

New England Fishery Management Council
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Council Meeting Agenda
October 7-9, 2008
Hilton Hotel, 20 Coogan Boulevard, Mystic, CT 06355
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Tuesday, October 7, 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
- 10:45 **Open Period for Public Comments** (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 **Scoping Presentation for Highly Migratory Species Amendment 3: Small Coastal Shark Issues**
(NMFS staff, Silver Spring, MD)
- 11:45 **ICCAT Issues** (David Preble)
Update on the recent International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Advisory Panel meeting and consideration of draft Council comments concerning bluefin tuna management
- 12:15 p.m. **Lunch Break**
- 1:15 **Scientific and Statistical Committee Report** (Dr. Steven Cadrin)
Review committee discussions concerning a process to address committee priorities and workload, comments on the new overfishing definition under consideration in Amendment 15 to the Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and possibly provide comments on a hypothesis forwarded to the Council concerning changes in resource productivity relative to the use of bottom-tending mobile gear
- 2:15 **Scallop Committee Report** (David Simpson)
 - Review updated biomass estimates for the Elephant Trunk and Delmarva access areas provided by the Scallop Plan Development Team; no action is required given that NMFS has the authority to reduce the number of allowed trips in the areas if biomass estimates fall below defined thresholds, as specified by the Council in Framework Adjustment 19 to the Scallop FMP
 - Discuss timelines for the various scallop actions and consider Council approval of a request to analyze observer data and its use in yellowtail flounder monitoring in the scallop access areas

Wednesday, October 8, 2008

- 8:30 a.m. **Herring Committee Report** (Frank Blount)
 - Review committee progress to develop management alternatives for Amendment 4 to the Atlantic Herring FMP; this will include but may not be limited to approval of the following committee recommendations: a catch monitoring program for the fishery (monitoring and reporting requirements for herring vessels and processors, observer coverage and at-sea monitoring, shore-side monitoring and sampling, vessel monitoring system (VMS) requirements, industry-funded observer programs, applications for electronic monitoring, and/or other measures suggested during the scoping process); management measures to address herring bycatch concerns in the Atlantic mackerel fishery; annual catch limits and accountability measures; and quota allocation programs
 - Approve recommendations for research priorities for the 2010 research set-aside program
- 12:30 p.m. **Lunch Break**

- 1:30** **Action Item: Framework Adjustment 2 to the Spiny Dogfish FMP** (Council staff)
Initial meeting for this action; discussion will include consideration of alternatives to adjust stock status determination criteria (biological reference points) in the Dogfish FMP
- 2:00** **Review of Experimental Fishery Permit (EFP) Applications** (Council staff)
- 2:15** **Marine Protected Area Framework and Nomination Process** (Sam Rauch, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Silver Spring, MD)
Review of NMFS's final Marine Protected Area Framework and proposed Nomination Process, followed by a question and answer period
- 3:15** **ANPR for Conducting Consultations Pursuant to Section 304(d) of the National Marine Sanctuary Act** (Council staff)
Discuss and approve Council comments on the August 26, 2008 Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
- 4:00** **Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC) Report** (John Pappalardo)
Review and approve TMGC recommendations for Total Allowable Catches for eastern Georges Bank cod and haddock and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder for the 2009 fishing year

Thursday, October 9, 2008

- 8:30 a.m.** **Groundfish Report** (Rip Cunningham) Continue work to develop Amendment 16 management measures, including the receipt of reports from the Groundfish and Recreational Advisory Panels, a review of projections for newly overfished stocks and identification of rebuilding strategies as well as approval of a revised timeline development of the amendment
- 12:00 p.m.** **Lunch Break**
- 1:00** **Groundfish Report** – continuation of above agenda items
- 2:30** **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 - if you are submitting comments for Council consideration, they must be received at the office at least three business days prior to the start of the meeting.**

Notice Date: September 17, 2008