

New England Fishery Management Council  
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**Council Meeting Agenda**  
**March 23-25, 2004**  
**Tavern on the Harbor, 30 Western Avenue**  
**Gloucester, MA 01930**  
**Telephone (978) 283-4200 | Fax (978) 283-0204**

**Tuesday, March 23, 2004**

**9:00 a.m. Introductions and Announcements** (Chairman David Borden)

**9:05 Reports on Recent Activities**

Council Chairman, Executive Director, NMFS Regional Administrator, NOAA General Counsel, Northeast Fisheries Science Center liaison, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council liaison, and representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA Fisheries Division of Law Enforcement and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

**10:30 Herring Committee Report** (Lewis Flagg)

Review and approve the range of management alternatives under consideration for inclusion in Amendment 1 to the Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP); discussion will include recommendations from the Herring Plan Development Team and Advisory Panel; alternatives may address, but are not limited to the following:

- management area boundaries
- the distribution of area-specific total allowable catches (TACs)
- TAC set-asides and in-season adjustments
- a limited access program
- a quota allocation and/or days-at-sea program and other effort controls
- measures to address fixed gear fisheries
- purse seine and fixed-gear only areas, and
- habitat and bycatch issues

**12:30 p.m. Lunch**

**1:30 Herring Committee Report** - continued

***6:00 p.m. – Hearing to solicit scoping comments on an Omnibus Essential Fish Habitat Amendment to the Groundfish, Scallop, Monkfish, Herring, Skate, Red Crab and Atlantic Salmon FMPs***

**Wednesday, March 24, 2004**

**8:30 a.m. Magnuson-Stevens Committee Report** (Tom Hill)

Approve positions on the current draft Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act reauthorization bills for use at Council Chairmen's meeting in April

**9:30 Open Period for Public Comments** (Chairman David Borden)

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

**10:00 Essential Fish Habitat Presentation** (Sally McGee)

Summary of comments received to date at scoping hearings convened as part of the development of the Omnibus Essential Fish Habitat Amendment; review and approve comments on the advanced notice of proposed rulemaking concerning revisions to NOAA Fisheries Essential Fish Habitat Guidelines

**12:00 p.m. Lunch**

- agenda continued on reverse side -

*Times listed next to the agenda items are estimates and are subject to change.*

**1:00 Groundfish Committee Report** (Frank Blount)  
Review status of and approve alternatives to be analyzed for further consideration in Framework Adjustment 40 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP; alternatives will include options for using Category B days-at-sea and a provision to "flip" a day-at-sea between Category A and B

**Thursday, March 25, 2004**

**8:30 a.m. Research Steering Committee Report** (Anthony Fernandes)  
Approve a policy to address the review and use of new research results and incorporate findings into the fishery management decision-making process; approval of 2004 priorities; overview of activities

**9:30 Scallop Committee Report** (Mark Amorello)  
Review and approve comments on the proposed rule for Amendment 10 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop FMP

**11:30 Improvements to the Council Process and Management Challenges** (Chairman David Borden)  
Council discussion of its meeting schedule, committee process, and use of advisors as well as issues related to the future of the fishing industry, such as structure of the fleet, excess capacity, and the expansion of fishing opportunities

**12:30 p.m. Lunch**

**1:30 Discussion of Council Process** - continued

**4:30 Other Business** (Chairman David Borden)

*This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities.  
Council member financial disclosure forms are available for examination at each meeting of the full Council.*

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 final actions or framework adjustments are available for public review prior to a final vote by the Council. Check the Council website at [www.nefmc.org](http://www.nefmc.org) or call (978) 465-0492 for copies. 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 mailing date: March 2, 2004