



New England Fishery Management Council

News Release

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New England Fishery Council Schedules January Meetings to Address Groundfish Issues

Newburyport, MA The New England Fishery Management Council announces its early winter meeting schedule to address groundfish management issues. The Council's Groundfish Committee will meet at the Holiday Inn, 31 Hampshire Street in Mansfield, MA on Wednesday and Thursday, January 14 and 15, 2004 to discuss a number of issues related to Amendment 13 to the Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The FMP was approved by the Council in November and was recently submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service for their review.

The Groundfish Committee will discuss a framework adjustment to the FMP to specify use of B days, a separate class of days-at-sea that will be used to target stocks of groundfish that are successfully rebuilding. The committee also will address a number of issues recently raised by Senator Olympia Snowe of Maine --- steaming time and latent effort, as it relates to future access to the groundfish fishery. The Groundfish Committee will forward its recommendations to the full Council.

The Council itself will meet during the last week in January and consider any Amendment 13 follow-up actions. The three-day meeting will be held on January 27-29, 2004 at the Hotel Viking, 1 Bellevue Avenue, Newport, Rhode Island.

The New England Fishery Management Council, one of eight regional councils established by federal legislation in 1976, is charged with conserving and managing fishery resources from three to 200 miles off the coasts of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut.

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