

New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda
Tuesday - Thursday, April 17-19, 2018
Hilton Hotel, 20 Coogan Boulevard, Mystic, CT 06355
tel: (860) 572-0731 | [Hilton Mystic](http://HiltonMystic.com)

Sending comments? Written comments must be received at the NEFMC office no later than 5 p.m., Wednesday, April 11, 2018 to be considered at this meeting. Please address comments to Council Chairman Dr. John Quinn or Executive Director Tom Nies at: NEFMC, 50 Water St., Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950. Email submissions should be sent to comments@nefmc.org.

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

- 9:00 a.m. Introductions and Announcements** (Chairman Dr. John Quinn)
- 9:05 Reports on Recent Activities**
Council Chairman, 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, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA Enforcement, Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel
- 10:30 Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)** (Brian Hooker, BOEM)
Introduction to BOEM open house in neighboring room to collect comments and answer questions on offshore wind leasing activities
- 10:45 Habitat Report** (Doug Grout)
Offshore energy: update on ongoing activities in the Northeast; Clam Dredge Framework: progress report on action to consider surfclam dredge fishery access to Great South Channel Habitat Management Area, discuss whether to consider a mussel dredge exemption in the framework
- 11:45 Skate Committee Report** (Dr. Matt McKenzie)
Framework Adjustment 6: possible final action on alternatives for prolonging the skate wing fishery
- 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 Scallop Committee Report** (Vincent Balzano)
Committee progress report on 2018 priorities, including adjustments to General Category Individual Fishing Quota trip limits and monitoring/catch accounting provisions, as well as possible adjustments to priorities to allow consideration of standard default measures in Framework Adjustment 30
- 3:00 Council Program Review** (Review Panel Chairman Dan Hull, North Pacific Fishery Management Council)
Summary of independent review to assess Council operations, performance, and areas for improvement

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

- 8:30 a.m. Draft Procedural Directive for Electronic Monitoring (EM) Cost Allocation** (Brett Alger, NOAA Fisheries)
Discuss National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) draft policy directive for allocating costs in EM programs
- 9:30 Groundfish Committee Report** (Terry Stockwell)
Monitoring Amendment 23: progress report on potential range of alternatives
- 11:30 Northeast Fishery Sector (NEFS) IX** (Liz Sullivan, GARFO)
Receive GARFO overview on: (a) Sector IX steps to address shortcomings; and (b) proposed Sector IX operations plan as submitted to GARFO; Council discussion: because of recent information received from the industry, NMFS's consultation with the Council on Sector IX likely will include: (a) discussion of the proposed Sector VII operations plan amendments that relate to Sector IX, (b) other sectors as they relate to Sector IX, and (c) effects on the sector system generally; the Council may provide recommendations to NMFS on any topics discussed

12:30 p.m. Lunch Break

1:45 Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Summit (Rick Bellavance, Mark Godfroy)
Report on March 28-29, 2018 meeting highlights

2:15 Best Scientific Information Available (BSIA) (Executive Director Tom Nies; SSC Chair Jason McNamee)
Overview of NOAA Fisheries draft document on use of "best scientific information available," followed by Scientific and Statistical Committee comments on report; Council discussion and recommendations on BSIA

3:15 Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team (Mike Asaro, GARFO; Terry Alexander)
Report on recent Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team meetings and upcoming activities

4:15 North Atlantic Shortfin Mako Sharks (Tobey Curtis, NOAA Fisheries)
Review NOAA Fisheries proposals to address overfishing and rebuild North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks

4:45 Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Advisory Panel (AP), ICCAT Advisory Committee Report (Rick Bellavance)
Overview of HMS AP meeting, including comments on proposed shortfin mako shark measures; report on International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Advisory Committee meeting

Thursday, April 19, 2018

8:30 a.m. Atlantic Herring Report (Peter Kendall)

Stocks in the Atlantic Herring Fishery White Paper: receive presentation on updated river herring/shad discussion document, possible Council action; discuss implications of river herring/shad bycatch accountability measures recently triggered in Atlantic mackerel and Atlantic herring fisheries

10:30 Industry-Funded Monitoring (IFM) (Libby Etrie; Carrie Nordeen, GARFO)

Omnibus IFM Amendment: receive final electronic monitoring project report from GARFO; discuss whether EM, coupled with portside sampling, is a sufficient alternative to at-sea monitoring in the Atlantic herring midwater trawl fishery; possible Council action

12:30 p.m. Lunch Break

1:30 Ecosystem Status Report (Sean Hardison, NEFSC)
Update on status of the Northeast Continental Shelf ecosystem

2:30 Regulatory Reform Initiative (Deputy Director Chris Kellogg)
Update on Council proposals to the National Marine Fisheries Service on regulatory reform mandated by Executive Orders 13777, 13771, and 13565

3:00 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 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.

New England Fishery Management Council

Three Meeting Outlook – April through September 2018

(Last updated March 26, 2018 and subject to change pending new information)

April 17-19, 2018 Mystic, CT	June 12-14, 2018 Portland, ME	September 25-27, 2018 Plymouth, MA
Atlantic Herring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stocks in the Atlantic Herring Fishery: review updated river herring/shad discussion document; possibly take related action Atlantic herring/mackerel: discuss implications of recently triggered accountability measures in both fisheries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendment 8: review public comments on acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rule and potential localized depletion/user conflict alternatives; take final action 2019-2021 Specifications: initiate action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2019-2021 Specifications: receive Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) overfishing limit (OFL) and ABC recommendations
Habitat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clam Dredge Framework: progress report on action to consider surfclam fishery access to Great South Channel Habitat Management Area, discuss mussel dredges Offshore Energy: update on activities and consultations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clam Dredge Framework: update on alternatives Offshore Energy: update on activities and consultations if needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clam Dredge Framework: final action Offshore Energy: update on activities and consultations if needed
Groundfish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring Amendment 23: progress report on potential range of alternatives Northeast Fishery Sector IX: GARFO overview on: (a) Sector IX steps to address shortcomings; and (b) proposed Sector IX operations plan as submitted to GARFO; Council discussion/consideration of recommendations to NMFS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Framework Adjustment 58: initiate action to include (1) 2019 total allowable catches (TACs) for US/Canada stocks of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder, (2) rebuilding plans for several stocks, and (3) other measures Monitoring Amendment 23: progress report Fishery Dependent Data Working Group: update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Framework Adjustment 58: (1) receive framework update; (2) receive TMGC's TAC recommendations for US/Canada stocks; (3) receive SSC's 2019-2020 Georges Bank yellowtail flounder OFL and ABC recommendations Monitoring Amendment 23: update
Sea Scallops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee progress report on 2018 priorities, including adjustments to General Category Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) trip limits and monitoring/catch accounting provisions plus possible modifications to 2018 priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program: approve 2019-2020 RSA priorities Framework Adjustment 30: initiate action, which includes 2019 fishery specifications, 2020 default specs, plus other measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Framework Adjustment 30: receive progress report, including overview of 2018 scallop surveys
	Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Georges Bank example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP): progress report on overfishing and rebuilding, fishery dependent data support, maximum retention implications, model hindcasting, and role of consumption of pre-recruits on system productivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Georges Bank eFEP: receive completed eFEP; receive initial overview of Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) planning to solicit stakeholder input on operating models, goals, objectives, performance metrics, tradeoffs, and optimal outcomes for an example Fishery Ecosystem Plan
	Small-Mesh Multispecies (Whiting) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendment 22: review public comments, take final action on limited access and related measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Monitoring Report: fishing year 2017 Initiate framework or amendment to rebuild southern red hake
Skates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Framework Adjustment 6: update, possible final action on alternatives for prolonging the skate wing fishery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Framework Adjustment 6: final action if delayed from April Northeast Skate Complex Amendment 5: progress report on development of limited access program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northeast Skate Complex Amendment 5: progress report Annual Monitoring Report: fishing year 2017
Observer Policy/Industry-Funded Monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Midwater Trawl EM Project Report: GARFO Omnibus IFM Amendment: discussion and potential decision on whether electronic monitoring (EM) and/or portside sampling provide the same level of monitoring as at-sea monitoring for the Atlantic herring midwater trawl fishery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy and strategic approach to monitoring commercial fisheries: committee update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy and strategic approach to monitoring commercial fisheries: committee update
Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Program Review: Review Panel findings Ecosystem Status Report: NEFSC presentation 2018 Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Summit: report on March 28-29 meeting Regulatory Reform: update on Council proposals Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team: update on recent meetings North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks: NMFS Highly Migratory Species (HMS) report HMS Advisory Panel/ICCAT Advisory Committee: report BOEM Offshore Energy: open house introduction Best Scientific Information Available – update NMFS Procedural Directive for EM Cost Allocation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM): report on three-year review Fishery Dependent Data Visioning Project: GARFO update Council Member Recusals: proposed rule discussion Council Program Review: follow-up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAW/SARC 65, Benchmark Assessments for Atlantic Herring and Atlantic Sea Scallops: Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) report Research Set-Aside Program Review: overview and possible action on RSA review panel report compiled by Council/GARFO/NEFSC



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Charlie Phillips, Chair | Captain Mark Brown, Vice Chair
 Gregg T. Waugh, Executive Director

REVISED* **MARCH 5-9, 2018 COUNCIL MEETING REPORT** **JEKYLL ISLAND, GEORGIA**

The following summary highlights the major issues discussed and actions taken at the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s March 2018 meeting in Jekyll Island, Georgia.

Briefing materials, presentations, and public comments are available on the Council’s website at: <http://safmc.net/safmc-meetings/council-meetings/>

Final Committee Reports contain more details of what was accomplished for each committee and are located on the March 2018 briefing book page. In addition, the Summary of Motions on the Council’s website includes all motions from the meeting. Read further details and see images and other links at the March 2018 Council Meeting Round-up Story Map:

<https://arcg.is/0H55O1>. The Meeting News Release is available at: <http://safmc.net/news-releases/03-09-18-safmc-news-release-council-delays-changes-to-atlantic-cobia-management-at-march-council-meeting/>

***Revised to correct timing on visioning amendments to show final approval in September not December.**

Issue:	Action Taken:	Schedule:
Red Snapper	<p>Amendment 43 is currently under review by NMFS. The amendment was sent to NMFS on November 20, 2017.</p> <p>The Council provided guidance on actions to include in Amendment 46:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private Recreational Permit • Private Recreational Electronic Reporting <p>The following items were split into a framework amendment to move faster:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require use of Best Fishing Practices (e.g., descending devices, venting, hook type) • Adjust Powerhead Prohibitions in the South Atlantic (allow in the EEZ off SC or prohibit use of powerheads in entire EEZ) 	<p>If approved, the recreational season would begin on July 13, 2018 (2nd Friday) and the commercial season on July 9, 2018. Recreational bag = 1 with no size limit. Commercial trip limit = 75 pounds gutted weight with no size limit.</p> <p>Review actions in Amendment 46 at the June 2018 meeting.</p> <p>Review actions at the June 2018 meeting. The Framework Amendment would move faster than Amendment 46 during 2018.</p>

Issue:	Action Taken:	Schedule:
Recreational Visioning Amendment	Regulatory Amendment 26: Provided guidance and revised Actions & Alternatives. Alternatives include options for modifications to bag limits, seasons for deep-water species and shallow-water groupers, and size limits for deep-water species and triggerfish that would help streamline the regulations for anglers, law enforcement, and managers. Approved for public hearings.	Public hearings in Spring. Review public comments, modify document, and approve all actions in June 2018. Review and approve for formal review in September 2018.
Commercial Visioning Amendment	Regulatory Amendment 27: Provided guidance and revised Actions & Alternatives for trip limits, size limits, split seasons, seasons, and other measures. Approved for public hearings.	Public hearings in Spring. Review public comments, modify document, and approve all actions in June 2018. Review and approve for formal review in September 2018.
For-Hire Moratorium Amendment	The Council provided guidance on what to include in the scoping document.	Review draft scoping document and consider approving for scoping at the June 2018 meeting.
Golden Tilefish	The Council provided guidance on alternatives to include in the amendment. The Council requested the SSC to revisit the ABC recommendation indicating the Council is willing to accept the risk of overfishing associated with an ABC of 362,000 pounds whole weight for 2019 and 2020. The Council's rationale is included in the Snapper Grouper Committee Report.	Conduct a public hearing at the June 2018 meeting. The Council will then review and approve the amendment for formal review with the intent to have regulations in place prior to January 1, 2019 when the season opens.
Red Grouper	The Council directed staff to begin an amendment to revise the rebuilding plan for red grouper.	Review the draft amendment in June 2018.
Yellowtail Snapper	The Council directed staff to work on an amendment to revise the accountability measures to remove in-season closures for either sector until the total ACL is met.	Review the draft amendment and provide guidance to staff in June 2018. The intent is to have changes in place for the 2019 season.
Modifications to Sea Turtle Release Gear	The Council directed staff to continue working on the framework amendment and conduct scoping.	Review scoping comments, provide guidance, and approve actions/alternatives in June 2018.

Issue:	Action Taken:	Schedule:
Mackerel Cobia	<p>State implementation plans, under the approved ASMFC Cobia Plan, are scheduled to become effective April 1, 2018.</p> <p>The Council revised the Actions and Alternatives in CMP Amendment 31 (Atlantic Cobia) and retained Alternative 2 as preferred: Remove Atlantic cobia from the CMP Fishery Management Plan. The Council directed staff to make the requested revisions, address the NOAA GC concerns, and bring the document back to the Council in June 2018 for final action.</p> <p>The Council selected Preferred Alternative 3 in the framework amendment to change the Atlantic king mackerel commercial trip limit.</p>	<p>State regulations effective April 1, 2018. The Council will help get the word out to the public.</p> <p>The Council will review the revised amendment and take final action at the June 2018 meeting.</p> <p>Council staff will work on this framework and bring it back at a future meeting.</p>
Spiny Lobster	The Council reviewed scoping comments and provided guidance on Actions & Alternatives to be analyzed in Spiny Lobster Amendment 13 (Modifications to Gear Requirements & Cooperative Management Procedure).	This is a joint Amendment with the Gulf Council. Review the amendment and approve for public hearings at the June 2018 meeting. Public hearings are expected in July with final approval by the Gulf in August and the South Atlantic in September.
Habitat and Ecosystem Based Management	The Council approved the Fishery Ecosystem Plan II, the FEP II Dashboard, the Implementation Plan, and the 2-Year Roadmap.	Prepare materials for posting to the Council's website and begin work on the items identified.
Citizen Science Program	The Council received recommendations from the five Action Teams busy developing the program.	The Council agreed that the recommendations were on track and that they would now be put into motion by the Action Teams for the scamp pilot project during 2018.
For-Hire Recreational Reporting	<p>The Council received an update on the amendment: the Notice of Availability of the Amendment and the Proposed Rule are under review in headquarters and are expected to publish soon.</p> <p>Council staff briefed the Council on the For-Hire Outreach efforts.</p>	<p>The proposed rule and notice of availability of the amendment are expected to publish in the federal register soon. The goal is to have regulations effective this summer.</p> <p>For-Hire reporting training and outreach will continue in 2018.</p>

Issue:	Action Taken:	Schedule:
SEDAR	<p>Dr. Cisco Werner, acting SEFSC Director, outlined approaches to get more assessments sooner. This includes a Research/Operational Assessment framework and providing interim analyses of assessed stocks.</p> <p>The Council provided the following guidance for the SEDAR Steering Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Requested red grouper as the first MRIP revision assessment. 2. Recommend the next king mackerel assessment be a standard assessment. 3. Requested the SEFSC provide guidance on stocks to consider for a 1st benchmark assessment in 2023 and 2024, considering the prioritization tool and the need for a wreckfish assessment. 	<p>The Council supported the efforts to get more stock assessments.</p> <p>The South Atlantic Council representatives will raise these issues at the next SEDAR Steering Committee meeting.</p>
ABC Control Rule	<p>Directed staff to work on an amendment to the Snapper Grouper, Dolphin Wahoo, Golden Crab, Sargassum, and Coral FMPs to make changes to the ABC control rule.</p> <p>Directed staff to work on an amendment to change the in-season closure for the recreational sector.</p>	<p>Review a revised options paper at the June 2018 meeting.</p> <p>Review an options paper at the June 2018 meeting.</p>