

New England Fishery Management Council
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Council Meeting Agenda
June 13-15, 2006
Hyatt Regency Hotel
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Please note, the SBRM Committee will meet at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Monday, June 12 at 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 13, 2006

- 9:00 a.m. Introductions and Announcements** (Chairman Frank Blount)
- 9:05 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
- 10:30 Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) Report** (Dana Rice)
Review of progress on an amendment to implement an SBRM process that would apply across all NEFMC fishery management plans (FMPs)
- 11:00 Habitat/MPA/Ecosystems Committee Report** (Sally McGee)
Review and approval of a range of essential fish habitat designation alternatives for NEFMC-managed species and required prey species sections for inclusion in Phase 1 of the EFH Omnibus Amendment
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:30 Habitat Committee Report** - continued

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

- 8:30 a.m. Research Steering Committee (RSC) Report** (David Goethel)
Overview of RSC reviews of final cooperative research project reports that have been completed and approved by NOAA Fisheries Northeast Cooperative Research Partners Program; review of recommendations to further refine the process currently utilized by the committee to accomplish this task
- 9:30 Herring Assessment Report** (Dr. William Overholtz, NEFSC)
Report and discussion of results from the recent Transboundary Resource Assessment Committee (TRAC) meeting concerning Atlantic herring
- 10:30 Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Committee Report** (Frank Blount)
Report on and approval of NEFMC comments on House bills to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
- 12:00 p.m. Update on the Industry-Funded Buyout** (Representative of the industry-sponsored Capacity Reduction Committee) Presentation, including components of the proposed program and timeline, on the buyout proposal currently under development by members of the groundfish fishing industry
- 12:30 Lunch Break**
- 1:30 Presentation of NOAA Fisheries Environmental Hero Award to the Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association** (NOAA Regional Administrator Pat Kurkul)

- 1:40** **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 meeting agenda
- 2:00** **Review of the Use of Sectors in Fishery Management Plans** (Paul Howard)
General review, including pros and cons, of the use of sector allocations in NEFMC management plans
- 3:00** **Groundfish Committee Report** (Rip Cunningham)
Development of Council comments on the Cape Cod Commercial Hook Sector Operations Plan for fishing year 2006; the Council will consider providing official comments to NOAA Fisheries on the sector's proposal for an exemption from differential days-at-sea counting and from the limitation that days-at-sea can only be leased from a vessel of similar size or larger
- 4:00** **Personal Perspectives on New Zealand's Quota Management System** (Rodney Avila and David Goethel)

Thursday, June 15, 2006

- 8:30 a.m.** **Scallop Committee Report** (Tom Hill)
Update on the first Scallop Survey Advisory Committee meeting; report from the Scientific and Statistical Committee on updated scallop biological reference points; approval of a list of alternatives to be considered and analyzed for inclusion in the Scallop Amendment 11 Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
- 12:00 p.m.** **Lunch Break**
- 1:00** **Scallop Committee Report** – continued
- 3:30** **Hagfish Control Date Approval** (Chris Kellogg, NEFMC staff)
Review of rationale and approval to reaffirm the August 28, 2002 control date in anticipation of future fishery management plan development activities
- 4:00** **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 actions 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: 5.23.06