biological reference points) in the Dogfish FMP; discussion of this issue will be followed by a stock status update, consideration of committee recommendations for management measures for the 2009/2010 fishing years and possibly thereafter, and approval of an NEFMC position

7:00 p.m. Public Hearing on Draft Amendment 1 to the Consolidated HMS FMP

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

8:30 a.m. Skate Committee Report (John Pappalardo)

Approve final measures for inclusion in Skate Amendment 3; measures would implement annual catch limits and accountability measures, an annual review and biennial specification process

11:30 Groundfish Committee Report (Rip Cunningham)

Approve management measures for further development and analysis in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP

12:30 p.m. Lunch Break

1:30 Groundfish Committee Report – *continued for the remainder of the afternoon*

Thursday, November 20, 2008

8:00 a.m. Council Work Priorities (Paul Howard) Consider and approve management actions for 2008-2009

9:30 Habitat Committee Report (David Preble)
Update on Phase II of Essential Fish Habitat Omnibus Amendment 2, including an overview of the vulnerability assessment concerning the adverse impacts of fishing, selected preliminary results and discussion of a timeline and future work

11:30 Fishery Production Potential of the Northeast Continental Shelf (Dr. Mike Fogarty, NEFSC)
Presentation on potential strategies for the development of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management on the Northeast Continental Shelf; review of progress to date and future steps

12:30 p.m. Lunch Break

1:30 Scallop Vessel Incidental Catch of Yellowtail Flounder (Council staff)
Report on and discussion of options to address yellowtail flounder incidental catch by scallop vessels as it affects the scallop access areas in New England

3:00 Scallop Committee Report (Sally McGee)

- Discuss and approve a response to the NMFS Biological Opinion for the Scallop FMP concerning sea turtle interactions; for possible inclusion in Framework Adjustment 21 to the FMP
- Review list of alternatives under consideration for Amendment 15 and possibly narrow the range of measures to be included in the action

5:00 Other Business
Review experimental fishery permit (EFP) applications if any are received prior to the Council meeting and discuss any other outstanding business

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

This 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 action are available for review prior to a final vote by the Council. Please call (978) 465-0492 for copies or check the Council website at www.nefmc.org. Please note that if you are submitting comments for Council consideration at this meeting they must be received at the office at least three business days prior to the start of the meeting.

Notice Date: October 28, 2008