

**New England Fishery Management Council
Three Meeting Outlook – January through June 2018**

(Last updated January 23, 2018 and subject to change pending new information)

| January 30-31, 2018 Portsmouth, NH | April 17-19, 2018 Mystic, CT | June 12-14, 2018 Portland, ME |
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| | <p>Atlantic Herring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stocks in the Atlantic Herring Fishery: review updated river herring/shad discussion document; possibly take related action | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendment 8: review public comments on ABC control rule and potential localized depletion/user conflict alternatives; take final action |
| <p>Habitat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment: final action on measures for continental slope/canyons; review Omnibus Habitat Amendment 2 decision and how it relates to habitat priorities; review comments on offshore wind projects; discuss Draft National 2019- 2024 Outer Continental Shelf Gas and Leasing Program | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clam Dredge Framework: select range of alternatives for further analysis to consider surfclam fishery access to Council-developed Great South Channel and Georges Bank Shoal Habitat Areas | |
| <p>Groundfish</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational Measures: (1) provide recommendations to Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) on fishing year (FY) 2018 recreational measures for Gulf of Maine cod and haddock; (2) possibly consult with GARFO on Georges Bank cod recreational measures for FY 2018; and (3) consider recommending a new control date for the party/charter fishery Monitoring Amendment 23: progress report; discussion of potential monitoring workshop/working group SSC Report: OFL and ABC recommendations for halibut | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Framework 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 |
| | <p>Sea Scallops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee progress report on 2018 priorities, including adjustments to General Category IFQ trip limits | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program: approve 2019-2020 RSA priorities Framework 30: initiate action, which includes 2019 fishery specifications, 2020 default specs, plus other measures |

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| | <p>Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM)</p> <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 |
| | <p>Small-Mesh Multispecies (Whiting)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendment 22: final action on limited access and related measures: review public comment, select preferred alternatives, approve amendment for submission | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendment 22: final action if delayed from April |
| <p>Skates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Framework Adjustment 6: initiate action to consider adjustments to the skate wing possession limit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Framework Adjustment 6: update, possible final action Northeast Skate Complex Amendment 5: progress report on development of limited access program | |
| | <p>Observer Policy/Industry-Funded Monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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"> Committee update on development of policy and strategic approach to monitoring commercial fisheries |
| <p>Research Steering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee report | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee report |
| <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry-Funded Monitoring: GARFO/NEFSC update on Electronic Monitoring project; IFM service provider overview Implementing Electronic Monitoring Technology in New England's Groundfish Fisheries: report Council Program Review: progress report 2007-2015 Final Report on the Performance of the Northeast Multispecies Fishery: NEFSC presentation Closed Session: SSC 2018-2020 appointments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Program Review: External Review Panel findings Ecosystem Status Report: Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) presentation 2018 Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Summit: report on March 28-29 meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM): report on three-year review Research Set-Aside Program Review: overview and possible action on RSA review panel report compiled by Council/GARFO/NEFSC |



New England Fishery Management Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 2, 2017

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Council Undertakes Independent Review to Assess Past Performance and Solicit Suggestions for Improvement

The New England Fishery Management Council is launching an independent “program review” and is asking stakeholders who interact with the Council to participate in the undertaking.

“Like every organization, the Council can benefit from periodically reviewing how it does business,” said Council Chairman Dr. John Quinn, Director of Public Interest Law Programs at the University of Massachusetts School of Law. “That’s why we initiated an external review of our operations. We want to know three things: what we’re doing right; what we’re doing wrong; and how we can improve the way we serve the people who are involved in our fisheries and the public overall.”

Stakeholder input is being solicited through two primary avenues: (1) a short online survey; and (2) 14 port meetings from Maine to New Jersey, coupled with a webinar option for anyone who can’t attend an in-person meeting or who wants to contribute additional comments. The port meetings will be held on the following dates in easy-to-access locations:

- Monday, November 13, **Ellsworth, ME** – Ellsworth High School, 24 Lejok Street, 5 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 14, **South Portland, ME** – DoubleTree by Hilton, Monhegan Room, 363 Maine Mall Road, 8:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, November 14, **Rockport, ME** – Samoset Resort, 220 Warrenton Street, 5 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 15, **Portland, ME** – Casco Bay Ferry Terminal, Maine State Pier Commercial St., 5 p.m.
- Thursday, November 16, **Portsmouth, NH** – Best Western, 580 U.S. Highway 1 traffic circle, 5 p.m.
- Friday, November 17, **Narragansett, RI** – Superior Trawl, 55 State Street, 3 p.m.
- **Tuesday, November 28, Webinar** – Register at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2831172459089294081> or call in at +1 (213) 929-4212 and supply access code 839-533-461, 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 28, **Gloucester, MA** – Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries Annisquam River Station, 30 Emerson Ave., 5 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 29, **Scituate, MA** – Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Office, 175 Edward Foster Road, 5 p.m.
- Thursday, November 30, **New Bedford, MA** – UMass Dartmouth SMAST-East, Room 101, 836 South Rodney French Boulevard, 5 p.m.
- Friday, December 1, **Chatham, MA** – Chatham Community Center, 702 Main Street, 5 p.m.
- Saturday, December 2, **Plymouth, MA** – Hotel 1620 Plymouth Harbor Amphitheater, 180 Water Street, 3 p.m.
- Monday, December 4, **Stonington, CT** – La Grua Center, 32 Water Street, 5 p.m.
- Monday, January 8, **Montauk, NY** – Montauk Playhouse Community Center, 240 Edgemere Street, 5 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 9, **Cape May, NJ** – Rutgers University, 1636 Delaware Ave., 5 p.m.



New England Fishery Management Council

The online survey, which shouldn't take more than 15-to-20 minutes to complete, is designed to obtain feedback about Council communications and the ability to participate in the Council process. The survey is available at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NEFMC_Review_Stakeholder_Survey.

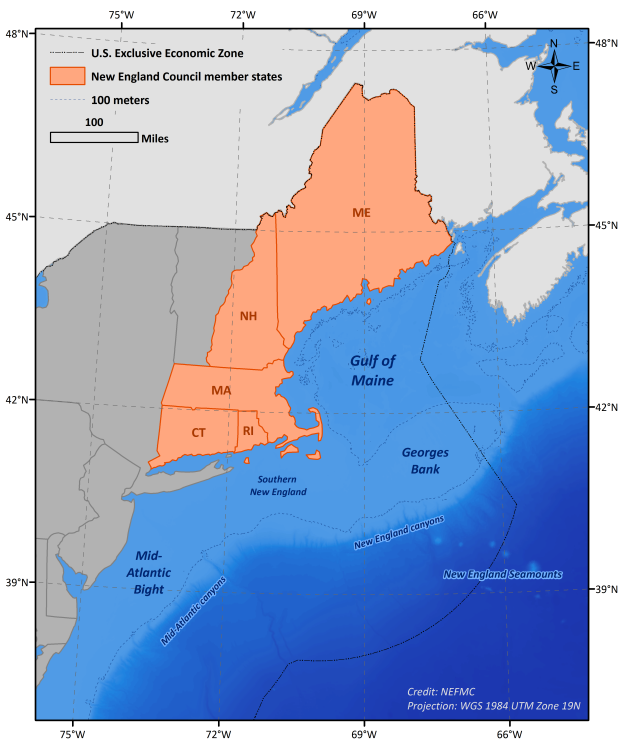
Council Chairman Quinn said, "I encourage everyone to take advantage of the two available options. Fill out the online survey *and* attend a port meeting. We need both forms of stakeholder input."

*Stakeholder input **will be confidential**. Specific statements, ideas, and perspectives will not be attributed to individuals. Comments and suggestions will be summarized based on themes, fishery, and/or geography as appropriate, and a report will be prepared for the review panel. The final report will be available to the public and posted on the Council's program review webpage at <https://www.nefmc.org/library/council-program-review>.*

WHO'S IN CHARGE OF THE EXTERNAL REVIEW

The Council Program Review will be conducted by an external panel of managers and scientists from other regions and/or international fisheries entities who have a strong understanding of U.S. federal fisheries management but no recent involvement or affiliation with the New England Council. The review panel will meet for one week in early 2018 to discuss Council operations and carry out the Terms of Reference for the review. The meeting will be open to the public.

The Council has enlisted the help of two contractors to support this review process as follows:



Fisheries Leadership & Sustainability Forum – The Fisheries Forum (<http://www.fisheriesforum.org>) will gather input from all stakeholders through the port meetings, webinar, and online survey and provide a summary to the review panel.

Tidal Bay Consulting – Tidal Bay (<https://www.tidalbayconsulting.com>) will compile background documents for the review panel, provide support for the review meeting itself, and prepare the panel's final report.

Additional materials related to this external review, including a Stakeholder Frequently Asked Questions document and the Terms of Reference for the external review panel, are available at: <https://www.nefmc.org/library/council-program-review>

The New England Fishery Management Council's members come from the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. The Council manages 29 species under nine Fishery Management Plans and addresses habitat/coral protection across all plans. The Council also is working on ecosystem-based fishery management.

Related News

- [Council Undertakes Independent Review to Assess Past Performance and Solicit Suggestions for Improvement](#)

The New England Fishery Management Council is undergoing an independent review to: (1) assess past performance; (2) gather feedback on strengths and weaknesses of the Council process and operations; and (3) identify potential areas for improvements.

Stakeholder input is critical to this review. The Council is encouraging commercial and recreational fishermen, industry leaders, fishery managers, members of non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders to participate in the effort.

REVIEW PANEL: The review will be conducted by an independent six-member panel of fishery managers and scientists from other regions. Each member has a strong understanding of U.S. federal fisheries management but no recent affiliation with the New England Council. Some also have international experience.

EXTERNAL REVIEW MEETING DATES AND LOCATION: The review panel will meet Tuesday, March 13 through Friday, March 16 to discuss Council operations and conduct its work. The meeting, which is open to the public, will be held at the [Hilton Garden Inn, Boston Logan Airport](#).

PANEL MEMBERS: Three fishery managers and three scientists have been selected to serve on the panel. They are:

- **Robert Beal, Executive Director, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission** – Mr. Beal brings a unique, Maine-to-Florida state-waters perspective to the table. He also is familiar with the operations of three different fishery management councils that are responsible for federal waters management of many of the same species ASMFC oversees in state waters.
- **Robert Gill, former member and Chair, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; current member, Gulf Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee** – In addition to his Gulf Council involvement, Mr. Gill has extensive business and marketing experience. Since 1986, he has co-owned and operated Shrimp Landing, a dockside wholesale/retail seafood business that ships fresh and frozen seafood throughout the U.S. and Canada.

- **Dan Hull, Chairman, North Pacific Fishery Management Council** – In addition to his fishery management responsibilities, Mr. Hull is an experienced Alaska longline halibut and sablefish fisherman. He owns the commercial fishing vessel *Gretchen S* through Hull Fisheries LLC.
- **Dr. Pamela Mace, Principal Adviser Fisheries Science, Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand** – Dr. Mace was Chief Scientist for the former New Zealand Ministry of Fisheries, which merged with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, resulting in her current title. She has extensive scientific experience involving Canadian, U.S., and New Zealand fisheries. Her work most recently has focused on precautionary approaches and harvest control rules, primarily for fishery management uses in the U.S. and New Zealand, and developing and implementing national standards for overfishing definitions and rebuilding plans in both countries, among other initiatives.
- **Dr. Bonnie McCay, Board of Governors Distinguished Service Professor, Rutgers University**– Dr. McCay, an anthropologist, works in the Department of Human Ecology within the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences at Rutgers. Her research and teaching have focused on challenges and policies for managing common pool resources such as fish and shellfish, with particular attention to intersections of ecology, community, and social institutions of science, law, and property.
- **Dr. Kenny Rose, France-Merrick Professor in Sustainable Ecosystem Restoration, Horn Point Laboratory, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science** – Dr. Rose’s research centers on using mathematical and computer simulation modeling to predict and better understand fish population and food web dynamics in estuaries, lakes, reservoirs, and oceans. He recently was presented with the American Fisheries Society’s Award of Excellence, which recognizes lifetime achievement.

STAKEHOLDER INPUT: The Council has enlisted the help of two contractors to support this process as follows:

- **Fisheries Leadership & Sustainability Forum** – The [Fisheries Forum](#) will gather input from fishery managers and stakeholders throughout the greater New England region via 14 port meetings, one webinar meeting, an online survey, and one-on-one interviews. The resulting feedback will be provided to the review panel.
- **Tidal Bay Consulting** – [Tidal Bay](#) will compile background documents for the review panel, provide support for the review meeting itself, and prepare the panel’s final report.

Stakeholder input **will be confidential**. Specific statements, ideas, and perspectives will not be attributed to individuals. The Fisheries Forum will summarize input based on themes, fishery, and/or geography as appropriate and prepare a report for the review panel. Once completed, this report will be available to the public and posted on this webpage.

ONLINE SURVEY: Stakeholder feedback about Council communications and the ability to participate in the Council process was solicited from November 2, 2017 through January 19, 2018 via a 15-to-20-minute online survey.

PRINTABLE SURVEY: A copy of the 10-page survey and accompanying cover letter can be viewed and downloaded [HERE](#).

PORT MEETINGS: The Fisheries Forum will hold informal port meetings from Maine to New Jersey where stakeholders will have an in-depth opportunity to provide insights, comments, and suggestions about the Council process. **IMPORTANT** – These meetings, as well as the online survey, are meant to focus on Council operations, *not* current management actions. The complete list of port meetings is available for downloading at [Council Program Review Port Meetings](#). Here are the individual dates, locations, and start times:

- Monday, November 13, **Ellsworth, ME** – Ellsworth High School, 24 Lejok Street, 5 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 14, **South Portland, ME** – DoubleTree by Hilton, Monhegan Room, 363 Maine Mall Road, 8:30 a.m.
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MATERIALS: Several additional documents related to the Council Program Review are available

- [Council Executive Director's Letter to Stakeholders](#)
- [Stakeholder Input Opportunities – Backgrounder and Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Terms of Reference](#)

QUESTIONS: Contact Fisheries Forum Co-Director Kim Gordon at (831) 641-7906, kim.gordon@duke.edu or Council Public Affairs Officer Janice Plante at (607) 592-4817, jplante@nefmc.org.



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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

DECEMBER 4-8, 2017 COUNCIL MEETING REVISED REPORT ATLANTIC BEACH, NORTH CAROLINA

The following summary highlights the major issues discussed and actions taken at the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s December 2017 meeting in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina.

Briefing materials, presentations, and public comments are available on the Council’s website at: <http://safmc.net/2017-december-council-meeting/>

Final Committee Reports contain more details of what was accomplished for each committee and are located on the December 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 December 2017 Council Meeting Round-up Story Map: <https://arcg.is/0X9XOq>. The Meeting News Release is available at: <http://safmc.net/news-releases/12-08-17-safmc-news-release-federal-fishery-managers-address-multiple-issues-at-december-meeting/>

| Issue: | Action Taken: | Schedule: |
|---------------|---|--|
| Red Snapper | Amendment 43 is currently under review by NMFS. The Council provided guidance on actions to include in Amendment 46: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private Recreational Permit • Private Recreational Electronic Reporting • 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) | If approved, the recreational season would begin on July 13, 2018 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. Review actions and approve for scoping at the March 2018 meeting. Scoping April/May and review comments at June 2018 meeting. Public hearings in fall and goal is to finalize at the December 2018 meeting. |

| 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. | Review analyses, select preferred alternatives, and approve for public hearings in June 2018. 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 the same timing as shown above for the Recreational Visioning Amendment. |
| For-Hire Moratorium Amendment | The Council discussed the Purpose and Need for the Amendment. | Staff will prepare a simplified version of the options paper for the March 2018 meeting. |
| Golden Tilefish | <p>The Council received an update from NMFS that the interim measures to reduce overfishing by setting the ACL for 2018 at the projected yield at 75%F_{MSY} (323,000 pounds gutted weight) is on schedule.</p> <p>The SSC reviewed the revised assessment runs at their October 2017 meeting and determined them to be unsuitable for management. Therefore, the ABC is unchanged and the ACL of 323,000 pounds gutted weight remains.</p> | <p>The goal is to implement the new ACL prior to the start of the 2018-fishing season.</p> <p>Staff will prepare a draft framework document for the March 2018 meeting to reduce the ACL to 302,000 pounds gutted weight or lower depending on revised projections and consider changes to the trip limits/other management measures. Intent is to finalize at June 2018 meeting.</p> |
| Red Grouper | The Council approved the expedited framework to reduce the red grouper ABC & ACL from 780,000 pounds whole weight to 139,000 pounds whole weight in 2018, increasing to 150,000 in 2019 and to 162,000 in 20120. The reductions are substantial given red grouper are overfished and undergoing overfishing. | The expedited framework will be sent to NMFS for formal review in December. The intent is to implement these measures ASAP in 2018. |

| Issue: | Action Taken: | Schedule: |
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| Mackerel Cobia | <p>The Council provided guidance on Actions & Alternatives in CMP Amendment 31 and selected Alternative 2 as preferred: Remove Atlantic cobia from the CMP Fishery Management Plan.</p> <p>The Council provided guidance on Actions & Alternatives in a framework amendment to change the Atlantic king mackerel commercial trip limit.</p> | <p>Public hearings will be held January 22-24, 2018. Public comments are requested on when final action on the amendment should be taken relative to the Cobia stock ID workshop (April 10-12th) and the benchmark assessment (during 2019 with completion at the end of 2019).</p> <p>The Council will review the revised framework and consider approving for scoping at the March 2018 meeting.</p> |
| Spiny Lobster | The Council provided guidance on Action & Alternatives in Spiny Lobster Amendment 13 (Modifications to Gear Requirements & Cooperative Management Procedure) and approved for scoping. | Scoping webinars will be held January 8-9, 2018. This is a joint Amendment with the Gulf Council. Draft timing: 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 provided guidance on the Draft FEP II Implementation Plan & Roadmap. | Prepare materials for final review and approval at the March 2018 Council meeting. |
| Citizen Science Program | The Council received an update from the five Action Teams busy developing the program. | Once final funding is available, the first Citizen Science project will begin in early 2018. Scientists and fishermen will work together to address discards of scamp grouper using a mobile application. |
| For-Hire Recreational Reporting | The Council received an update on the amendment: For-Hire Reporting Amendment is in the review process and a proposed rule is expected in early 2018. Council staff briefed the Council on the pilot project and For-Hire Outreach efforts. | The proposed rule and notice of availability of the amendment is expected in early 2018. The goal is to have regulations effective this summer. For-Hire Outreach training and outreach will continue in 2018. |
| Recreational Reporting Workshop | The Council held a recreational reporting workshop to learn about fishery efforts in the Gulf of Mexico and in NC for game species. The Council's own work on a pilot application was also presented. | The Council's pilot project (MYFishCount) will continue and the phone app should be available in 2018 for testing. The Council will continue discussions about private recreational reporting in Snapper Grouper Amendment 46. |

| Issue: | Action Taken: | Schedule: |
|---------------|---|---|
| SEDAR | The Council appointed panelists for SEDAR 59 (Greater Amberjack), SEDAR 60 (Red Porgy), and the Cobia Stock ID process. Bill Gorham (NC) and Ira Laks (FL) were appointed from the Advisory Panel to the Cobia Stock ID workshop. | The list of panelists and schedules are available on the SEDAR website. The Cobia Stock ID workshop will be held in Raleigh, NC from April 10-12, 2018 and the stock ID report will be distributed by May 18 th . The Cobia Stock ID Review Workshop will be held in Charleston, SC or Raleigh, NC from June 5-7, 2018 and the report will be distributed by July 11 th . A cobia stock ID cooperators technical review webinar will be held in late July/August. If needed, a stock ID management leadership call will be held in August. Final resolution of stock ID by August 31, 2018 at the latest. |