

New England Fishery Management Council
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Council Meeting Agenda | February 9-11, 2009

Sheraton Harborside Hotel
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Tel (603) 431-2300 | Fax (603) 433-5649

Monday, February 9, 2009

- 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 Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, U.S. Coast Guard and NMFS Enforcement/VMS
- 10:45 Briefing on the “Data Poor Stocks” Workshop and Review Panel Report** (Dr. Jim Weinberg, NMFS/Northeast Fisheries Science Center) Overview of the workshop meetings and review panel findings
- 11:30 Standard Bycatch Reporting Methodology Annual Report** (Dr. Paul Rago, NMFS/Northeast Fisheries Science Center) Report review followed by Council discussion and approval of observer coverage prioritization
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:30 Herring Committee Report** (Frank Blount)
Review of committee progress to develop management alternatives for Draft Amendment 4 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP); this will include a discussion of stakeholder proposals for establishing a catch monitoring program and recommendations for specific management measures; measures may include but are not limited to monitoring and reporting requirements for herring vessels and processors, observer coverage and at-sea monitoring, shore-side monitoring and sampling, vessel monitoring system requirements, industry-funded observer programs, electronic monitoring, and management measures to address herring bycatch concerns; also included are annual catch limits and accountability measures (ACLs and AMs); and the establishment of criteria for midwater trawl vessel access to the groundfish closed areas

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

- 8:30 a.m. Review of the NMFS Final Rule for Limited Access Privilege Programs** (Dan Morris, NMFS/Regional Office) Review of procedures and voting eligibility requirements for referenda on Individual Fishing Quota program proposals in accordance with amendments to the reauthorized Magnuson Act
- 9:00 Discussion of the NMFS Proposed Rule for Secretarial Interim Action** (Rip Cunningham)
Discussion of measures proposed by NMFS to reduce overfishing in the groundfish fishery
- 11:00 Groundfish Committee Report** (Rip Cunningham)
Review and approval of Draft Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP and its accompanying Environmental Impact Statement; the Council may modify any management measure under development, and may select preferred alternatives; once approved at this stage, the draft document will be taken to public hearings; final action is scheduled for June 2009
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:30 Groundfish Committee Report – continued for the remainder of the afternoon**

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

- 8:30 a.m. Council Policy Review** (Executive Director Paul Howard)
Discuss and possibly revise Council Handbook Policies
- 8:45 Open Period for Public Comments** (Chairman John Pappalardo)
Opportunity for the public to provide brief comments on items relevant to Council business but not otherwise listed on the agenda

- 9:00** **Review of Experimental Fishery Permit (EFP) Applications** (Chris Kellogg, Council staff)
- 9:10** **Overview of the NMFS Final Rule Implementing the National Standard 1 Guidelines** (Chris Kellogg)
Briefing on guidance from the agency concerning the new annual catch limit and accountability measure requirements to end overfishing in Council-managed fisheries
- 10:00** **Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Report** (Dr. Steve Cadrin)
- As part of the development process for Amendment 15 to the Scallop FMP, review the SSC's recommendations concerning proposed methods to develop recommendations for acceptable biological catch (ABCs), ACLs and AMs, as well as methods for analyzing the social and economic impacts of management measures
 - Review the SSC's recommendations concerning the updated Total Allowable Landings (TALs), as well as ABCs, ACLs and AMs, elements of Amendment 3 to the Skate FMP that were revised using new data reviewed at the recent Data Poor Stocks Peer Review Meeting
- 11:00** **Approve and/or Provide Guidance for Development of Amendment 3 to the Skate FMP** (Terry Stockwell)
Contingent on the report of the SSC, approve proposed skate rebuilding TACs and ACLs that utilize the Data Poor Stocks Workshop results, AMs, and monitoring program; determine whether to develop final alternatives and an Environmental Impact Statement from the existing draft Amendment 3 document or develop new management alternatives
- 12:30 p.m.** **Lunch Break**
- 1:30** **Scallop Committee Report** (Sally McGee)
Review and approve a range of alternatives for analysis in Scallop Amendment 15 and specifically measures to implement ACLs; the action also may address excess capacity in the limited access scallop fishery, including permit stacking and days-at-sea leasing and/or access area trips; other alternatives could include changes to the management program, a revision to the overfishing definition, changes to the general category management program, measures to address EFH closures on Georges Bank, modifications to the current scallop research set-aside program and a change to the scallop fishing year from March 1 to May 1
- 4:30** **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.

Notice Date: January 20, 2009