

New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950
Tel (978) 465-0492 | Fax (978) 465-3116

**Council Meeting Agenda
April 4-5, 2006**

**** (NOTE REVISED AGENDA – NMFS Herring Discussion on 4/4) ****

**Hilton Mystic Hotel
20 Coogan Boulevard, Mystic, CT 06355
Telephone (860) 572-0731 | Fax (860) 572-0328**

Monday, April 3 - the **SBRM Committee** will meet at the hotel at 1:00 p.m. and the **VMS/Enforcement Committee** will meet at the hotel at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

- 8:30 a.m.** **Introductions and Announcements** (Chairman Frank Blount)
- 8:35** **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 and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
- 10:00** **VMS/Enforcement Committee Report** (Rodney Avila)
Review of the committee report and consideration of action concerning trawl gear net measuring and gear stowage requirements
- 11:15** **Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) Update** (Dana Rice)
Review of progress on an amendment to implement an SBRM process that would apply across all NEFMC fishery management plans (FMPs)
- 11:45** **Open Period for Public Comments** (Frank Blount)
Opportunity for brief comments from the public on items relevant to Council business but not otherwise listed on the Council meeting agenda
- noon** **Lunch Break**
- 1:00 p.m.** **Habitat/MPA/Ecosystems Committee Report** (Sally McGee)
Review and approval of a range of essential fish habitat designation alternatives for NEFMC-managed species for inclusion in Phase 1 of the EFH Omnibus Amendment
- 3:00** **Discussion of Herring Limited Access Permit Issues** (NMFS staff)
Council discussion to provide guidance to NMFS concerning the treatment of herring fishing history and permit splitting for vessels that currently possess limited access permits in other fisheries
- 4:00** **Whiting Management Issues** (David Goethel)
Approval of a scoping document for a Northeast Multispecies FMP amendment to consider limited access, hard total allowable catches (TACs) and dedicated access privileges in the small mesh multispecies fisheries for whiting, red hake and offshore hake

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

- 8:30 a.m.** **Groundfish Oversight Committee Report** (Rip Cunningham)
Review of preliminary analyses for the total allowable catch industry proposal discussed at the January Council meeting in Portland, Maine

- 11:30 Scallop Committee Report** (Tom Hill)
Review of public scoping comments for Amendment 11 to the Sea Scallop FMP, followed by approval of goals and objectives as well as policy guidance on the development of alternatives; the development of alternatives could include identifying an appropriate range of resource allocation options for the limited access and general category scallop fisheries, as well as potential qualification criteria for a limited entry program for general category vessels
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:30 Scallop Committee Report - *continued***
- 3:00 Monkfish Committee Report** (John Pappalardo)
Initial meeting on Framework Adjustment 4 to the Monkfish FMP; the discussion will include policy guidance on the development of alternatives
- 4:30 Research Steering Committee Report** (David Goethel)
Review of committee discussions concerning the Council's 2006 research priorities and recommendations on use of cooperative research results provided in several final reports submitted to NMFS's Cooperative Research Partners Program; further comments on the review process used by the RSC also will be included
- 5:30 Other Business** (Frank Blount)

*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 that if you are submitting comments for Council consideration at this meeting they must be received at the office at least 72 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

Notice Date: 3/27/06