

New England Fishery Management Council
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Council Meeting Agenda | January 26-28, 2010

Sheraton Harborside Hotel
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Telephone (603) 431-2300 | Fax (603) 433-5649

Please note the start time on the first day of the meeting.

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

8:30 a.m. Introductions and Announcements (Council Chairman John Pappalardo)

8:35 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, and representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard, NMFS Enforcement/VMS, and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

10:20 Review of Experimental Fishery Permit (EFP) Applications (Council Deputy Director Chris Kellogg)

10:30 Update on the Implementation of Groundfish Sectors Under the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) (NMFS, Northeast Regional Office staff)

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:00 Review and discussion of the NEFSC's Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (Drew Kitts, Northeast Fisheries Science Center staff)

Elements of the draft plan will be presented and Council feedback solicited on a plan initiated for the purpose of evaluating the design of existing and future catch share programs

2:00 Herring Committee Report (Frank Blount)

Selection of final measures for inclusion in Amendment 4 to the Atlantic Herring FMP; discussions will include a review of the alternatives under consideration, related analyses, public comment, and committee recommendations concerning the proposed management measures under consideration; the measures are intended to modify the herring fishery specifications process to allow for the establishment of annual catch limits and accountability measures in the Atlantic herring fishery

4:00 Draft National Policy Concerning the Use of Catch Shares (NOAA leadership representative)

Solicitation of comments on a draft policy concerning the use of catch share programs in fishery management plans, including a question and answer session

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

8:30 a.m. Interspecies Committee Report (John Pappalardo)

Discussion of a possible industry-funded buyback for the groundfish fleet, including a decision about whether to support the approach; review and approval of Council comments on NOAA's Draft Catch Share Policy

11:30 Groundfish Oversight Committee Report (Rip Cunningham)

Approval of alternative rebuilding strategy options for the Georges Bank yellowtail flounder stock

12:30 p.m. Lunch Break

1:30 Scientific and Statistical Committee Report (Dr. Steve Cadrin and Council staff) Review of committee comments on the habitat model, process-related discussions by the committee and draft Council comments on National Standard 2

3:15 Habitat Committee Report (David Preble)

Brief overview of the Swept Area Seabed Impact (SASI) model for developing and analyzing alternatives to minimize to the extent practicable adverse effects from fishing on Essential Fish Habitat; discussion and approval of recommended comments concerning President Obama's Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force Report *Interim Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning*

Thursday, January 28, 2010

8:30 a.m. 2010 Priorities Discussion (Council Executive Director Paul Howard)
Review and deliberations of several outstanding issues related to the Council's work priorities for 2010

10:30 Standard Bycatch Reporting Methodology Report (Dr. Paul Rago, NEFSC staff)
Report on the status of projected observer days for the upcoming year, beginning in April 2010

11:30 Calibration Workshop Report (Dr. Wendy Gabriel, NEFSC staff)
Overview of discussions and outcomes of the late 2009 workshop

12:15 p.m. Lunch Break

1:15 Red Crab Report (Chris Kellogg)
Approval of a range of alternatives to be analyzed in Amendment 3 to the Red Crab FMP; the action will include annual catch limits, accountability measures and a fleet TAC, possibly in lieu of the current days-at-sea management system

3:00 Open Period for Public Comments (John Pappalardo)
Opportunity for the public to provide brief comments on items relevant to Council business but not otherwise listed on the agenda

3:15 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 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 action are available for review prior to a final vote by the Council. Please call (978) 465-0492 for copies or check the Council website at www.nefmc.org. Please note that if you are submitting comments for Council consideration at this meeting they must be received at the office at least three business days prior to the start of the meeting. **Notice Date: January 6, 2010**