

New England Fishery Management Council
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Council Meeting Agenda | June 19-21, 2007
Eastland Park Hotel
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Please note the Council meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday and 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday and Thursday

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

- 8:30 a.m. Introductions and Announcements** (Chairman John Pappalardo)
- 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
- 10:15 IFQ Referendum Requirements** (NOAA Fisheries, Northeast Regional Office staff)
Opportunity for Council comment on procedures related to the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) requirement for a referendum on any individual fishing quota program under consideration; following consultation with the eight Councils, NOAA Fisheries will publish a proposed rule to address the referendum process, voter eligibility and related issues
- 11:00 Enforcement Committee Report** (Rodney Avila)
Approve recommendations concerning the use of vessel monitoring systems (VMS) and other tools to address safety at sea, regulatory compliance and other fishery management-related activities; issues will include procedures for the use of "safe harbors" and a declaration before transiting closed areas; NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement will present an overview of VMS capabilities
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:00 Habitat/MPA/Ecosystem Committee Report** (Sally McGee)
Approve final action on Phase 1 of Essential Fish Habitat Omnibus Amendment 2: includes improved EFH designations for the species under Council management; new and/or modified HAPC designations; an evaluation of prey species for NEFMC-managed species and life stages; and an evaluation and description of the impacts of non-fishing activities on EFH, including conservation and enhancement recommendations
- 3:30 Sector Committee Report** (John Nelson)
Review and approve recommendations concerning the Council's terms of reference and related sector issues; address the issue of whether to adopt a sector policy for transmission to individual species committees or continue with the development of an omnibus amendment
- 5:00 Adjourn**

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

- 8:00 a.m. Scallop Committee Report** (David Simpson)
- Review public comments and approve final measures to be included in Draft Amendment 11 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan; the action contains measures to control capacity and mortality in the general category scallop fishery
 - Review and approve Framework Adjustment 20 that will extend interim measures to reduce the number of trips in the Elephant Trunk Area to prevent overfishing during the 2007 fishing year
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:00 Scallop Committee Report** - continued from the morning session
- 4:30 Observer Coverage for At-sea Processor Vessels** (David Pierce)
Consider a request that NOAA Fisheries require at-sea processor vessels to carry observers
- 5:15 Scallop Committee Report** (if necessary, continue Amendment 11 decision-making)

Thursday, June 21, 2007

- 8:00 a.m. Research Steering Committee Report** (David Goethel)
- Review comments concerning final cooperative research project reports and the use of results in management decision-making
 - Review recommendations concerning: the NCRPP-sponsored peer review of the pilot study fleet project; the committee's discussion about the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's report on the impacts of fishing on groundfish spawning activities; archiving of cooperative research results and data access; and the research-related mandates in the reauthorized MSA
- 8:50 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
- 9:00 Multispecies (Groundfish) Committee Report** (Rip Cunningham)
- Review and approve recommendations for management alternatives to be developed in Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (for example: days-at-sea, the days-at-sea performance plan, point system, area management, Gulf of Maine party/charter limited entry program and possibly others)
 - Review and approve standards to be used by the Regional Administrator to allow the use of additional gear in the Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock Special Access Program and trawl gear in the Category B (regular) days-at-sea program
 - Review and approve recommendations concerning the recently received sector proposals
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:00 Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) Committee Report** (Dana Rice)
Review and approve the final SBRM Amendment for submission to NOAA Fisheries
- 2:30 Multispecies (Skate) Committee Report** (Rip Cunningham)
Approve committee recommendations for skate management alternatives to be included and analyzed in Draft Amendment 3 to the Skate Fishery Management Plan, an action that would address overfishing of winter and thorny skates
- 4:30 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 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 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 3 business days prior to the start of the meeting.

Notice Date: May 29, 2007