

New England Fishery Management Council
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Council Meeting Agenda
March 29-31, 2005
Hotel Viking, One Bellevue Avenue
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Tuesday, March 29, 2005

- 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; additional reports will include a briefing on the recent Gear Conflict Workshop report and an update on the Fleet Visioning Project
- 11:30 Habitat/MPA/Ecosystem Committee** (Sally McGee)
Presentations to further Council understanding of ecosystem approaches to fisheries management and the NEFMC's pilot project:
- Ecosystem Approaches to Fishery Management; review of science initiatives underway at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center and how they may contribute to ecosystem management approaches (Dr. Michael Fogarty, NEFSC)
 - Update on ecosystem initiatives underway at other regional fishery management councils (Council staff)
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch**
- 1:30 Ecosystem presentations** - continued
- 2:30 Scallop Action** (Tom Hill)
Reconsideration of options in Framework Adjustment 17 to the Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP) related to the power-down provision for general category vessels with vessel monitoring systems
- 3:30 Initial Action on Spiny Dogfish Specifications** (NEFMC staff)
Initial action on Framework Adjustment 1 to the Spiny Dogfish FMP; review and approval of options to allow for multi-year specifications for the spiny dogfish fishery
- 4:15 Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Presentation** (NOAA Fisheries staff)
Council briefing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement supporting a proposed amendment to NOAA Fisheries Large Whale Take Reduction Plan, including a description of alternatives that affect NEFMC fishery management plans

6:00 p.m. - NOAA Fisheries Public Hearing
Review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement alternatives supporting a proposed amendment to NOAA Fisheries Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan and opportunity for public comment

*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.*

- agenda continued on reverse side -

Wednesday, March 30, 2005

- 8:30 a.m. Draft Conservation and Management Policy presentation** (Executive Director Paul J. Howard)
- 9:30 Open Period for Public Comments** (Chairman Frank Blount)
Opportunity for brief comments from the public on items relevant to Council business, but not otherwise listed on the meeting agenda
- 9:45 Bycatch Committee Report** (Rodney Avila)
- Review committee management recommendations concerning potential haddock bycatch reduction measures for the herring, whiting and groundfish fisheries;
 - Fishing Technology Expert Working Group Report presentation on potential gear modifications designed to reduce haddock bycatch in the herring fisheries
- The Council will make final decisions about which measures would be the most appropriate to implement through a possible framework adjustment, or alternatively, through Emergency Action, Flexible Area Action System or other vehicle. If the Council agrees to implement measures to reduce bycatch through a framework adjustment, final action could be taken at this meeting to approve the measures for large mesh as well as small mesh species for inclusion in the Northeast Multispecies and/or Herring FMPs
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch**
- 1:00 Bycatch Committee Report** – continued

Thursday, March 31, 2005

- 8:30 a.m. Habitat/MPA/Ecosystems** (Sally McGee)
Review of timeline and approaches for the Essential Fish Habitat Omnibus Amendment 2
- 9:15 Groundfish Committee Report** (David Pierce)
- Final action on Framework Adjustment 41 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP (access to the Closed Area I Hook Gear Haddock SAP for non-sector vessels)
 - Report on development of the biennial adjustment for fishing years 2005 and 2006
 - Recommendations for the Eastern U.S./Canada area for fishing year 2005
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch**
- 1:00 Groundfish Committee Report** – continued
- 1:30 HMS Presentation by NOAA Fisheries Service** (NOAA Fisheries Service staff)
Briefing on the consolidated HMS Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic tunas, swordfish, sharks and billfish and request for pre-draft comments
- 2:30 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: 3/8/05