

New England Fishery Management Council
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Council Meeting Agenda | February 6-8, 2007
Sheraton Harborside Hotel
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PLEASE NOTE: The Council meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

8:00 a.m. Enforcement Committee Meeting

1:00 p.m. Introductions and Announcements (Chairman John Pappalardo)

1:05 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

2:45 At-Sea Processing (John Pappalardo)

General discussion of the topic including monitoring, reporting, observer and VMS requirements for vessels engaged in this activity

3:00 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) (Executive Director Paul Howard)

Review and discussion of changes related to reauthorization of the MSA, with a focus on potential modifications to Council activities

4:30 Enforcement Committee Report (Committee Chairman Rodney Avila)

Review of committee progress to develop recommendations concerning the use of Vessel Monitoring Systems and other tools to address safety at sea, regulatory compliance and other fishery management-related activities

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

8:30 a.m. Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) Committee Report (Committee Chairman Dana Rice)

Report on the status of comments received and progress on SBRM Amendment

9:00 Public Hearing on Amendment 13 to the Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP)

(Committee Chairman David Simpson)

Opportunity for the public to comment on the establishment of a mechanism to reactivate the industry-funded observer coverage in the scallop fishery

9:30 Scallop Committee Report (David Simpson)

Approval of final action on Amendment 13 to the Scallop FMP; the amendment would reauthorize industry-funded observer coverage; discussion of Amendment 11 alternatives (to address capacity and mortality in the general category scallop fishery) relative to MSA reauthorization, and in particular the current IFQ alternatives under consideration

10:30 Small Mesh Multispecies Update - Whiting, Red Hake, Offshore Hake (Committee Chairman Dr. David Pierce)

Review of updated status information for five small mesh multispecies stocks (whiting, red hake, and offshore hake); continued discussion of issues to address in the upcoming whiting amendment and the completion timeline

- 11:45 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
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:00 Trawl Survey Committee Report** (Committee Chairman James Ruhle and Vice Chairman Rodney Avila)
Approval of committee recommendations concerning trawl specifications for the *FSV Henry B. Bigelow* and a training program for vessel personnel
- 2:00 Habitat/MPA Committee Report** (Committee Chairman Sally McGee)
Review and approval of the Essential Fish Habitat Omnibus Amendment Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement – Phase I: Phase I includes EFH and HAPC designations, and an evaluation of prey species for NEFMC-managed stocks, as well as the impacts of non-fishing activities on EFH

Thursday, February 8, 2007

- 8:30 a.m. Research Steering Committee Report** (Committee Chairman David Goethel)
Briefing on final cooperative reports reviewed recently by the committee and other research related business including the future use of industry-based surveys and study fleets
- 9:30 Stock Assessment Workshop Report** (Dr. James Weinberg, Northeast Fisheries Science Center)
Presentation of the report from the 44th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop; the status of surf clams, ocean quahogs and the skate complex will be reviewed
- 10:30 Groundfish Committee Report** (Committee Chairman Rip Cunningham)
Review of the scoping comments received for Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP, discussion and consideration of committee recommendations for alternatives to be developed in this amendment, including possible selection of alternatives; the discussion will include a report from the Recreational Advisory Panel
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:00 Groundfish Committee Report** – continued from the morning session
- 3:30 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 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.