

New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda
Tuesday – Thursday, April 16-18, 2024
Hilton Mystic, 20 Coogan Boulevard, Mystic, CT 06355
tel: (860) 572-0731 | [Hilton Mystic](#)
[Webinar Registration Option](#)

Sending comments? Written comments must be received at the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) office no later than 8:00 a.m., Thursday, April 11, 2024 to be considered at this meeting. Please address comments to Council Chair Eric Reid or Executive Director Cate O’Keefe at: NEFMC, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950. Email submissions should be sent to comments@nefmc.org. ** Written comments must address items listed on the agenda for this meeting or issues that will be brought up under the open period for public comment.

IMPORTANT: *The Council will hold its April 2024 meeting at the Hilton Mystic in Mystic, Connecticut. This will be a hybrid meeting with in-person participation, coupled with a webinar option for individuals who cannot or prefer not to attend in person. Updates will be posted on the [Council’s April 2024 meeting webpage](#).*

PUBLIC COMMENTS: *The Council’s “Guidelines for Providing Public Comments” can be found [here](#). Anyone interested in speaking during the open period for public comment on Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. should fill out the sign-up sheet on the table at the entrance to the Council meeting room. To speak remotely, email Janice Plante at jplante@nefmc.org to get on the list.*

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

10:00 a.m. Introductions and Announcements (Council Chair Eric Reid)

10:05 Reports on Recent Activities

Council Chair, Council Executive Director, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) Regional Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) General Counsel, Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC), Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC), Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA Enforcement, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

11:30 Preventing Harassment in the Fishery Management Council Process (Council Chair Eric Reid)

11:45 Enforcement Committee Report (Pat Keliher)

Summary of Enforcement Committee guidance on: (1) use of vessel monitoring systems (VMS) in enforcement and scallop VMS reporting rates; (2) evolving on-demand fishing gear programs; and (3) enforceability of closed area polygon boundaries

12:30 p.m. Lunch Break

1:45 Scallop Committee Report (Melanie Griffin)

Overview of 2024 scallop priorities and update on work plans

2:15 Northern Edge (Council Chair Eric Reid)

Council discussion on analysis of concept areas for potential scallop fishery access to habitat closure area; Council action or direction on preparation of management alternatives

5:30 Council Adjourns

6:00 Council Public Outreach (Hilton Mystic – restaurant/lobby area)

Informational exchange to foster open lines of communication among Council members, staff, industry, and meeting attendees; all are welcome; light snacks provided

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

9:00 a.m. Applying State Space Models Research Track Peer Review (Kristan Blackhart, NEFSC)

Presentation on peer review of comprehensive evaluation of work conducted by the Applied State Space Models Working Group

- 10:00 Risk Policy Working Group Report** (Megan Ware)
Review proposed Risk Policy revisions; Council discussion
- 12:00 p.m. Habitat Committee Report Part 1** (Council Chair Eric Reid, SSC Vice Chair Conor McManus)
Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Review: consider Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) subpanel input on EFH review; provide Habitat Plan Development Team updates on EFH review components
- 12:30 Lunch Break**
- 1:45 Habitat Committee Report Part 2** (Council Chair Eric Reid)
Offshore Wind Developers Roundup: short updates from offshore wind developers about project status, surveys, fisheries mitigation, and other topics; EFH Climate Resilience Workshop: report on outcomes; additional staff habitat updates
- 3:00 Monkfish Committee Report** (Matt Gates)
Framework 15: final action on joint New England/Mid-Atlantic Council framework to reduce monkfish and spiny dogfish large-mesh gillnet fishery interactions with Atlantic sturgeon
- 4:30 Atlantic Herring Report** (Cheri Patterson)
Amendment 10: progress report on action to (1) minimize user conflicts; (2) contribute to optimum yield; (3) support rebuilding of Atlantic herring; and (4) enhance river herring and shad avoidance and catch reduction
- 5:15 Council Adjourns**
- 6:00 Atlantic Herring Amendment 10 Scoping Meeting** (Cheri Patterson)
Public scoping meeting on Amendment 10 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan

Thursday, April 18, 2024

- 9:00 a.m. Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel (NTAP)** (Dan Salerno)
Receive overview of NTAP's Bigelow Contingency Plan Working Group meeting and continued discussions on the Industry-Based Survey Pilot Project and other *NOAA Ship Henry B. Bigelow* contingency options
- 10:00 Open Period for Public Comment**
Opportunity for the public to provide brief comments on issues relevant to Council business but not listed on this agenda (please limit remarks to 3-5 minutes)
- 10:15 Groundfish Committee Report** (Rick Bellavance; SSC Subpanel Chair Dr. Jason McNamee)
Scientific and Statistical Committee subpanel report on Atlantic cod stock structure management strategy evaluation (MSE) review; Atlantic Cod Management Transition Plan: (1) update on public workshops and proposed phases of work on transition planning, and (2) Council discussion on incorporating four biological stock units of Atlantic cod into the groundfish plan; Other 2024 Groundfish Priorities: update on work to review flatfish sub-annual catch limits (sub-ACLs) and accountability measures
- 12:15 p.m. Other Business**

Times listed next to the agenda items are estimates and are subject to change.

This meeting is being held in person and by webinar. Council member financial disclosure forms are available for examination on the Council website.

Although other non-emergency issues not contained on this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject 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 actions are available for review prior to a final vote by the Council.

Please check the Council's website, www.nefmc.org, or call (978) 465-0492 for copies.

This meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 USC 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.