

New England Fishery Management Council  
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**Council Meeting Agenda | June 3-5, 2008**  
**Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland, ME 04101**  
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**Reminder**

**Amendment 4 Herring Scoping Meeting - Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, ME**  
**Monday, June 2, 2008 at 5 p.m.**

**Tuesday, June 3, 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
- 10:40 Review of Experimental Fishery Permit (EFP) Applications** (Council staff)
- 10:50 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
- 11:00 Presentation: *An Ecosystem Approach to the Assessment of the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank Herring Complex*** (Dr. William Overholtz, Northeast Fisheries Science Center)
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:00 Skate Committee Report** (John Pappalardo)  
Approve final management measures and alternatives for purposes of inclusion and analyses in Amendment 3 to the Skate Fishery Management Plan and the associated Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- 4:00 Action Item: Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology Amendment** (Council staff)  
Review and approve, with modifications as necessary, staff recommendations for observer coverage levels for NEFMC-managed fisheries

**Wednesday, June 4, 2008**

- 8:30 a.m. Groundfish Assessment Review Meeting Report** (Dr. Paul Rago)  
Review of results from the April 2008 meeting on biological reference points for species managed through the Council's Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan
- 10:00 Final Report on Sector Monitoring** (Howard McElderry, GMRI consultant)  
Results of 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
- 11:00 Groundfish Committee Report** (Rip Cunningham)  
Review and approve Northeast Multispecies Plan Amendment 16 and the associated Draft Environmental Impact Statement; the Council will select preferred alternatives for management measures and approve the document for public hearings
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:15 Groundfish Committee Report** – continued until end of the day

**Thursday, June 5, 2008**

- 8:30 a.m. Scallop Scoping Review and Survey Advisory Panel Meeting Briefing** (David Simpson)  
Review Scallop Amendment 15 scoping meeting and written comments; receive a brief update on plans for sea scallop survey calibration research and activities to evaluate optical/acoustic survey technologies
- 9:30 Habitat Committee Report** (David Preble)  
Review the draft Risk Assessment on the Adverse Impacts of Fishing on Essential Fish Habitat
- 10:30 Presentation: Discussion of the agency's proposed rule to integrate Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act (MSRA) requirements with those in the National Environmental Policy Act** (NMFS Office of Sustainable Fisheries staff)
- 11:30 Presentation: Discussion of the agency's proposed rule to address MSRA requirements for annual catch limits and accountability measures** (NMFS Office of Sustainable Fisheries staff)
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:30 Presentation: Update and Briefing on the National Marine Fisheries Service Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan** (NMFS Regional Office staff)
- 2:15 Research Steering Committee Report** (David Goethel)  
Summary of committee reviews of several habitat and other cooperative research reports
- 3:15 Presentation and Discussion: Review of the recently published Draft Management Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary** (SBNMS Superintendent Dr. Craig MacDonald)
- 4:00 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](http://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: May 13, 2008