

New England Fishery Management Council
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**Council Meeting Agenda
November 15-17, 2005
Four Points by Sheraton Hyannis
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Tuesday, November 15, 2005

- 8:30 a.m. Introductions and Announcements** (Chairman Frank Blount)
- 8:35 Reports** - 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 (Note: the Executive Director will provide an overview of the Red Crab annual Report during this agenda item)
- 10:00 Magnuson Stevens Reauthorization Committee Report** (Frank Blount)
Report on and approval of additional NEFMC positions on bills to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch**
- 1:00 Groundfish Oversight Committee Report** (Rip Cunningham)
Continued development of management measures for Framework Adjustment 42 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan; the Council will refine development of alternatives to meet Amendment 13 mortality objectives based on committee advice; measures for both commercial and recreational fishermen may be discussed, including, among other measures, modifications to days-at-sea, gear, and possession limits for commercial vessels and modifications to bag limits, seasons, and closed areas for recreational vessels; final approval of Framework 42 measures will not be made until the January 2006 meeting

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

- 8:30 a.m. Dogfish/Monkfish Action** (Frank Blount)
Council discussion and action on a request to NMFS asking for reassignment of FMP responsibilities for dogfish and monkfish
- 9:00 Joint Spiny Dogfish Committee Report** (Dana Rice)
Consideration and approval of New England Council recommendations for spiny dogfish fishery specifications for the 2006-2007 fishing year and consideration of multi-year specifications (2006-2008); specifications will likely include overall total allowable catch (TAC) levels and trip limits for spiny dogfish
- 10:00 Herring Committee Report** (David Pierce)
Approval of final management alternative and independent management measures for inclusion in Amendment 1 to the Herring Fishery Management Plan following a review of public and Advisory Panel comments, and Herring Committee recommendations; final management alternatives may include a limited access program for the herring fishery and a seasonal purse seine/fixed gear-only area in the inshore Gulf of Maine (GOM); independent measures may include a proxy for maximum sustainable yield, adjustments to the herring fishery specification process, adjustments to herring management area boundaries, establishment of bycatch caps for groundfish stocks of concern, measures to address bycatch monitoring and reporting, changes to the regulatory definition of midwater trawl gear and other measures
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch**
- 1:00 Herring Committee Report** – *continued until meeting adjournment at the end of the day*

*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.*

Thursday, November 17, 2005

- 8:30 a.m. Habitat Committee Report** (Sally McGee)
Review of Essential Fish Habitat Omnibus Amendment topics including a summary of the deliberations of the Habitat Committee and its Advisory Panel
- 9:00 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 Council meeting agenda
- 9:15 Scallop Committee Report** (Tom Hill)
Final approval of Framework Adjustment 18 to the Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan; alternatives include area rotation measures, specifications for trip and DAS allocations in 2006 and 2007, a procedure to adjust the Elephant Trunk Area in 2007 and open area allocations based on surveys of scallop biomass, an increase in the crew limits for controlled access area trips, a new bycatch data collection and monitoring program, changes in controlled access area trip exchanges, the broken trip limit exemption program and research set-aside program
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch**
- 1:00 Scallop Committee Report - *continued***
- 2:00 Council Management Priorities** (Executive Director Paul Howard)
Consideration and approval of management actions for 2006
- 3:30 Other Business** (Frank Blount)
- 4:00 Adjourn**

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: 10/25/05