

New England Fishery Management Council
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Council Meeting Agenda | November 16-18, 2004
Courtyard by Marriott,
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Please note the Council meeting will begin at 9:45 a.m. The Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. and will be open to the public.

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

- 8:30 a.m. Executive Committee Meeting (Council Chairman Frank Blount)**
Development of tasks for the Council's new ad hoc Bycatch Committee
- 9:30 Break**
- 9:45 Introductions and Announcements (Frank Blount)**
- 9:50 Scallop Committee Report (Tom Hill)**
Approval of initial action on Framework Adjustment 17 to the Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP); a range of alternatives will be selected and analyzed for further consideration; measures could require vessels with general category scallop permits to carry vessel monitoring system (VMS) equipment
- 11:30 Update on the Northeast Region Bycatch Plan (Hannah Goodale, NOAA Fisheries staff)**
Plan development since the June 2004 Bycatch Workshop
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch**
- 1:00 "Strategy for Sea Turtle Conservation and Recovery in Relation to Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico Fisheries" Report (NOAA Fisheries staff)**
Briefing on a plan to conserve and manage threatened and endangered sea turtles
- 2:00 Council Work Priorities (Executive Director Paul Howard)**
Consideration and approval of management actions for 2005; discussion will include possible elimination of the process of joint development of fishery management plans for dogfish and monkfish
- 3:30 Research Steering Committee Report (John Williamson/David Goethel)**
Consideration and approval of committee recommendations for 2005 Council research priorities and review of RSC discussions related to cooperative research
- 4:45 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

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

- 8:30 a.m. 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
- 10:00 Harvesting Cooperatives and Cooperative Management (Dr. Ralph Townsend, University of Maine)**
Presentation on harvesting cooperatives in Alaska; to include a question and answer period

*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.*

11:30 Groundfish Committee Report (Dr. David Pierce)

The committee report will include:

- Approval of final action on Framework Adjustment 40B to the Northeast Multispecies FMP; discussion will include a review of Groundfish Advisory Panel and Committee recommendations and selection of final measures; under consideration are measures to modify the conservation tax associated with permit transfer and leasing provisions in the FMP, establish incidental catch TACs and Special Access Programs, address the catch of groundfish in the herring fishery and adjust days-at-sea allocations
- Consideration of initial action on a framework adjustment to reduce potential bycatch of haddock in all fisheries --- a possible outcome of the Georges Bank haddock "baby boom"

12:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30 Groundfish Committee Report - *continued*

Thursday, November 18, 2004

8:30 a.m. Herring Committee Report (Lew Flagg)

Approval of proposed management alternatives ("packages" of measures) for Amendment 1 to the Herring FMP for further analysis in the accompanying Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement; actions may include provisions to establish a limited access program for some or all of the herring fishery, effort control measures, changes to the start of the herring fishing year, and measures to establish a purse seine/fixed gear-only area in some or all of the inshore Gulf of Maine

12:15 p.m. Lunch

1:15 Herring Committee Report - *continued*

3:15 Action on Dogfish Specifications (Dana Rice)

Review and approval of New England Council recommendations for spiny dogfish fishery specifications for the 2005-2006 fishing year

4:15 Other Business (Frank Blount)

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: 10/27/04