

Council Meeting Agenda | September 25-27, 2012
Radisson Hotel Plymouth Harbor, 180 Water Street, Plymouth, MA 02360
tel. 508.747.4900 | fax 508.747.8937 | www.radisson.com/plymouth-hotel-ma-02360/maplyhar

Tuesday, September 25, 2012

- 9:00 a.m. Introductions and Announcements** (Council Chairman Rip Cunningham)
- 9:05 Swearing in of new and reappointed Council members** (John Bullard, NOAA/NMFS Regional Administrator)
- 9:10 Election of 2012-2013 Council Officers**
- 10:00 Reports on Recent Activities**
Council Chairman, Executive Director, NMFS Regional Administrator, NOAA General Counsel, Northeast Fisheries Science Center and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council liaisons, NOAA Enforcement/VMS, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Northeast Regional Ocean Council
- 11:45 U.S. Coast Guard Report on Recent Activities Followed by Remarks from New First District Commander Rear Admiral Daniel Abel** (Capt. Pete DeCola and RDML Abel)
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:15 Review of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's Draft Strategic Plan** (Dr. Bill Karp, NEFSC Science and Research Director) Overview of the draft plan and a discussion about how it will be used to guide the Center's work for the next five years, and Council discussion
- 2:00 The Use of Sociocultural Information in the NEFMC process** (Rachel Feeney, Council staff)
Presentation of recent staff findings followed by Q and A and discussion
- 2:45 Spiny Dogfish Committee Report** (David Pierce)
Approval of final measures to be included in Amendment 3 to the Spiny Dogfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP)
- 3:15 Monkfish Committee Report** (Mark Alexander)
Update on the recent joint Monkfish Oversight Committee/Advisory Panel meeting and their progress to develop alternatives for inclusion in Amendment 6 to the Monkfish FMP
- 3:45 Enforcement Committee Report** (Frank Blount)
Review the committee's discussions and recommendations concerning NOAA's enforcement priorities for 2013, gear stowage requirements across all FMPs, and the "Northeast Region Logbook Family of Forms", an information collection system proposed by NOAA
- 4:15 Public Listening Session with NOAA/NMFS Regional Administrator John Bullard** (Rip Cunningham)
Meet the new RA, listen to what he has been hearing during his visits to coastal fishing communities in the Northeast and ask questions; this is an opportunity for stakeholders and any interested parties to learn about Mr. Bullard's views and opinions on fishery management issues
- 5:15 Meeting Adjourned Until Wednesday Morning**

Wednesday, September 26, 2012

- 8:30 a.m. Summary of the Findings of the 54th Stock Assessment Workshop/Stock Assessment Review Committee Meetings** (Dr. James Weinberg, NEFSC) Overview of SAW/SARC 54, which addressed Atlantic herring and Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder
- 9:15 Scientific and Statistical Committee Report** (Dr. Chris Legault)
Committee report on acceptable biological catch recommendations for groundfish stocks for fishing years 2013-2015, for Atlantic herring for 2013-2015 and sea scallops for 2013-2014
- 10:45 Herring Committee Report** (Doug Grout)
Discuss the recent court decision about Amendment 4 to the Atlantic Herring FMP and consider actions to address the court order; initial development of Atlantic herring fishery specifications for the upcoming fishing years (2013-2015), including possible action to maintain the 2012 specifications through 2013 and develop a separate package for 2014-2016; specifications include annual amounts for an overfishing limit (OFL), acceptable biological catch (ABC), management uncertainty, and a stock-wide annual catch limit (ACL), domestic annual harvest, domestic annual processing, border transfer, possible set-asides for research and the fixed gear fishery, and sub-ACLs for the four herring management areas
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:15 Herring agenda item** – *continued from the morning session*

- 2:15 Scallop Committee Report** (Mary Beth Nickell-Tooley)
Review and possibly modify the management measures proposed for Scallop Framework Adjustment 24/Groundfish Framework 49 alternatives; Framework 24 is primarily an action to set fishery specifications for fishing years 2013 and 2014 but includes other measures --- a possible modification of the Georges Bank access area seasonal closures; measures to address yellowtail flounder bycatch in the limited access general category (LAGC) fishery; potential allowance of quota transfer during the year for LAGC individual fishery quota vessels; and measures to expand the observer set-aside program to include LAGC scallop vessels in open areas; the Council also may review preliminary estimates of projected yellowtail flounder catch in the scallop fishery for 2013-2015
- 3:45 Transboundary Resource Assessment Committee (TRAC) Report** (Loretta O'Brien)
Summary of the 2012 Eastern Georges Bank cod and haddock and the Georges Bank yellowtail flounder assessments
- 4:45 Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC) Report** (Rip Cunningham)
Review and possibly approve the TMGC's recommendations for fishing year 2013 quotas for Eastern Georges Bank cod and haddock and the Georges Bank stock of yellowtail flounder

Thursday, September 27, 2012

- 8:00 a.m. Small Mesh Multispecies Control Date** (David Goethel)
Consider and possibly approve a small mesh multispecies control date for the red hake, silver hake and offshore hake fisheries
- 8:30 Groundfish Oversight Committee Report** (Terry Stockwell)
Review of the development of Framework Adjustment 48, an action that would include fishing years 2013-2015 OFLs and ABCs, establish a scallop fishery Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic windowpane flounder, adjust the SNE/MA and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder sub-ACLs for the scallop fishery, address sector monitoring issues, modify recreational measures if necessary, and possibly include other adjustments to the groundfish management measures; as part of this action the Council also will consider recommendations for allowing increased access to groundfish closed areas to mitigate expected low ABCs in fishing year 2013
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:00 Habitat Committee Report** (David Preble)
Consider recommendations on the following issues: 1) whether to split deep-sea coral alternatives out of Omnibus Essential Fish Habitat Amendment 2; and 2) possibly initiate development of a coral-focused omnibus amendment; and endorse a Memorandum of Understanding related to deep-sea corals; also review draft adverse effects minimization alternatives under development in Omnibus EFH Amendment 2
- 2:30 Initial discussion of 2013 Management Priorities** (Executive Director Paul J. Howard)
Initial discussion; the Council will approve final priorities at its November 13-15 meeting in Newport, RI
- 4:30 Other Business**

*Times listed next to the agenda items are estimates and are subject to change.
The 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 in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subjects 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 call (978) 465-0492 for copies or check the Council website - www.nefmc.org. If you are submitting comments for Council consideration at this meeting, they must be received at the Council office by noon EST on Thursday, Sept. 20, 2012. Notice Issue, Wednesday Sept. 8, 2012.