

**New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda**  
**Monday – Thursday, September 25-28, 2023**  
**Hotel 1620, 180 Water Street, Plymouth, MA 02360**  
tel: (508) 747-4900 | [Hotel 1620](#)  
[Webinar Registration Option](#)

Sending comments? Written comments must be received at the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) office no later than 8:00 a.m., Thursday, September 21, 2023 to be considered at this meeting. Please address comments to Council Chair Eric Reid or Executive Director Cate O’Keefe at: NEFMC, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950. Email submissions should be sent to [comments@nefmc.org](mailto:comments@nefmc.org). \*\* Written comments must address items listed on the agenda for this meeting or issues that will be brought up under the open period for public comment.

**IMPORTANT:** *The Council will hold its September 2023 meeting at Hotel 1620 in Plymouth, MA. This will be a hybrid meeting with in-person participation, coupled with a webinar option for individuals who cannot or prefer not to attend in person. Updates will be posted on the [Council’s September 2023 meeting webpage](#).*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** *The Council’s “Guidelines for Providing Public Comments” can be found [here](#). Anyone interested in speaking during the open period for public comment on Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. should fill out the sign-up sheet on the table at the entrance to the Council meeting room. To speak remotely, email Janice Plante at [jplante@nefmc.org](mailto:jplante@nefmc.org) to get on the list.*

**Monday, September 25, 2023**

**12:00 p.m. Introductions and Announcements** (Council Chair Eric Reid)

**12:05 Swearing-In of New and Reappointed Council Members** (GARFO Regional Administrator Mike Pentony)

**12:15 Election of 2023-2024 Officers**

**12:30 Reports on Recent Activities**

Council Chair, 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 (ASMFC), U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA Enforcement, Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel (NTAP), Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**2:15 Regional EEJ Engagement Strategy** (GARFO Regional Administrator Mike Pentony)

GARFO presentation on development of Draft Regional Equity and Environmental Justice (EEJ) Strategy; Council input on EEJ engagement issues for potential inclusion in draft strategy

**2:45 Whiting Report** (Rick Bellavance)

Presentation on preliminary Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report covering fishery catches and economic trends in fishing year 2022

**3:15 Procedural Directive on MSA 304(f)** (Mike Ruccio, NOAA Fisheries)

NOAA Fisheries guidance on fishery management plan authority for stocks across more than one Council’s jurisdiction: presentation; Council discussion and comments

**4:15 East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning** (Staff)

Follow-up discussion on next steps and formation of two groups to support implementation of climate change scenario planning outcomes from summit

**Tuesday, September 26, 2023**

- 9:00 a.m. Scallop Committee Report** (Melanie Griffin)  
Framework 38: preliminary overview of 2023 scallop surveys and progress report on action for 2024 fishery specifications, 2025 default specifications, and other measures; approve survey guiding principles developed by Scallop Survey Working Group
- 10:30 Northeast Fisheries Science Center Fishery Independent Surveys** (Dr. Kathryn Ford and Peter Chase, NEFSC)  
Overview of NEFSC fishery independent surveys, past survey performance, 2023 survey season issues, contingency plans, and future scheduling for *NOAA Ship Henry B. Bigelow* bottom trawl surveys and *R/V Hugh R. Sharp* scallop surveys; Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel input; Council question-and-answer session
- 12:30 p.m. Council Photo**
- 12:45 Lunch Break**
- 2:00 Northern Edge** (Council Chair Eric Reid)  
Initial presentation on and discussion of draft alternatives for action to potentially authorize scallop fishery access to the Habitat Management Area on the Northern Edge of Georges Bank; Council suggestions for revisions to draft alternatives
- 2:45 Habitat Committee Report** (Council Chair Eric Reid)  
Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Review: progress report on work to review and revise EFH components of the Council's fishery management plans; Offshore Wind and Other Habitat-Related Work: update on regional activities
- 3:30 June 2023 Management Track Stock Assessment** (Dr. Russ Brown, NEFSC)  
Presentation on peer-reviewed results of June 2023 Management Track Stock Assessments for Atlantic deep-sea red crab, longfin inshore squid, bluefish, scup, and summer flounder
- 4:15 Deep-Sea Red Crab** (Dr. Lisa Kerr, SSC Chair; Dr. Willy Goldsmith, Pelagic Strategies)  
2024-2027 Specifications: Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) report on overfishing limits (OFLs) and acceptable biological catches (ABCs); Council final action on specifications

**Wednesday, September 27, 2023**

- 9:00 a.m. Atlantic Cod Research Track Assessment** (Working Group Chair Dr. Lisa Kerr; Dr. Russ Brown, NEFSC)  
Presentation on peer-reviewed results of the 2023 Atlantic Cod Research Track Assessment; Council question-and-answer opportunity
- 10:30 Transboundary Resources Assessment Committee (TRAC)** (U.S. Co-Chair Tara Trinko Lake, NEFSC)  
Presentation on TRAC summary of 2023 assessment results/updates for Eastern Georges Bank cod, Eastern Georges Bank haddock, and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder
- 11:00 Transboundary Management Guidance Committee** (U.S. Co-Chair Daniel Salerno; SSC Chair Dr. Lisa Kerr)  
Receive SSC overfishing limit and acceptable biological catch recommendations for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder for fishing years 2024 and 2025; review and approve TMGC recommendations for 2024-2025 total allowable catches (TACs) for shared U.S./Canada resources on Georges Bank
- 11:30 Scientific and Statistical Committee** (SSC Chair Dr. Lisa Kerr)  
Receive SSC recommendations on OFLs and ABCs for: (1) Gulf of Maine haddock for fishing years 2024 and 2025; and (2) white hake for fishing years 2024 and 2025, along with feedback on the white hake rebuilding plan options
- 12:00 p.m. Groundfish Committee Report Part 1** (Rick Bellavance)  
Framework 66: progress report on action that includes (1) 2024-2025 total allowable catches for U.S./Canada shared resources on Georges Bank; (2) 2024-2025 specifications for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder, white hake, and Gulf of Maine haddock; (3) 2024-2026 specifications for Acadian redfish, northern windowpane, and southern windowpane; (4) a revised white hake rebuilding plan; (5) Atlantic halibut issues; and (6) extending removal of the sector management uncertainty buffer for white hake and Gulf of Maine haddock until the next specifications cycle

- 12:30 Lunch Break**
- 1:45 Groundfish Committee Report Part 2** (Rick Bellavance)  
Framework 68: report on facilitated meeting for action to revise groundfish acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rules; Atlantic Cod Management Transition Plan: update and Council discussion
- 3:30 Risk Policy Working Group Report** (Megan Ware)  
Review and discuss recommended changes to the Council's Risk Policy as identified in Terms of Reference 1 and 2, including potential revisions to goals and objectives; discuss how revisions to the Council's groundfish ABC control rules may relate to the Risk Policy Working Group's directive
- 4:30 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)
- 4:45 Draft Technical Guidance for National Standard 1** (Staff)  
Overview of NOAA Draft Technical Guidance for National Standard 1 Reference Points and Status Determinations; SSC input; Council discussion and comments

**Thursday, September 28, 2023**

- 9:00 a.m. Atlantic Herring Committee Report** (Cheri Patterson)  
Action to Minimize User Conflicts for Atlantic Herring: progress report on work to revisit Amendment 8 Inshore Midwater Trawl Restricted Area; potentially initiate framework adjustment
- 10:00 North Atlantic Right Whales** (Colleen Coogan, GARFO Protected Resources Division)  
Recap on timeline for Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP) modifications
- 10:30 On-Demand Fishing Gear Conflict Working Group** (Mike Pierdinock)  
Update on activities; approve working group's terms of reference
- 11:15 Monkfish/Dogfish Joint Action to Reduce Atlantic Sturgeon Bycatch** (Matt Gates)  
Monkfish Framework 15: update on joint New England/Mid-Atlantic Council action to reduce monkfish and dogfish large-mesh gillnet fishery interactions with Atlantic sturgeon
- 11:45 Monkfish Committee Report** (Matt Gates)  
Presentation on recommendations to improve the Monkfish Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program's effectiveness; Council discussion and approval of recommendations
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:30 Skate Committee Report** (Scott Olszewski)  
Framework 12: update on action to develop 2024-2025 fishery specifications and measures to expand possession of smooth and barndoor skates
- 2:00 Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management Committee Report** (John Pappalardo)  
Presentation on and Council discussion of next steps in using EBFM prototype management strategy evaluation (pMSE) final report to engage stakeholders in potential 2024 deep-dive workshops
- 2:30 Initial Discussion on 2024 Council Priorities** (Executive Director Cate O'Keefe)
- 3:45 Other Business**

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

*This meeting is being held in person and 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](http://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  
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Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Chair | Trish Murphey, Vice Chair  
John Carmichael, Executive Director

## Agenda

Town and Country Inn  
2008 Savannah Highway  
Charleston SC 29407

September 11-15, 2023

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.

### Hybrid Public Comment Session:

The public comment session for the meeting (September 13, 2023, at 4 PM), will allow for both in-person and remote (via webinar) verbal public comment. Individuals intending to provide verbal public comment remotely are asked to [sign-up here](#). Members of the public intending to provide verbal public comment in-person will be asked to sign-in at the meeting.

### Written Comments:

To submit written comment on items on this agenda, visit the [online public comment form](#).

Written comments will be accepted from August 25 to September 15, 2023. These comments are accessible to the public, part of the Administrative Record of the meeting, and immediately available for Council consideration.

View [submitted written comments](#).

Written comments submitted by mail/fax received by close of business the Monday before the meeting (September 4, 2023) will be compiled, posted to the website as part of the meeting materials, and included in the administrative record.

From September 5 to 5 PM on September 15, written comments must be submitted electronically through the online public comment form at the link above.

**Photo scanning event for FISHstory project:** staff will be ready to scan historic photos contributed to the project all day on Wednesday, September 13.

**Monday, September 11, 2023**

**COUNCIL SESSION**

### COUNCIL SESSION I/Belcher 8:30 am – 12:00 noon

- Call to order and introductions
  - Oath for new members
  - Approve agenda
  - Approve minutes (June 2023)
1. Reports (NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, US Coast Guard, Council liaisons, state agencies)
  2. Joint Commercial Electronic Logbook Amendment – consider for final approval
  3. Climate Change Scenario Planning Update – report and May 2023 NRCC guidance/Potential Action Menu)

**12:00 noon to 1:30 pm**

**Lunch**

**COUNCIL SESSION I/Belcher 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm**

4. Allocation Review Process – review draft
5. Southeast Reef Fish Survey (SERFS) and Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) Updates
6. Marine Recreational Information Program pilot study on the recreational Fishing Effort Survey design – Richard Cody, NMFS Office of Science and Technology, Fisheries Statistics Division Chief
7. NMFS Council Governance Procedural Directive Discussion

**Tuesday, September 12, 2023**

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**Mackerel Cobia Committee/Roller 8:30 am – 10:00 am**

- Approve agenda
  - Approve minutes (June 2023)
1. CMP Framework Amendment 13 (Spanish mackerel) – review options
  2. Port meetings update

**Habitat Protection and Ecosystem-based Management Committee/Murphey 10:00 am – 12:00 noon**

- Approve agenda
  - Approve minutes (March 2023)
1. Habitat Program Blueprint – consider approval

**12:00 noon to 1:30 pm**

**Lunch**

**Habitat Protection and Ecosystem-based Management Committee/Murphey 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm**

2. Advisory Panel Report (May 2023)
  - a. EFH policies revision
  - b. EFH review update
3. SSC comments on coral distribution model (May 2023)
4. Approve topics for Habitat Advisory Panel meeting

**SEDAR Committee/Belcher 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm (Partially Closed Session)**

- Approve agenda
  - Approve minutes (March 2023)
1. April 2023 SEDAR Steering Committee Meeting Report
  2. SEDAR Projects Update
  3. Statements of Work Approval for 2026 Assessments (Snowy Grouper and Dolphin Management Procedure or Spanish Operational Assessment)
  4. New SSC appointments to SEDAR panels to replace outgoing members **(CLOSED)**

**Wednesday, September 13, 2023**

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**Snapper Grouper Committee/McCawley 8:30 am – 12:00 noon**

- Approve agenda
  - Approve minutes (June 2023)
1. Wreckfish (Amendment 48)
    - c. Overview of amendment – approve revised timeline
    - d. Presentation on compliance of cost recovery fee
  2. Private Recreational Permit (Amendment 46)
    - a. Advisory Panel report
    - b. Overview of amendment

**12:00 noon to 1:30 pm**

**Lunch**

**Snapper Grouper Committee/McCawley 1:30 pm – 3:45 pm**

3. Scamp/Yellowmouth Grouper (Amendment 55)
  - a. SSC recommendations
  - b. Overview of amendment and scoping comments

**Wednesday, September 13, 2023**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**4:00 pm**

**Public comment will be accepted from individuals attending the meeting (in-person and remotely) regarding any of the items on the Council agenda. The Council Chair, based on the number of individuals wishing to comment, will determine the amount of time provided to each commenter. Those intending to provide verbal public comment via webinar can [sign-up here](#).**

**Final Approval: Joint Amendment Addressing Electronic Reporting for Commercial Vessels**

**Thursday, September 14, 2023**

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**Snapper Grouper Committee/McCawley 8:30 am – 12:00 noon**

4. Yellowtail Snapper (Amendment 44)
  - a. Overview of amendment
  
5. Black Sea Bass Management Options
  - a. SSC recommendations – review of requested projections and catch levels
  - b. On-demand Gear Workshop Report
  - c. Review potential actions
  
6. Updates
  - a. System Management Plan Workgroup
  - b. Best Fishing Practices Outreach
  
7. SEDAR 86 (Red Grouper) Modifications
  - a. SSC recommendations
  
8. Approve topics for Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel meeting

**12:00 noon to 1:30 pm**

**Lunch**

**Thursday, September 14, 2023**

**COUNCIL SESSION**

**COUNCIL SESSION II/Belcher 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm**

1. Awards
  - a. 2022 Law Enforcement of the Year
  - b. Award of Excellence
2. Litigation Brief (if needed) – NOAA General Counsel
3. Staff Report
4. Approve topics for Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel
5. Review topics for Outreach and Education Advisory Panel
6. NMFS Southeast Regional Office Report
  - a. Briefing on ongoing system issues at Permits Office
  - b. Biological Opinions updates (Dolphin, Wahoo and Shrimp)
7. NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center Report



**Friday, September 15, 2023**

**COUNCIL SESSION**

**COUNCIL SESSION II/Belcher 8:30 am – 12:00 noon**

8. Committee reports
9. Council workplan
10. Upcoming meetings

Other business

Adjourn