

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

Council Meeting Agenda
February 1-3, 2005
Courtyard by Marriott
1000 Market Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801
Telephone (603) 436-2121 | Fax (603) 430-7666

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

9:00 a.m. 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

11:15 Skate Plan Development Team (PDT) Annual Report (Council staff)

Review of the PDT's annual report on the Northeast Skate Complex, as required by the Skate Fishery Management Plan (FMP)

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 Scallop Committee Report (Tom Hill)

- ◆ Consideration of a modification to the "broken trip" limit rules for inclusion in Framework Adjustment 17 to the Sea Scallop FMP
- ◆ Final approval of other measures to be included in Framework Adjustment 17; the alternatives include measures that would require some or all vessels with general category scallop permits to carry and operate vessel monitoring system equipment

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

8:30 a.m. Research Steering Committee Report (John Williamson/David Goethel)

Recap of 2005 research priorities; review and approval of RSC recommendations concerning the NOAA Fisheries experimental fishery permit process and related recommendations

9:30 Open Period for Public Comments

Opportunity for brief comments from the public on items relevant to Council business but not otherwise listed on the agenda

10:00 Groundfish Committee Report (Dr. David Pierce)

- ◆ Council review and approval of the schedule for preparing the next framework adjustment, including a preliminary list of issues to be addressed by the action;
- ◆ Approval of initial action on a measure that would address NOAA Fisheries disapproval of participation of non-sector vessels in the Closed Area I Hook Gear Haddock SAP
- ◆ Discussion of fishing vessel safety concerns relative to the Groundfish FMP
- ◆ Discussion and possible action on planning for the 2005 groundfish assessment updates and independent peer review

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.

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 Groundfish Committee Report – continued from the morning session

4:00 Stock Assessment Public Review Workshop (Dr. Terry Smith, NEFSC)
Presentation summarizing results of the 40th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop; the status of goosefish/monkfish will be reviewed

Thursday, February 3, 2005

8:30 a.m. Summary of Executive Committee Discussions (Frank Blount)
Review of items discussed at the 1/5/05 Executive Committee meeting, including gear conflict issues, a draft conservation and management policy that also addresses SAPs, joint fishery management plans, and the Fleet Visioning Project

9:30 Habitat/MPA/Ecosystems Committee Report (Sally McGee)

- ◆ Update on progress to develop EFH Omnibus Amendment #2, including activities of the Habitat Evaluation Working Group (EFH designation methods); planning for the MPA education and outreach workshop and development of a comment letter on the Cape Wind Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- ◆ Introduction to the Council's Pilot Project - Ecosystems Approaches to Fisheries Management

11:00 Bycatch Committee Report (Rodney Avila)
Review of recommendations from the Bycatch Committee concerning potential actions to reduce the bycatch of the 2003 haddock year class in various fisheries

1:00 p.m. Other Business

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: 1/11/05