New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda
Tuesday - Thursday, December 5-7, 2017
Hotel Viking, 1 Bellevue Avenue, Newport, RI 02840
tel: (401) 847-3300 | www.hotelviking.com

Sending comments? Written comments must be received at the NEFMC office no later than 5 p.m., Wednesday, November 29, 2017 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.

Tuesday, December 5, 2017
9:00 a.m.  Introductions and Announcements (Chairman Dr. John Quinn)

9:05  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, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA Enforcement

10:30  Northeast Regional Ocean Council (Nick Napoli)
Briefing on upgrades to the Northeast Ocean Data Portal

10:45  Skate Committee Report (Dr. Matt McKenzie)
Framework Adjustment 5: consider options to exempt vessels from skate regulations when fishing exclusively within the NAFO Regulatory Area; take final action

11:05  American Lobster (Toni Kerns, ASMFC)
Briefing on ASMFC’s Draft Addendum XXVI to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster and Addendum III to the Jonah Crab plan; Council discussion on data collection needs

11:20  Habitat Committee Report (Doug Grout; Brian Hooker, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management)
Progress report on Coral Amendment and Clam Dredge Framework; overview of proposed and ongoing offshore wind energy projects in the Northeast

12:30 p.m. Lunch Break

1:45  North Atlantic Right Whales (Mark Murray-Brown, GARFO)
Presentation on North Atlantic Right Whale Five-Year Review and reinitiation of formal consultation due to new information on the changed status of right whales

2:45  Atlantic Herring Committee Report (Peter Kendall)
Amendment 8: select preferred alternatives for localized depletion and user conflicts; approve draft amendment for public hearing; Atlantic Herring Research Set-Aside Program: approve 2019-2021 priorities

Wednesday, December 6, 2017
8:30 a.m.  Groundfish Operational Assessments (NEFSC staff)
Report on results of 2017 operational assessments for 19 groundfish stocks

9:00  Scientific and Statistical Committee Report (Jason McNamee)
Receive SSC recommendations for overfishing limits (OFLs) and acceptable biological catches (ABCs) for the following stocks and fishing years (FY): Atlantic sea scallops for FY 2018 with defaults for FY 2019; northern and southern silver hake and red hake for FY 2018-2020; all groundfish stocks for FY 2018-2020 except Georges Bank yellowtail flounder and Atlantic halibut

10:30  Groundfish Committee Report (Terry Stockwell)
Framework Adjustment 57: final action on framework, which includes 2018-2020 fishery specifications and other management measures; 2018 total allowable catches (TACs) for U.S./Canada stocks of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder; Atlantic halibut accountability measures (AMs); recreational management measures; common pool trimester TAC adjustments; southern
windowpane flounder AMs; and potential consideration of a Georges Bank cod sub-ACL for the recreational fishery; Emergency Action: consider requesting emergency action to reduce catches of Georges Bank cod by implementing additional measures for the recreational fishery

12:30 p.m. Lunch Break

1:45 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)

2:00 Groundfish Committee Report Continued

4:45 Regulatory Reform Initiative (Executive Director Tom Nies)
Overview of Council plan to provide input to the National Marine Fisheries Service on regulatory reform mandated by Executive Orders 13777, 13771, and 13565

Thursday, December 7, 2017
8:30 a.m. 2018 Council Priorities – Final Action (Executive Director Tom Nies)

10:30 Scallop Committee Report (Vincent Balzano)
Framework Adjustment 29: final action on framework, which includes: (1) fishery specifications for the 2018 fishing year and default specs for 2019, (2) scallop fishery AMs for yellowtail flounder and windowpane flounder, (3) Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area modifications, and (4) measures to modify and/or create access area and open area boundaries consistent with potential changes to habitat and groundfish closed areas under Omnibus Habitat Amendment 2

12:30 p.m. Lunch Break

1:30 Scallop Committee Report Continued

2:45 Whiting Committee Report (Mark Gibson)
2018-2020 Specifications: final action; Amendment 22: progress report on triggered possession limit adjustments; approve limited access draft amendment for public hearing

3:45 Spiny Dogfish (Dr. David Pierce)
Specifications: review previously set 2018 specifications and discuss whether to recommend modifications

4:15 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 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.
AGENDA

DoubleTree by Hilton Atlantic Beach Oceanfront
2717 W. Fort Macon Road
Atlantic Beach, NC 28512

Reservations: 800-222-8733 or 252-240-1155/Fax: 252-222-4065

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 close of business the Monday before the meeting (11/27) 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/pbijin41irq0qb/ to ensure your comments are posted immediately to the Council’s website and available for Council consideration.

Individuals that wish to submit comments after 11/27 must use the Council’s online form at: https://safmc.wufoo.com/forms/pbijin41irq0qb/. Comments will automatically be posted to the website and available for Council consideration. Comments received prior to noon on Thursday of the Council meeting (12/7) will be a part of the meeting administrative record.

To view comments: https://safmc.wufoo.com/reports/2017-dec-council-meeting-public-comment-report/

Monday, December 4, 2017 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

8:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M. Personnel Committee (CLOSED SESSION)

9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. Habitat Protection and Ecosystem-Based Management Committee/Doug Haymans (TAB 1)
1. Habitat Protection and Ecosystem-Based Management Advisory Panel November Meeting Summary
   a) Overview of Advisory Panel Summary and Recommendations – Roger Pugliese
   b) Committee Action: Provide Guidance and Approve as Needed – ACTION
2. SAFMC FEP II Implementation Plan
   a) Overview of Draft FEP II Implementation Plan – Roger Pugliese
   b) Committee Action: Review and Approve Draft Plan – ACTION
3. SAFMC FEP II Road Map
   a) Overview of Draft FEP II Road Map – Roger Pugliese
   b) Committee Action: Review and Approve Draft Road Map – ACTION
4. SAFMC FEP II, FEP II Dashboard and Tools
   a) Overview of Draft FEP II, FEP II Dashboard and FEP II Tools – Roger Pugliese
   b) Committee Action: Review, Provide Guidance and Approve as Needed – ACTION
5. SECAS and SALCC Conservation Blueprint 2.2
   a) Update on SECAS and Conservation Blueprint – Mallory Martin, SALCC
6. Council Actions on Habitat – Doug Haymans – ACTION

11:00 A.M. to 12:00 NOON ABC Control Rule – Committee of the Whole/Charlie Phillips/Dr. Michelle Duval (TAB 2)
1. ABC Control Rule Amendment (SG Amendment __/DW Amendment __/CMP Amendment __/Spiny lobster __/Golden Crab __/Deep water shrimp ___)
   a) Overview – John Carmichael
   b) Review of Decision Document – John Carmichael
   c) Committee provides guidance to staff – Dr. Michelle Duval – ACTION
Monday, December 4, 2017  

1:30 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.  Spiny Lobster Committee/Jessica McCawley (TAB 3)  
1. Status of 2016-2017 Catches vs. ACL  
   a) Presentation – Christina Wiegand  
   b) Committee discussion and action as necessary – Jessica McCawley – ACTION  
2. Spiny Lobster Amendment 13 (Bully Nets and FWC Management)  
   a) Overview – Christina Wiegand  
   b) Review draft options paper – Christina Wiegand  
   c) Review other inconsistent regulations – Jessica McCawley  
   d) Committee Action – Jessica McCawley – ACTION  
      i. Review the purpose and need as well as draft actions/alternatives and determine if any changes are necessary  
      ii. Review Gulf Council motions  

3:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.  Citizen Science Committee/Mark Brown (TAB 4)  
1. Address policy on Citizen Science AP Pool and Action Team appointments  
   a) Overview – Amber Von Harten  
   b) Committee reviews and approves policy – Mark Brown – ACTION  
2. Review progress reports from each Action Team – Amber Von Harten  
   a) Update – Data Management Action Team  
   b) Update – Volunteers Action Team  
   c) Update – Projects/Topics Management Action Team  
   d) Update – Communication/Outreach/Education Action Team  
   e) Update – Finance & Infrastructure Action Team  
   f) Committee reviews and provides guidance to staff – Mark Brown – ACTION  
3. Citizen Science Program Partnerships and Pilot Project  
   a) Update – Amber Von Harten (Council Staff) and Rick Bonney (Cornell University)  
   b) Committee provides guidance to staff, as needed – Mark Brown – ACTION  

4:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.  Data Collection Committee/Mel Bell (TAB 5)  
1. Status Reports  
   a) SAFMC FHER  
   b) SAFMC Data Collection Pilot  
   c) Outreach plan  
   d) Committee discussion and guidance – Mel Bell – ACTION  

Tuesday, December 5, 2017  

8:30 A.M. to 12:00 NOON  Recreational Reporting Workshop/Dr. Chip Collier (TAB 6)  
1. Update on the Red Snapper Mini-Seasons – Chip Collier  
2. Electronic reporting only for big game - a tag based program  
3. iSnapper (Texas) - voluntary reporting program  
4. Tails’n’Scales (Mississippi) - mandatory program  
5. FWC and LA – enhanced MRIP. States would need to do this  
6. Discussion and guidance – ACTION  

12:00 NOON to 1:30 P.M.  Lunch
Tuesday, December 5, 2017  COMMITTEE MEETINGS
1:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.  Snapper Grouper Committee/Dr. Michelle Duval (TAB 7)
1. Status of Commercial & Recreational Catches versus ACLs – NMFS SERO – ACTION
   a) Amendment 41 (Mutton Snapper)
   b) Golden Tilefish Interim Rule
   c) Red Snapper Emergency Rule
   d) Amendment 43 (Red Snapper)
3. SG AP Report – David Moss – ACTION
4. Snapper Grouper Amendment 46 (Red Snapper)
   a) Overview – Chip Collier
   b) Committee reviews options and provides guidance to staff – Dr. Michelle Duval – ACTION
5. Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendment 26 - Recreational
   a) Overview – Myra Brouwer
   b) Review revised actions & alternatives and purpose and need – Dr. Michelle Duval
   c) Analyses of landings by species groupings – John Hadley
   d) Committee reviews, modifies as necessary, and provides guidance to staff – Dr. Michelle Duval – ACTION
Note: Prior to adjourning for the day, NMFS will present an overview of the EFP requests included in TAB 13.

Wednesday, December 6, 2017  COMMITTEE MEETINGS
8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.  Snapper Grouper Committee Continued/Dr. Michelle Duval (TAB 7)
6. Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendment 27 - Commercial
   a) Overview – Myra Brouwer
   b) SSC recommendations – Dr. Marcel Reichert
   c) Review revised actions & alternatives, updated analyses, and purpose and need – Dr. Michelle Duval
   d) Committee reviews, modifies as necessary, and provides guidance to staff – Dr. Michelle Duval
7. Amendment 38 Blueline Tilefish
   a) Overview – Roger Pugliese
   b) Presentation on Blueline Tilefish benchmark assessment (SEDAR 50) - SEFSC
   c) SSC fishing level recommendations – Dr. Marcel Reichert
   d) Committee reviews, modifies as necessary, and provides guidance to staff – Dr. Michelle Duval
8. Snapper Grouper For-Hire Moratorium
   a) Overview – John Hadley
   b) Committee reviews options, provides guidance to staff, and approves for scoping – Dr. Michelle Duval

Lunch 12:00 NOON – 1:30 P.M.

9. Red Grouper
   a) Overview – Dr. Brian Cheuvront
   b) SSC fishing level recommendations – Dr. Marcel Reichert
   c) Committee reviews and approves for Secretarial Review – Dr. Michelle Duval
10. Golden Tilefish
    a) Overview – Myra Brouwer
    b) SSC recommendations – Dr. Marcel Reichert
    c) Committee provides guidance to staff – Dr. Michelle Duval
Wednesday, December 6, 2017  COMMITTEE MEETINGS
8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.  Snapper Grouper Committee Continued/Dr. Michelle Duval (TAB 7)
11. Wreckfish ITQ Review
   a) Overview of development of the review – Dr. Brian Cheuvront
   b) Presentation on ITQ Review Progress – Dr. Brian Cheuvront
   c) Committee provides guidance to staff – Dr. Michelle Duval
12. Yellowtail Snapper
   a) Overview – John Hadley
   b) Discuss potential joint amendment with Gulf Council to explore management solutions for yellowtail snapper – John Hadley
   c) Committee provides guidance to staff – Dr. Michelle Duval

Wednesday, December 6, 2017  PUBLIC COMMENTS
4:30 P.M. Public comment will be accepted 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.

Approval for Formal Review:
   (1) Red Grouper Abbreviated Framework

Approval for Scoping:
   (1) CMP Framework 6 (Atlantic King Mackerel Trip Limits)
   (2) For-Hire Moratorium

Approval for Public Hearings:
   (1) CMP Amendment 31 (Cobia)

Public comment will also be accepted on E.O. 13771 (2 for 1 Regulations) to identify regulations that are (1) outdated, (2) unnecessary, or (3) ineffective.

Thursday, December 7, 2017  COMMITTEE MEETINGS
8:30 A.M. to 9:30 A.M.  SEDAR Committee/Charlie Phillips (PARTIALLY CLOSED SESSION) (TAB 8)
1. Appointments – CLOSED SESSION
   a) Cobia stock ID
   b) Greater Amberjack and Red Porgy assessments
2. SSC Report – Dr. Marcel Reichert
3. Terms of reference and schedule approvals
   a) Overview – John Carmichael
   b) Greater Amberjack and Red Porgy Approvals – Charlie Phillips
4. Steering Committee Report
   a) Overview – John Carmichael
   b) Discuss and Provide Guidance – Charlie Phillips
Thursday, December 7, 2017 COMMITTEE MEETINGS
9:30 A.M. to 12:00 NOON  Mackerel Cobia Committee/Ben Hartig (TAB 9)
1.  Status of Commercial and Recreational Catches vs. ACLs – SERO
2.  Update on the ASMFC Interstate Atlantic Cobia FMP – Bob Beal
3.  Requested timeline for MRIP recalculation of 2015 and 2016 recreational landings for Atlantic cobia – Christina Wiegand
4.  CMP Framework Amendment 6 (Atlantic King Mackerel Trip Limits)
   a) Overview – Christina Wiegand
   b) Review draft options paper – Christina Wiegand
   c) Committee action: discussion and approve for scoping – Ben Hartig
5.  CMP Amendment 31 (Atlantic Cobia Management)
   a) Overview – Christina Wiegand
   b) Review draft amendment – Christina Wiegand
   c) Committee action: discussion and approve for public hearings – Ben Hartig

Lunch 12:00 NOON – 1:30 P.M.

Thursday, December 7, 2017 COMMITTEE MEETINGS
1:30 P.M. to 2:00 P.M.  Information and Education Committee/Mark Brown (TAB 10)
1.  Report from I & E Advisory Panel Meeting – Cameron Rhodes
2.  Committee discussion and guidance to staff – Mark Brown

2:00 P.M. to 3:30 P.M.  SOPPs Committee/Chris Conklin (TAB 11)
1.  Review Policies for Inclusion in SOPPs and/or Handbook
   a) Overview – Gregg Waugh
   b) Committee action: discuss, provide guidance and approve – Chris Conklin

3:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.  Executive Finance Committee/Charlie Phillips (TAB 12)
1.  Magnuson-Steven Reauthorization
   a) Overview – Gregg Waugh
   b) Committee action: discuss, provide guidance and approve as needed – Charlie Phillips
2.  Budget Status and Outlook
   a) Overview – Gregg Waugh/Mike Collins
   b) Committee action: discuss, provide guidance and approve as needed – Charlie Phillips
3.  Council Follow-up and Priorities
   a) Overview – Dr. Brian Cheuvront
   b) Committee action: discuss, provide guidance and approve as needed – Charlie Phillips
4.  Council Meeting Materials
   a) Overview – Gregg Waugh/Cameron Rhodes/Dr. Brian Cheuvront
   b) Committee action: discuss, provide guidance and approve as needed – Charlie Phillips
Friday, December 8, 2017
8:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.  COUNCIL SESSION (TAB 13)
[Legal Briefing on Litigation - Monica Smit-Brunello (CLOSED SESSION) if needed]

8:30 - 8:40  Call to Order and Introductions/Charlie Phillips
Adoption of Agenda/Charlie Phillips
Approval of Minutes/Charlie Phillips

8:40 – 8:50  Awards/Recognition/Charlie Phillips

8:50 – 9:00  Council Staff Reports – ACTION
1. Executive Director’s Report (TAB 13, Attachment 1; available at meeting) – Gregg Waugh
2. Update on Atlantic-coastwide meeting in November – Gregg Waugh and Charlie Phillips

9:00 – 9:30  Discussion with Dr. Francisco “Cisco” Werner, Chief Science Advisor & Director of Scientific Programs, NOAA Fisheries – ACTION

9:30 – 9:45  NMFS SERO Presentations – ACTION
1. Status of Commercial Catches versus ACLs for species not covered in committee meetings (TAB 13, Attachments 2 and 3)
2. Status of Recreational and Commercial Quota Monitoring Tables on SERO Web Site
3. Protected Resources Update and Turtle Release (TAB 13, Attachments 4 and 5) – SERO

9:45 – 10:00  NMFS SEFSC Presentations on Status of Bycatch Collection Programs – ACTION
1. Status of Bycatch Collection Programs
2. Status of Commercial Electronic Logbook Program

10:00 – 10:45  Review Exempted Fishing Permits as Necessary – ACTION
1. Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen’s Association (TAB 13, Attachment 6)
2. Keys Fisheries (TAB 13, Attachment 7)
3. Joe Glass (TAB 13, Attachment 8)

10:45 – 11:00  BREAK

11:00 – 11:15  Snapper Grouper Committee Report/Dr. Michelle Duval (TAB 7)
• Consider Committee recommendations and take action as appropriate – ACTION

11:15 - 11:30  Mackerel Cobia Committee Report/Ben Hartig (TAB 9)
• Consider Committee recommendations and take action as appropriate – ACTION

11:30 - 11:35  Spiny Lobster Committee Report/Jessica McCawley (TAB 3)
• Consider Committee recommendations and take action as appropriate – ACTION

11:35 - 11:45  ABC Committee of the Whole Report/Dr. Michelle Duval (TAB 2)
• Consider Committee recommendations and take action as appropriate – ACTION

11:45 - 11:55  Recreational Reporting Workshop Report/Dr. Chip Collier (TAB 6)
• Consider Committee recommendations and take action as appropriate – ACTION

11:55 - 12:00  SEDAR Committee Report/Charlie Phillips (TAB 8)
• Consider Committee recommendations and take action as appropriate – ACTION
Friday, December 8, 2017
8:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.  COUNCIL SESSION CONTINUED (TAB 13)

12:00 - 12:05  Data Collection Committee Report/Mel Bell (TAB 5)
   •  Consider Committee recommendations and take action as appropriate – ACTION

12:05 - 12:10  Habitat & Ecosystem-Based Management Committee Report/Doug Haymans (TAB 1)
   •  Consider Committee recommendations and take action as appropriate – ACTION

12:10 - 12:15  Information and Education Committee Report/Mark Brown (TAB 10)
   •  Consider Committee recommendations and take action as appropriate – ACTION

12:15 - 12:20  Citizen Science Committee Report/Mark Brown (TAB 4)
   •  Consider Committee recommendations and take action as appropriate – ACTION

12:20 - 12:25  SOPPs Committee Report/Chris Conklin (TAB 11)
   •  Consider Committee recommendations and take action as appropriate – ACTION

   •  Consider Committee recommendations and take action as appropriate – ACTION

12:35 – 12:40  Agency and Liaison Reports (TAB 13, Attachment 9) – ACTION

12:40 – 12:50  Other Business – ACTION

12:50 – 1:00  Upcoming Meetings (TAB 13, Attachment 10) – ACTION

1:00 P.M.  ADJOURN