

Council Meeting Agenda | November 13-15, 2012
Newport Marriott Hotel, 25 America's Cup Avenue, Newport, RI
tel 401 849 1000 | fax 401 849 3422 | www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/pvdlw-newport-marriott

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

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/VMS and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

11:15 Briefing on rules for recusals and lobbying activity by the Council and its members (NOAA General Counsel)

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:15 Review the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's Draft Strategic Plan (Dr. Bill Karp, NEFSC Director)

An overview of the plan followed by a discussion about how it will be used to guide the Center's work for the next five years, followed by Council and public comments

2:15 Herring Committee Report (Doug Grout)

Continue work on the 2013-2015 Atlantic herring fishery specifications; this action could include additional alternatives for acceptable biological catch (ABC) and the ABC control rule as well as a range of alternatives to modify accountability measures (AMs) in the Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP); **please note, a final vote on the 2013-2015 specifications package is scheduled for January 2013**

4:15 Public Listening Session (Rip Cunningham)

Open and informal question and answer session for stakeholders, interested parties and the general public; this is an opportunity to ask questions about Council issues or comment on items relevant to Council business but not otherwise listed on this agenda; this session will not replace the public's opportunity to make comments during Council consideration of any agenda item

5:00 Meeting adjournment

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

8:30 a.m. Scup Management (Frank Blount and NOAA Fisheries Staff)

Consider a request to jointly manage scup with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

9:15 Spiny Dogfish Committee Report (David Pierce)

Final action on the proposed 2013-2015 specifications, including a coast-wide commercial quota and trip limit; the decision will follow a review of recommendations from the Spiny Dogfish Monitoring and Oversight Committees and the Mid-Atlantic Council

9:45 Monkfish Update (Tom Dempsey)

Brief comments on the development of Amendment 6 to the Monkfish FMP

10:00 Groundfish Oversight Committee Report (Terry Stockwell)

*Final action on Framework Adjustment 48 to Northeast Multispecies FMP; decisions will involve the following:

- Specifications for the 2013-2015 fishing years
- Groundfish sub-annual catch limits for the scallop fishery
- Sector monitoring measures
- Accountability measures (AMs), including the possible adoption of AMs for other fisheries that catch Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic windowpane flounder
- Revised recreational fishing measures
- Measures to allow sectors to request access to areas within the groundfish closed areas, and
- Possible changes to other measures

***The Council may delay final action on this framework until a later meeting, but could take final action on the allocations of groundfish stocks to the scallop fishery --- the sub-annual catch limits for Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder and Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic windowpane flounder. This is an option for the Council even if final action is not taken on Framework 48.**

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:15 Continue the groundfish discussion until the meeting adjourns at the end of the day

Thursday, November 15, 2012

8:30 a.m. Scallop Committee Report (Mary Beth Nickell-Tooley)

Final approval of Framework Adjustment 24/49 to the Scallop and Groundfish Fishery Management Plans, respectively; major decisions will involve the following:

- Scallop fishery specifications for fishing years 2013, and potentially for 2014 and 2015
- A modification of the Georges Bank access area opening dates
- Measures to address a yellowtail flounder sub-annual catch limit for the limited access general category fishery
- A change to the effective date of the accountability measures for the yellowtail flounder sub annual catch limit
- Measures to promote flexibility in the limited access general category IFQ fishery by allowing leasing after the start of the fishing year and once a vessel has begun to fish its IFQ ; and
- An expansion of the observer set-aside program to include limited access general category open area trips

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:15 Continue scallop discussion

2:00 Approve the Council's 2013 Management Priorities (Rip Cunningham)

The priorities document approved at this meeting will list the management issues to be addressed by the Council in 2013

3:30 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 noon EST on November 8, 2013. Notice Issue, October 23, 2012.