

**New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda**  
**Tuesday – Thursday, January 30-February 1, 2024**  
**The Venue at Portwalk Place, 22 Portwalk Place, Portsmouth, NH 03801**  
**tel: (603) 422-6114 | [The Venue at Portwalk Place](#)**  
**[Webinar Registration Option](#)**

**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 Tuesday, January 30, 2023 at 1:45 p.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](mailto:jplante@nefmc.org) to get on the list.*

**Tuesday, January 30, 2024**

- 9:00 a.m. Closed Session** (Council Chair Eric Reid)  
Council discussion on Scientific and Statistical Committee appointments
- 9:30 Introductions and Announcements** (Council Chair Eric Reid)
- 9:35 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, and ICCAT Advisory Committee
- 10:45 Risk Policy Working Group Report** (Megan Ware)  
Progress report on addressing Terms of Reference 1 and 2 to revise the Council’s Risk Policy
- 12:00 p.m. Aquaculture** (Kevin Madley, GARFO; Chris Schillaci, NCCOS)  
GARFO and NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science update on revised siting for Blue Water Fisheries offshore aquaculture project
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:45 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)
- 2:00 Herring Committee Report** (Cheri Patterson)  
Amendment 10: update on action to minimize user conflicts in the Atlantic herring fishery; review draft scoping document and scoping meeting schedule
- 4:00 Congressional Update** (Dave Whaley)  
Update on legislative activities; Council questions
- 5:00 Council Adjourns**
- 6:00 Council Public Outreach** (AC Hotel, Lobby Level, 299 Vaughn Street, 4-minute walk from the Council meeting room at The Venue at Portwalk Place)  
Informational exchange to foster open lines of communication among Council members, staff, industry, and meeting attendees; all are welcome; light snacks provided

**Wednesday, January 31, 2024**

- 9:00 a.m. Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology** (Staff)

Presentation on three-year review of the Northeast Region's Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology

- 9:45 NEFSC Fishery Monitoring and Research Division** (Katherine "KB" McArdle and Dr. Anna Mercer, NEFSC)  
Report on Northeast Fishery Monitoring and Research Division activities, including: (1) status of ongoing responsibilities; (2) at-sea monitoring and observer program activities; and (3) cooperative research updates
- 11:45 Industry-Based Surveys** (Dr. Kathryn Ford, NEFSC)  
Overview of Northeast Fisheries Science Center white paper outlining potential plans for industry-based surveys to complement federal spring and fall bottom trawl surveys on the *Henry B. Bigelow*; Council input on research priorities for consideration in future industry-based survey
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:45 Marine Recreational Information Program Fishing Effort Survey** (Dr. Katherine Papacostas, NOAA Fisheries)  
NOAA Fisheries presentation on Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP); update on status of Fishing Effort Survey (FES)
- 2:45 Groundfish Committee Report** (Rick Bellavance)  
Recreational Measures: provide recommendations to GARFO on fishing year 2024 recreational measures for Georges Bank cod, Gulf of Maine cod, and Gulf of Maine haddock; Atlantic Cod Management Transition Plan: update; Metrics for Amendment 23 Monitoring System Review: progress report; 2024 Groundfish Priorities: update on workplan for year ahead
- 4:45 Whiting Report** (Rick Bellavance)  
Revisit fishing year 2024-2026 specifications approved in December 2023 for small-mesh multispecies (whiting) fishery to address southern red hake rebuilding

**Thursday, February 1, 2024**

- 9:00 a.m. Spiny Dogfish Committee** (Nichola Meserve, NEFMC committee co-chair; Jason Didden, MAFMC staff)  
Review, discuss, and approve fishing year 2024-2026 spiny dogfish specifications
- 10:00 Monkfish Report** (Matt Gates)  
Framework 15: progress report on joint New England/Mid-Atlantic Council action to reduce monkfish/dogfish large-mesh gillnet fishery interactions with Atlantic sturgeon
- 11:30 On-Demand Fishing Gear Conflict Working Group** (Mike Pierdinock)  
Update on working group activities to prevent or reduce potential gear conflicts between mobile, fixed, and recreational gear and on-demand or ropeless fishing gear
- 12:00 p.m. Black Sea Bass Research Track Stock Assessment** (Dr. Larry Alade, NEFSC)  
Presentation on peer-reviewed 2023 Black Sea Bass Research Track Stock Assessment
- 12:30 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](http://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.**



# SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston SC 29405  
Call: (843) 571-4366 | Toll-Free: (866) SAFMC-10 | Fax: (843) 769-4520 | Connect: www.safmc.net

Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Chair | Trish Murphey, Vice Chair  
John Carmichael, Executive Director

## Draft Agenda

Villas by the Sea Resort  
1175 N. Beachview Drive  
Jekyll Island, GA 31527

March 4-8, 2024

Except for advertised (scheduled) public hearings and public comment sessions, the times indicated on the agenda may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the completion of agenda items. Interested parties should be aware that meetings may start earlier or later than indicated.

### Hybrid Public Comment Session:

The public comment session for the meeting (March 6, 2024, at 4 PM), will allow for both in-person and remote (via webinar) verbal public comment. Individuals intending to provide verbal public comment remotely are asked to sign-up at the following link: [\[LINK\]](#). Members of the public intending to provide verbal public comment in-person will be asked to sign-in at the meeting.

### Written Comments:

To submit written comment on items on this agenda, visit the online public comment form: [\[LINK\]](#). Written comments will be accepted from February 16 to March 8, 2024. These comments are accessible to the public, part of the Administrative Record of the meeting, and immediately available for Council consideration. View submitted written comments at: [\[LINK\]](#)

Written comments submitted by mail/fax received by close of business the Monday before the meeting (February, 25 2024) will be compiled, posted to the website as part of the meeting materials, and included in the administrative record.

From February 26 to 5 PM on March 8, written comments must be submitted electronically through the online public comment form at the link above.

**Monday, March 4, 2024**

**COUNCIL SESSION**

### **COUNCIL SESSION I / Belcher 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm**

- Approve agenda
  - Approve minutes (December 2023)
1. Reports:
    - a. NOAA Office of Law Enforcement
    - b. US Coast Guard
    - c. Council liaisons
    - d. State agencies
  2. Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Projects Update – John Carmichael

3. NMFS Presentation on Equity and Environmental Justice – TBD, NMFS HQ
4. Best Fishing Practices Update
  - a. Master Volunteer Program
  - b. ‘What It Means to Me’ Project
5. Stakeholder engagement meetings update
6. Law Enforcement Advisory Panel (AP) Recommendations on items not on the agenda – Capt. Scott Pearce, Chair

**Tuesday, March 5, 2024**

**COUNCIL SESSION**

**COUNCIL SESSION I/Belcher 8:30 am – 12:00 noon**

7. Potential Modifications to the Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER) Program
  - a. Law Enforcement AP Recommendations – Capt. Scott Pearce
  - b. SEFHIER program update – NMFS SERO
  - c. Charter Vessel Reporting Compliance in South Carolina – Amy Dukes, SCDNR
  - d. Southeast Region Headboat Survey Reporting Compliance – TBD, SEFSC
8. Consideration of Limited-Entry in South Atlantic For-Hire Fisheries
  - a. Overview of available information and preliminary data

**12:00 noon to 1:30 pm**

**Lunch**

**Tuesday, March 5, 2024**

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**Mackerel Cobia Committee/Roller 8:30 am – 10:00 am**

- Approve agenda
  - Approve minutes (December 2023)
1. Law Enforcement Advisory Panel (AP) Recommendations – Capt. Scott Pearce
  2. Mackerel Port meetings
    - a. Approve plan for 2024 meetings

**SEDAR Committee/Belcher 10:00 am – 12:00 noon (CLOSED)**

- Approve agenda

- Approve minutes (December 2023)

1. System Management Plan Workgroup and SEDAR appointments

**12:00 noon to 1:30 pm**

**Lunch**

**Snapper Grouper Committee/McCawley 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm**

- Approve agenda
  - Approve minutes (December 2023)
  - Briefing on exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications – NMFS SERO
  - Presentation on projections for 2024 recreational seasons for red snapper and gag – NMFS SERO
1. Wreckfish (Amendment 48)
    - a. Wreckfish Sub-Committee report
    - b. Approve for public hearings
  2. Gag and Black Grouper Vessel Limit and On-Demand Gear for Black Sea Bass (Regulatory Amendment 36)
    - a. Law Enforcement AP Recommendations – Capt. Scott Pearce
    - b. Review scoping comments
  3. Black Sea Bass (Amendment 56)
    - a. Assessment presentation – TBD, SEFSC
    - b. Scientific and Statistical Committee Recommendations – Dr. Jeff Buckel, Chair

**Wednesday, March 6, 2024**

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**Snapper Grouper Committee/McCawley 8:30 am – 12:00 noon**

4. Private Recreational Permit and Education Requirement (Amendment 46)
  - a. Law Enforcement AP Recommendations – Capt. Scott Pearce
  - b. Consider modifications to actions
5. Scamp/Yellowmouth Grouper (Amendment 55)
  - a. Review preliminary analyses

**12:00 noon to 1:30 pm**

**Lunch**

**Snapper Grouper Committee/McCawley 1:30 pm – 3:45 pm**

6. Red Snapper (Regulatory Amendment 35)
  - a. Consider modifications, additional actions

**Wednesday, March 6, 2024**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**4:00 pm**

**Public comment will be accepted from individuals attending the meeting (in-person and remotely) regarding any of the items on the Council agenda. The Council Chair, based on the number of individuals wishing to comment, will determine the amount of time provided to each commenter. Those intending to provide verbal public comment via webinar can sign-up here: [\[LINK\]](#)**

- Exempted Fishing Permit(s) (if any)

**Thursday, March 7, 2024**

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**Snapper Grouper Committee/McCawley 8:30 am – 12:00 noon**

7. Management Strategy Evaluation Update – Blue Matter Science
  - a. SSC Recommendations – Dr. Jeff Buckel
8. Overview of Commercial Permits
9. Agenda topics for March 2024 Advisory Panel Meeting

**12:00 noon to 1:30 pm**

**Lunch**

**Thursday, March 7, 2024**

**COUNCIL SESSION**

**COUNCIL SESSION II/Belcher 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm**

- Litigation Brief (if needed)
1. Staff Report
  2. Agency reports
    - a. NMFS Southeast Regional Office Report – NMFS SERO
    - b. NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center Report – NMFS SEFSC
  3. Council workplan
  4. Upcoming meetings

**Friday, March 8, 2024**

**COUNCIL SESSION**

**COUNCIL SESSION II/Belcher 8:30 am – 12:00 noon**

- Committee reports

Other business

Adjourn