

New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda
Tuesday – Thursday, January 24-26, 2023
The Venue at Portwalk Place, 22 Portwalk Place, Portsmouth, NH 03801
tel: (603) 422-6114 | [Portwalk Place](#)
[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, January 19, 2023 to be considered at this meeting. Please address comments to Council Chair Eric Reid or Executive Director Tom Nies at: NEFMC, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950. Email submissions should be sent to 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 January 2023 meeting at The Venue at Portwalk Place in Portsmouth, NH. A webinar option will be available for individuals who cannot or prefer not to attend in person. The Council continues to follow all public safety measures related to [COVID-19](#) and intends to do so for this meeting. Please participate remotely if you are experiencing COVID symptoms or do not feel well. Updates will be posted on the [Council's January 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, January 25, 2023 at 12:15 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 to get on the list.*

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

- 9:00 a.m. Closed Session** (Council Chair Eric Reid)
Council discussion on Scientific and Statistical Committee appointments
- 9:30 Introductions and Announcements** (Council Chair Eric Reid)
- 9:35 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)
- 10:45 North Atlantic Right Whales** (Colleen Coogan, GARFO)
Update on development of Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP) Phase 2 measures, including proposals to reduce entanglements of large whales in gillnet fisheries; overview of Take Reduction Team (TRT) recommendations; timeline for next steps; and opportunities for Council input
- 11:15 Engaging Mobile Gear Fleet to Visualize Ropeless Gear Positions** (Brian Galvez, NEFSC Gear Research Team)
Presentation and engagement on viewing ropeless fishing gear and preventing gear conflicts
- 12:15 p.m. Sink Gillnet Measures for Protected Resources** (Executive Director Tom Nies)
Update on coordination with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council to develop sink gillnet measures to protect large whales and Atlantic sturgeon
- 12:30 Lunch Break**
- 1:45 NEFSC Cost Survey for Commercial Fishing Businesses** (Greg Ardini, NEFSC Social Sciences Branch)
Presentation on Northeast Fisheries Science Center's Greater Atlantic Region Commercial Fishing Business Cost Survey for 2022, including: (1) survey background and the importance of collecting cost data; (2)

improvements and changes from previous surveys; and (3) upcoming survey implementation schedule and details

- 2:45** **Habitat Committee Report** (Council Chair Eric Reid)
Aquaculture: discuss draft management alternatives for framework adjustment to facilitate offshore Atlantic salmon aquaculture; Offshore Energy and Habitat-Related Work: update, including progress report on Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Gulf of Maine offshore wind development activities
- 4:00** **Scallop Committee Report** (Melanie Griffin)
Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) Control Date: Council discussion and decision on whether to recommend a control date to potentially limit movement of limited access general category (LAGC) permits in the NGOM fishery

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

- 9:00 a.m.** **Addressing Uncertainty in Council Decision-Making** (Executive Director Tom Nies; Dr. Steve Cadrin, UMass Dartmouth School for Marine Science and Technology)
Presentation and Council discussion on quantifying, interpreting, and communicating sources of uncertainty in the Council decision-making process
- 10:30** **Monkfish Committee Report** (Libby Etrie, SSC Chair Dr. Lisa Kerr)
Framework Adjustment 13: final action on specifications for the 2023-2025 fishing years and other measures with consideration of additional Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) input on ABCs for all three years; Monkfish Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program: revisit 2023-2024 RSA priorities
- 12:15 p.m.** **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)
- 12:30** **Lunch Break**
- 1:45** **Groundfish Committee Report** (Rick Bellavance; SSC Chair Dr. Lisa Kerr)
Framework Adjustment 65: consider SSC recommendation and possibly revise ABCs for Atlantic halibut for fishing years 2023-2025 (this is the only issue to be discussed under Framework 65); Recreational Measures: provide recommendations to GARFO on fishing year 2023 recreational measures for Georges Bank cod, Gulf of Maine cod, and Gulf of Maine haddock; Metrics for Amendment 23 Monitoring System Review: progress report on developing metrics for review process to evaluate the groundfish monitoring system; Atlantic Cod: update on 2023 research track assessment and stock structure discussions
- 4:30** **International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas** (Rick Bellavance; Sarah McLaughlin, NOAA Fisheries)
Report on: (1) results from the November 14-21, 2022 Annual Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT); and (2) recommendations from the Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section of ICCAT

Thursday, January 26, 2023

- 9:00 a.m.** **Council Risk Policy** (Executive Director Tom Nies)
Brief overview of the Council's Risk Policy and discussion of the Risk Policy Working Group
- 9:30** **Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary** (Executive Director Tom Nies)
Discuss and approve Council's response to the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries' request for information and input on draft regulations for fishing within the proposed Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary
- 10:15** **Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM) Committee** (John Pappalardo; Madeleine Guyant, UMass Dartmouth)

Prototype Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE): progress report on prototype MSE planning meetings for EBFM and the Georges Bank example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP); EBFM Public Information Workshops: committee advice on conducting deep-dive workshops

- 11:15** **Spiny Dogfish and Bluefish Research Track Stock Assessments** (Dr. Russ Brown, NEFSC)
Presentation on peer-reviewed Research Track Stock Assessments for spiny dogfish and bluefish
- 12:00 p.m.** **Council Harassment Prevention Policies** (Executive Director Tom Nies)
Review and approve Council harassment prevention policies
- 12:30** **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, 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.