

New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda
Tuesday – Thursday, December 1-3, 2020
[By Webinar](#)

Sending comments? Written comments must be received at the NEFMC office no later than 8:00 a.m., Friday, November 27, 2020 to be considered at this meeting. Please address comments to Council Chairman Dr. John Quinn or Executive Director Tom Nies at: NEFMC, 50 Water St., Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950. Email submissions should be sent to comments@nefmc.org.

IMPORTANT: Due to ongoing federal and state travel restrictions and public safety guidelines related to [COVID-19](#), this meeting will be conducted by webinar. Please continue to monitor the Council's [December 2020 meeting webpage](#).

PUBLIC COMMENTS: The Council's "Guidelines for Providing Public Comments" can be found [here](#).

Tuesday, December 1, 2020

- 9:00 a.m. Introductions and Announcements** (Chairman Dr. John Quinn)
- 9:10 Reports on Recent Activities**
Council Chairman, Council Executive Director, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) Regional Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) General Counsel, Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC), Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC), Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA Enforcement, International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Advisory Committee
- 10:30 Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management** (John Pappalardo)
Extension of October 27, 2020 Council meeting discussion to set 2021 priorities; reaffirm or alter path for EBFM outreach and EBFM management strategy evaluation (MSE)
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:30 Open Period for Public Comment**
Opportunity for the public to provide brief comments on issues relevant to Council business but not listed on this agenda (please limit remarks to 3-5 minutes)
- 1:45 Atlantic Herring Report** (Rick Bellavance)
Framework Adjustment 7: update on action to protect spawning herring on Georges Bank; update on other herring-related actions
- 2:10 Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology** (Staff)
Presentation on findings of three-year review; Council discussion
- 2:40 Northeast Ocean Data Portal** (Nick Napoli, NROC; Dr. Fiona Hogan, RODA)
Final report on collaborative effort between the Northeast Regional Ocean Council and the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance to update commercial fisheries data on portals
- 3:00 Habitat Committee Report** (Eric Reid; Chris Schillaci, GARFO)
Council review and approval of completed Habitat Policies for Aquaculture and Submarine Cables; update on offshore energy and habitat-related work; NOAA Fisheries update on regional aquaculture activities and Federal Aquaculture Opportunity Areas, Council discussion

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

- 9:00 a.m. Fall 2020 Management Track Assessments** (Dr. Russell Brown, Northeast Fisheries Science Center)
Report on peer reviewed Fall 2020 Management Track Assessments for Atlantic sea scallops and 13 Northeast multispecies stocks, including large-mesh groundfish and small-mesh whiting/hake stocks
- 10:15 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Report – Part 1** (SSC Chair Dr. Jason McNamee)

Receive overfishing limit (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) recommendations for Atlantic sea scallop fishing year 2021 and defaults for 2022; receive OFL and ABC recommendations for northern and southern red hake, northern and southern silver hake, and offshore hake for fishing years 2021-2023

- 11:00 Scallop Committee Report** (Vincent Balzano)
Framework Adjustment 33: overview of 2020 surveys; progress report on 2021 fishery specifications, 2022 default specifications, and other measures
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:00 Small-Mesh Multispecies (Whiting) Committee Report** (Rick Bellavance)
Annual Monitoring Report: presentation of report with catch accounting for 2019 fishing year; 2021-2023 Specifications: initiate action
- 2:00 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Report – Part 2** (SSC Chair Dr. Jason McNamee)
Receive OFL and ABC recommendations for nine groundfish stocks for fishing years 2021-2023; receive SSC recommendations for white hake rebuilding
- 3:00 Groundfish Committee Report** (Terry Alexander)
Framework Adjustment 61: Council final action on (1) 2021 total allowable catches for U.S./Canada stocks of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder, (2) 2021-2023 specifications for roughly half of the groundfish stocks, and (3) white hake rebuilding; Council discussion on universal sector exemption to allow fishing for redfish, pollock, and haddock, final action on this measure delayed until January Council meeting

Thursday, December 3, 2020

- 9:00 a.m. NOAA Guidance to Councils on Financial Disclosures and Voting Recusals** (Mitch MacDonald, NOAA GC)
NOAA General Counsel briefing on final rule addressing disclosure of financial interests and voting recusal regulations for Regional Fishery Management Council members
- 10:00 Spiny Dogfish** (Rick Bellavance; Jason Didden, Mid-Atlantic Council staff)
Review 2021-2022 specifications proposed by Mid-Atlantic Council; New England Council discussion; consider final action
- 11:00 Skate Committee Report** (Dr. Matt McKenzie)
Northeast Skate Complex Amendment 5: approve scoping document with expanded range of possible measures
- 11:30 North Atlantic Right Whales** (NEFSC; GARFO; Terry Alexander)
Presentation/Reports on: (1) preliminary 2019 population estimate, (2) Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and proposed rule; (3) Draft Batched Biological Opinion covering 10 fisheries; Council discussion and comments; and (4) 2020 Ropeless Consortium Annual Meeting
- 1:00 p.m. Other Business**

Times listed next to the agenda items are estimates and are subject to change.

This meeting is being held entirely by webinar. Council member financial disclosure forms are available for examination on the Council website.

Although other non-emergency issues not contained on this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject 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 actions are available for review prior to a final vote by the Council.

Please check the Council's website, www.nefmc.org, or call (978) 465-0492 for copies.

This meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 USC 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston SC 29405

Call: (843) 571-4366 | Toll-Free: (866) SAFMC-10 | Fax: (843) 769-4520 | Connect: www.safmc.net

Melvin Bell, Chair | Stephen J. Poland, Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

SAFMC Recreational Fishery Topics Meeting

November 9, 2020

Webinar

Except for advertised (scheduled) public hearings and public comment sessions, the times indicated on the agenda may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the completion of agenda items. Interested parties should be aware that meetings may start earlier or later than indicated.

Written comments received by 5 pm the Monday before the meeting (11/2) will be compiled, posted to the website as part of the meeting materials, and included in the administrative record.

Please use the online comment form at: <https://safmc.wufoo.com/forms/mx2j9us00t12v8/> to ensure your comments are posted immediately to the Council's website and available for Council consideration. Individuals that wish to submit comments after 11/2 must use the online form. To view comments: <https://safmc.wufoo.com/reports/2020-nov-council-meeting-public-comment-report/>

Meeting Webinar Registration Link:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6357613036669156878>

AGENDA

Monday, November 9, 2020 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Webinar startup and troubleshooting 9:30 am – 10:00 am

Agenda Approval

1. Recreational Reporting: Snapper Grouper Amendment 46
 - Overview Presentation: Myra Brouwer
2. Recreational Accountability Measures: Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 31
 - Overview Presentation: Brian Chevront
3. MyFishCount Program Final Report
 - Presentation: BeBe Harrison
4. Report of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Joint Workgroup for Sec. 102 of the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Act
 - Modern Fish Act Overview: John Carmichael
 - Sec. 102 Workgroup Update: Steve Poland
5. Recreational Issues Discussion and Recommendations

Other Business

Adjourn

Attachments

Attachment 1a: Snapper Grouper Amendment 46

Attachment 1b: SG A46 presentation

Attachment 2a: SG RA31 December 2019 Decision Document

Attachment 2b: SG RA31 Presentation

Attachment 3: MyFishCount Presentation

Attachment 4a: Modern Fish Act and Recreational Workgroup Background Documents

Attachment 4b: Modern Fish Act & Joint Workgroup Presentation

OVERVIEW

Agenda Approval

1. Recreational Reporting: Snapper Grouper Amendment 46

This amendment considers requiring a permit for anglers to participate in the recreational snapper grouper fishery and specific reporting requirements for permitted anglers (Attachment 1a). Recreational reporting for the snapper grouper fishery was identified in the Visioning project as a way to improve data.

At this meeting, the Council will receive an overview presentation on the amendment (Attachment 1b) and is asked to consider next steps and how this amendment fits into broader efforts to address recreational fishery management issues.

Committee Action:

- Does the Council still intend to pursue this amendment?
 - If so, what issues should be addressed, or information provided, when it is next considered?
- Are there other developments in recreational reporting to be considered?
- Are there species or traits of species or fisheries to be considered for recreational reporting?
 - Traits e.g., low ACLs, overfished or overfishing conditions, data precision (MRIP PSE)
- If the Council pursues mandatory reporting, what mechanisms need to be in place and what actions does the Council need to take to ensure reporting provides reliable data?
- What questions or concerns does the question have related to reporting that can be directed to the SSC, SEP, or staff to support future discussion?

2. Recreational Accountability Measures: Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 31

At the March 2018 meeting, the Council directed staff to begin an amendment revising recreational accountability measures to allow more flexibility in managing recreational fisheries (Attachment 2a). The Council reviewed some preliminary actions and alternatives and decided that this amendment would apply only to the snapper grouper and dolphin wahoo FMPs. Scoping sessions were held in January 2018 and the Council reviewed scoping comments in March 2019. At the June 2019 Council meeting, the Council decided to move the dolphin and wahoo actions to Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10. The Council reviewed and approved modifications to the Purpose and Need at the December 2019 meeting. Instead of continuing to review the draft actions and alternatives, worked paused until December 2020 when it was thought more would be known about how MRIP revisions will affect ACL and allocation revisions.

At this meeting, the Council will receive an overview presentation on the amendment (Attachment 2b) and is asked to consider next steps and how this amendment fits into broader efforts to address recreational fishery management issues.

Committee Action:

- Does the Council still wish to develop this amendment?
- Are there any new developments or ideas regarding AMs to be added to this amendment for consideration?
- What questions or concerns does the question have related to reporting that can be directed to the SSC, SEP, or staff to support future discussion?

3. MyFishCount Program Report

MyFishCount is a pilot program developed by the Council, Angler Action Foundation, and Elemental Methods in partnership with the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program and National Marine Fisheries Service. The initial goal was to develop an electronic reporting app for the snapper grouper fishery and enable data reported through MyFishCount to be entered into a standardized regional database (Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System run by the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program). Components developed through the pilot, include a website (MyFishCount.com), a web portal and mobile application for data reporting, an application program interface to transmit data to the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program, and a data portal to view aggregated data. In the last year of the pilot, the program expanded to allow reporting of any recreational catch and trips in the four South Atlantic States (North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida) and for species beyond those managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. On December 1, 2020, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council will transfer the project to the Angler Action Foundation as stated in the original grant for the project.

At this meeting, the Council will receive a final presentation on the MyFishCount project (Attachment 3) addressing lessons learned about voluntary reporting in marine recreational fisheries and what is required to recruit and retain fishermen in a reporting program.

Committee Action:

- Does the Council consider voluntary reporting by recreational anglers a data collection approach to pursue further through specific management actions?
- Can a program of this type be used in a mandatory reporting framework?
- Are there specific instances where a voluntary program should be considered?

4. Report of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Joint Workgroup for Sec. 102 of the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Act

The Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2018 (Modern Fish Act) amended the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to address recreational fishery concerns. Section 102 of the Modern Fish Act granted Regional Fishery Management Councils the authority to apply alternative fishery management measures to recreational fisheries. Alternatives noted include extraction rates, fishing mortality targets, harvest control rules, and traditional or cultural practices of native communities. The documents package (Attachment 4a) includes the Act and 3 reports prepared in response to specific information requests contained within.

Given the importance of recreational fisheries in the Southeast US and the jurisdictional overlap of both stocks and fishermen, the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Council's agreed to convene a joint workgroup to develop management recommendations in response to Section 102 of the Modern Fish Act. The goal of the workgroup is to evaluate alternative management and data collection approaches and develop general guidance the Councils can use in further pursuing flexible recreational management actions. Steve Poland was elected to Chair the workgroup.

The Joint Workgroup met in May and September of 2020. These initial meetings were devoted to reviewing data collection and management approaches from within as well as beyond the Southeast. Reports from these meetings are included in the background documents package (Attachment 4a). Full briefing materials are available on the GMFMC website:

September: <https://gulfcouncil.org/meetings/council/sep-jtworkgroup-meeting-2020/>

May: <https://gulfcouncil.org/meetings/council/may-jtworkgroup-meeting-2020/>

At this meeting, the Committee will be provided an overview of Section 102 of the Modern Fish Act and an update on Workgroup activities (Attachment 4b).

Committee Action:

- Does the Council have any comments or suggestions on the workgroup goals and charge?
- What additional alternative management measures should be discussed by the workgroup?
- What suggestions, questions, or approaches can the Council provide to the SAFMC representatives for future consideration by the workgroup?
- What outcomes does the Council desire from the Workgroup?

5. Recreational Issues Discussion and Recommendation

The items reviewed at this meeting represent several important components of recreational fisheries data collection and management. While each is its own project or task, all are related through the Council's desire to address recreational fishery issues and the unique challenges of managing those fisheries.

To bring these topics together and support the Council in developing guidance and future directions for the amendments and projects reviewed at this meeting, the following trigger questions are proposed:

- What recreational fishery issues does the Council consider most important?
 - Can the Council prioritize these issues?
 - Which issues can be addressed in the amendments presented here?
 - If both amendments are retained, which is the priority to address at the next available opportunity?
- Is the Council interested in considering tags for improving data collection or controlling effort or harvest?
- Mandating large hooks may reduce discards of smaller and undersize fish. Is this a management measure the Council would consider?

- Is the Council interested in pursuing regional management approaches, such as state by state ACL allocations, to address recreational fishery challenges?

Other Business

Adjourn