

New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda
Tuesday – Thursday, December 3-5, 2024
Hotel Viking, One Bellevue Avenue, Newport, RI 02840
tel: (844) 806-4895 | [Hotel Viking](#)
[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., Wednesday, November 27, 2024 to be considered at this meeting. Please address comments to Council Chair Rick Bellavance 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 December 2024 meeting at the Hotel Viking in Newport, Rhode Island. 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 December 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 Tuesday, December 3, 2024 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 to get on the list.*

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

- 9:00 a.m. Introductions and Announcements** (Council Chair Rick Bellavance)
- 9:05 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, Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)
- 10:30 NOAA Fisheries Deputy Administrator for Regulatory Programs** (Sam Rauch, NOAA Fisheries)
Remarks by Sam Rauch, NOAA Fisheries Deputy Administrator for Regulatory Programs; opportunity for Council questions
- 11:00 Regional EEJ Implementation Plan** (GARFO Regional Administrator Mike Pentony)
Overview of the NOAA Fisheries Equity and Environmental Justice (EEJ) Implementation Plan for the New England/Mid-Atlantic Region
- 11:30 Climate, Ecosystem, and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Initiatives** (Council Executive Director Cate O’Keefe)
Climate and Ecosystem Steering Committee: update on membership and upcoming activities, including coordination with NEFSC’s Climate, Ecosystems, and Fisheries Initiative (CEFI) and the Council’s IRA-funded projects; East Coast Climate Coordination Group (E3CG): report on October 2024 meeting and planned 2025 work
- 12:00 p.m. NOAA Guidance to Councils on Financial Disclosures and Voting Recusals** (Mitch MacDonald, NOAA GC)
NOAA General Counsel briefing on disclosure of financial interests and voting recusal regulations for regional fishery management council members
- 12:30 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** **Highly Migratory Species Electronic Reporting** (Carrie Soltanoff, NOAA Fisheries)
NOAA Fisheries presentation on proposed rule for electronic reporting requirements for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; opportunity for Council questions and comments
- 2:30** **Enforcement Committee Report** (Pat Keliher)
Enforcement Committee input on On-Demand Fishing Gear Conflict Working Group’s recommendations for changes to gear-marking regulations for three Council-managed fixed-gear fisheries: Northeast multispecies (groundfish), monkfish, and Atlantic deep-sea red crab
- 3:00** **Locking Away Carbon on the Northeast Shelf and Slope (LOC-NESS)** (Dr. Adam Subhas, WHOI)
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) presentation on LOC-NESS project
- 4:00** **Eighth National Scientific Coordination Subcommittee (SCS8) Workshop** (SSC Chair Dr. Lisa Kerr)
Report on National SCS8 Workshop and follow-ups by Council Coordination Committee and New England Council’s Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)
- 4:45** **Council Adjourns**
- 6:00** **Council Public Outreach (Hotel Viking)**
Informational exchange to foster open lines of communication among Council members, staff, industry, and meeting attendees; all are welcome; light snacks provided

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

- 9:00 a.m.** **Spiny Dogfish Report** (Jason Didden, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council staff)
2025 Spiny Dogfish Specifications: (1) review recommendations from the Spiny Dogfish Committee, Spiny Dogfish Monitoring Committee, the Mid-Atlantic Council’s SSC, and the Spiny Dogfish Advisory Panel; (2) review previously adopted 2025 specifications and management measures; and (3) recommend needed changes
- 10:00** **September 2024 Management Track Stock Assessments** (Kristan Blackhart, NEFSC)
Presentation on peer-reviewed results of September 2024 Management Track Stock Assessments for American plaice, Gulf of Maine haddock, Georges Bank haddock, Atlantic pollock, witch flounder, and Atlantic halibut
- 11:00** **Scientific and Statistical Committee** (SSC Chair Dr. Lisa Kerr)
Presentation on Scientific and Statistical Committee’s overfishing limit (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) recommendations for Atlantic sea scallops, witch flounder, American plaice, Gulf of Maine haddock, Georges Bank haddock, pollock, and Atlantic halibut
- 12:15 p.m.** **Lunch Break**
- 1:30** **Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC)** (U.S. Co-Chair Daniel Salerno)
Review, discuss, and approve TMGC recommendations for 2025 total allowable catches (TACs) for three shared U.S./Canada groundfish resources on Georges Bank – Eastern Georges Bank cod, Eastern Georges Bank haddock, and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder
- 2:15** **Groundfish Committee Report** (Rick Bellavance)
Framework Adjustment 69: final action to set specifications for several groundfish stocks for fishing years 2025-2027, U.S./Canada TACs for 2025, incorporate revisions to scallop fishery flatfish accountability measure (AM) triggers, and set measures to address Phase 1 of the Council’s Atlantic cod management transition plan

Thursday, December 5, 2024

- 9:00 a.m.** **Scallop Committee Report** (Melanie Griffin)
Framework Adjustment 39: final action for 2025 fishing year specifications, 2026 default specs, revisions to Area II seasonal closures to reduce flatfish bycatch and improve scallop yield, and measures to allow

Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) permit holders fishing on directed scallop trips in the NGOM Management Area to possess scallops south of 42° 20'

- 11:00** **National Seafood Strategy Implementation Plan** (Dr. Michael Rubino, NOAA Fisheries)
Overview of NOAA Fisheries' National Seafood Strategy Implementation Plan
- 12:00** **2025 Council Priorities** (Executive Director Cate O'Keefe)
Final action on 2025 Council Priorities for all fishery management plans and other Council responsibilities
- 1:30** **Other Business**

Times listed next to the agenda items are estimates and 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.

Consistent with 16 USC 1852, this meeting will be recorded. Audio files will be available on the website within two-to-three days of the meeting's conclusion.