

New England Fishery Management Council
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Council Meeting Agenda | April 15-17, 2008
Providence Biltmore Hotel, 11 Dorrance Street
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Telephone (401) 421-0700 | Fax (401) 455-3050

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

10:00 a.m. Introductions and Announcements (Council Chairman John Pappalardo)

10:05 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

12:15 p.m. Review of Experimental Fishery Permit (EFP) Applications (Council staff)

12:30 Lunch Break

1:30 Skate Committee Report (Council Chairman John Pappalardo)

- Presentation of Scientific and Statistical Committee recommendations for acceptable biological catch levels for winter and thorny skates
- Report on progress to develop winter and thorny skate rebuilding and management alternatives for Amendment 3 to the Skate Fishery Management Plan (FMP)
- Consider and approve precautionary annual catch limits, accountability measures and additional management measures to address recent changes in the skate fishery

4:30 Presentation - Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (Chris Bonzek, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary) Update on survey activities that cover nearshore areas from Montauk to the Mid-Atlantic region

5:30 Council Meeting Adjournment Followed by a Monkfish Committee Meeting

A National Marine Fisheries Service presentation regarding 'Vessel Landings Data, Concerns and Next Steps' has been added to the Council meeting agenda on Wednesday, April 16, 2008 at 2:30 p.m. Because of the likelihood of extensive follow-up discussion, the Groundfish Committee Report will be delayed, but will follow this report.

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

8:30 a.m. Habitat Issues (David Preble)

Discuss and approve Council comments on the Minerals Management Service Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Cape Wind Energy Project and the Revised Draft Framework for Developing a National System of Marine Protected Areas

9:30 Monkfish Committee Report (Council Chairman John Pappalardo)

Approve final action on Framework Adjustment 6 to the Monkfish FMP following a review of committee recommendations and the Mid-Atlantic Council's decision; based on the recent stock assessment and change in stock status, the Councils are considering eliminating a "backstop" measure that would reduce or eliminate days-at-sea in fishing year 2009 if landings exceed the catch targets set for either or both of the two monkfish management areas during this current fishing year

10:30 Enforcement Committee Report (Rodney Avila)

Review recommendations concerning a change to the running clock prohibition and review the committee's initial discussion of sector monitoring and enforcement issues

- 12:00 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:00 Presentation – Preliminary Report on Sector Monitoring** (Bruce Turris, GMRI consultant)
Briefing on the Gulf of Maine Research Institute-funded project concerning an evaluation of monitoring and reporting needs that would enable effective tracking of catch by sector vessels in New England
- 2:30 Presentation – NMFS Vessel Landings Data, Concerns and Next Steps/Tab 3** (NMFS Regional Office staff) Follow-up discussion of the implications for Amendment 16 sector development
- 3:30 Groundfish Committee Report** (Rip Cunningham)
Update on Northeast Multispecies FMP Amendment 16 development, including a review of annual catch limit and accountability measures, effort control measures and sector policy issues

Thursday, April 17, 2008

- 8:30 a.m. Herring Committee Report** (Frank Blount)
Review and approve a scoping document for Amendment 4 to the Atlantic Herring FMP and review the amendment timeline
- 10:00 Presentation - Trawl Video and Briefing** (Northeast Fisheries Science Center staff)
Report on trawl survey gear and calibration exercises for NEFSC survey vessels
- 11:00 Scallop Survey Advisory Panel Committee Report** (David Simpson)
Review new Terms of Reference and plans to calibrate the new scallop survey dredge on the *R/V Sharp* during the 2008 scallop survey
- 12:00 p.m. 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
- 12:15 Other 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.

Revised Notice Date: April 4, 2008