

New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950
Tel (978) 465-0492 | Fax (978) 465-3116

Council Meeting Agenda | September 13-15, 2005
Providence Biltmore, 11 Dorrance Street
Providence, RI 02903
Telephone (401) 421-0700 | Fax (401) 455-3050

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

- 8:30 a.m. Introductions and Announcements** (Chairman Frank Blount)
- 8:35 Election of 2005-2006 Officers** - Approval of a revised Council policy concerning Council elections followed by the selection of new officers
- 9:30 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)**
- 11:00 HMS Presentation** (NOAA Fisheries Service staff)
Review of a proposed rule and DEIS that will address issues related to the management of Atlantic tunas, swordfish, shark, and billfish fisheries; these include reviewing data for the five-year review of essential fish habitat; reviewing current time/area closures and the need for modifications; preventing overfishing of fine tooth sharks and albacore tuna; adjusting bluefin tuna effort controls and quota allocations to improve management; and strengthening measures to reduce billfish mortality across all highly migratory species fisheries
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch**
- 1:00 Magnuson-Stevens Committee Report** (Tom Hill)
Report on and approval of recommended positions concerning reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and approval of comments on the proposed National Standard 1 Guidelines
- 2:30 Habitat/MPA/Ecosystems Committee** (Sally McGee)
 - Update on the efforts of the NMFS Habitat Evaluation Review Committee and the Northeast Fisheries Science Center on Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) designation methods and tools for potential use in the EFH Omnibus Amendment under development
 - Review and approval of a Council policy on Marine Protected Areas
 - Update on the committee's progress to develop and recommend alternatives for Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC) in the EFH Omnibus Amendment
 - Presentation on jurisdictional issues related to wind farm, LNG and aquaculture projects in the Northeast; update on the Council's ecosystem project

Wednesday, September 14, 2005

- 8:30 a.m. Data Quality Act Presentation** (NOAA Fisheries Service staff)
Background information on the requirements of the Act and how they affect Council activities
- 9:30 Open Period for Public Comments**
Opportunity for brief comments from the public on items relevant to Council business but not otherwise listed on the Council meeting agenda
- 9:45 Scallop Committee Report** (Tom Hill)
Final approval of Framework Adjustment 18 to the Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP); alternatives include area rotation measures, specifications for trip and DAS allocations in 2006 and 2007, a streamlined procedure to adjust the Elephant Trunk Area and open area allocations in 2007, measures for the general category scallop fishery, an increase in the crew limits for controlled access area trips, and a new bycatch data collection and monitoring program; also included are changes in controlled access area trip exchanges, the broken trip limit exemption program and the research set-aside program **(Note: General category issues will be addressed by the Council in the morning)**

*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.*

12:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30 Scallop Committee Report - continued

Thursday, September 15, 2005

8:30 a.m. Stock Assessment Public Review Workshop (Dr. Jim Weinberg, NEFSC)
Presentation of the assessment summary from the 41st Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop; the status of summer flounder, bluefish and tilefish will be reviewed

9:15 Video Monitoring Experiment Report (Dale McCullough, Archipelago Marine Research Ltd.)
Presentation on the Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association pilot study to supplement and complement observer activities on fishing vessels

9:45 Party and Charter Boat Control Date (David Pierce)
Consideration of establishing a control date for party and charter boats in the multispecies fishery as recommended by the Recreational Fishing Advisory Panel

10:30 Groundfish Committee Report (David Pierce)
Report on updated groundfish stock assessments (NEFSC staff); approval of committee recommendations for Framework Adjustment 42 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP including those related to:
➤ The Category B (regular) days-at-sea pilot program and modifications
➤ A formal rebuilding program for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder and associated management measures
➤ A standardized bycatch reporting methodology
➤ Rolling closures

12:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30 Groundfish Committee Report - continued

4:00 Transboundary Management Guidance Committee Report (George Lapointe)
Review and possible approval of recommendations for the 2006 Total Allowable Catches for cod, haddock and yellowtail flounder in accordance with the U.S./Canada Resource Sharing Understanding

4:45 Herring Specifications (David Pierce)
Consideration and approval of retaining the 2005 herring fishery specifications through the 2006 fishing year

5:30 Other Business (Chairman 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: 8/23/05