

New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950
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Council Meeting Agenda | November 14-16, 2006

*** REVISED ***
Tavern on the Harbor
30 Western Avenue
Gloucester, MA

*Please note... the Council meeting will convene at 11 a.m.
following the Habitat Committee Meeting*

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

9:00 a.m. Habitat/MPA Committee Meeting 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. at the Tavern on the Harbor

11:00 Introductions and Announcements (John Pappalardo)

11:05 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, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Northeast Multispecies Capacity Reduction Committee

12:30 p.m. Lunch Break

1:30 Habitat/MPA Committee Report (Sally McGee)
Review and possibly approve an additional habitat area of particular concern alternative for inclusion in the Essential Fish Habitat Omnibus Amendment

2:00 Presentation (Dr. Mike Fogarty, NEFSC)
"Moving Towards Ecosystem-Based Management: Next Steps"

3:00 Presentation (Chad Demarest)
Final Report on the NEFMC's Ecosystem Pilot Project

4:00 Council Management Priorities (NEFMC Executive Director Paul Howard)
Consideration and approval of management actions for 2007

Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) Public Hearing from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The New England Fishery Management Council will convene a public hearing to seek public comment on a draft amendment to all the Northeast Region fishery management plans (FMPs). This omnibus amendment would establish a standardized bycatch reporting methodology (SBRM) for each FMP as required under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The purpose of the amendment is to explain the methods and processes by which bycatch is currently monitored and assessed to determine whether they should be modified and/or supplemented, and to establish standards of precision for bycatch estimation. Copies of the draft SBRM amendment and the public hearing document may be obtained by contacting the NMFS Northeast Regional Office, Patricia Kurkul, Regional Administrator, NOAA Fisheries Service, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930; phone (978) 281-9300 or via the internet at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/regs/com.html>

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

8:30 a.m. Monkfish Committee Report (John Pappalardo)

- Final approval of Framework 4 to the Monkfish FMP; the action includes alternatives for target total allowable catches (TACs) and associated trip limits as well as days-at-sea alternatives in both monkfish management areas for the final three years of the monkfish rebuilding program; other measures include eliminating the directed fishery; backstop provisions to ensure that management measures achieve the target TACs on an ongoing basis; modification or elimination of the days-at-sea carryover provision; and a change to the boundary of the North Carolina/Virginia area monkfish fishery
- Review and possible approval of Monkfish Committee recommendations on monkfish incidental catch limits in the scallop closed area access program

12:30 p.m. Lunch Break

- 1:30 Open Period for Public Comments**
- 1:45 Presentation** (Drew Kitts, NEFSC)
Briefing on a survey to be distributed to fisheries permit holders concerning vessel costs
- 2:00 Scallop Committee Report** (Rip Cunningham)
- Presentation on the updated estimate of exploitable scallop biomass in the Elephant Trunk Area
 - Consideration of an action to allow industry funded observers in the scallop fishery
 - Consideration of an action that would address scallop management measures for fishing years 2008 and 2009
- 4:30 PDT Report on Atlantic Herring Research Priorities** (David Pierce)
Approval of a Herring Plan Development Team report recommending herring research priorities to be used in conjunction with the research set-asides that will apply to the 2008 and 2009 fishing years

Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan Meeting from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northeast Region Protected Resources Division staff is conducting a series of outreach and education meetings related to the Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan (HPTRP). They will take place at various times and locations from October through January, and are designed to provide information to commercial gillnetters who are affected by the HPTRP. The hearing is open to all interested parties, including the general public. More information about these outreach meetings, as well as a permit holder letter, can be found by looking under "What's New" on the HPTRP web site at http://www.nero.noaa.gov/prot_res/porptrp

Thursday, November 16, 2006

- 8:30 a.m. Research Steering Committee Report** (David Goethel)
Briefing on final cooperative reports reviewed recently by the committee and other research related business including the future use of study fleets and industry-based surveys, directions for cod research and advice concerning the Northeast Region's Guidelines for Exempted Fishing Permits
- 9:30 Small Mesh Multispecies (Whiting) Committee Report** (David Goethel)
Approval of measures to be used in the development of alternatives that will be considered in the new Small Mesh Multispecies amendment; among other issues, measures will focus on limited entry, hard TACs, protection for juvenile whiting and dedicated access privileges
- 11:00 Presentation** (Loretta O'Brien, NEFSC)
"Observed Changes in Growth Rates and Weights at Age for a Number of Groundfish Species"
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:00 Groundfish Committee Report** (Rip Cunningham)
Report on the recent groundfish workshop and approval of standards and principles that must be met by any management system that may be considered in the 2009 adjustment to the Northeast Multispecies FMP
- 3:00 Transboundary Management Guidance Committee Report** (George Lapointe)
Review and approval of revised recommendations for fishing year 2007 Total Allowable Catches for Eastern Georges Bank cod and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder caught in the U.S./Canada area
- 4:00 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 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: 10/24/06