

New England Fishery Management Council  
50 Water Street, Mill 2  
Newburyport, MA 01950  
Tel (978) 465-0492 | Fax (978) 465-3116

**Council Meeting Agenda | November 15-17, 2011**  
**Newport Marriott Hotel, 25 America's Cup Avenue, Newport, RI 02840**  
**Tel 401.849.1000 | Fax 401.849.3422**

**Tuesday, November 15, 2011**

**9:00 a.m. Introductions and Announcements** (Council Chairman Rip Cunningham)

**9:05 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, NOAA Enforcement/VMS and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

**10:45 Implementation of the Coast Guard Authorization Act** (Coast Guard Headquarters representative)

**11:15 Experimental Fishery Permit (EFP) Applications** (Chris Kellogg, NEFMC staff)

Review and approve any comments on pending experimental fishery permits received since the last meeting

**11:20 Amendment 5 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP) - Draft Environmental Impact Statement** (Doug Grout)

Consider a request from the Mid-Atlantic Council to include an option in the Amendment 5 Draft EIS to establish a river herring catch cap, to be consistent with the options in the Mid-Atlantic Council's Draft Amendment 14 to the Squid/Mackerel/Butterfish FMP during the public review process

**Noon Open Period for Public Comment** (Rip Cunningham)

The public will have an opportunity to briefly comment on items relevant to Council business but not otherwise listed on this agenda

**12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**

**1:45 Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) Report** (John Weber, NROC)

Update on NROC's Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning activities

**2:30 Update - Council and NMFS Regional Office Responses to the Touchstone Report on the Fisheries**

**Management Process in New England** (Council Chairman Rip Cunningham; NMFS Regional Administrator Pat Kurkul)  
Public and Council discussion concerning the development of a shared vision and strategy to guide the management process and an overview and discussion about the draft Operating Agreement under discussion between the Council, NOAA Fisheries Service Northeast Regional Office, NOAA Fisheries Service Northeast Fisheries Science Center, and NOAA General Counsel, Northeast; update on the recent Sector Workshop discussions

**4:30 Essential Fish Habitat Omnibus Amendment 2 Update** (David Preble)

Progress on amendment development focusing on alternatives to minimize the adverse effects of fishing on essential fish habitat (EFH) and protect deep sea corals

**Wednesday, November 16, 2011**

**8:30 a.m. Discuss and Approve 2012 Council Management Priorities** (Council Executive Director Paul Howard)

Review and approve management priorities for the upcoming year

**10:30 Framework Adjustment 23 to the Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan Scallop** (Mary Beth Tooley)

Potential opportunity to review the draft regulatory text associated with Framework Adjustment 23, if it becomes available, and deem whether it is consistent with the action and the Council's intent

**11:00 Standard Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) Summary and Discussion** (Dr. Paul Rago, Northeast Fisheries

Science Center) Review and comment on the SBRM summary report and recommendations for observer sea-day allocations for next year

**Noon Lunch Break**

**1:15 p.m. Stock Assessment Update** (Dr. Jim Weinberg, Northeast Fisheries Science Center)

Briefing about the transition to a new stock assessment process for the New England and Mid-Atlantic regions

**1:40 Groundfish Committee Report** (Terry Stockwell)

Review of and final Council action on Framework Adjustment 47 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP; the discussion will include recommendations for recreational accountability measures for Gulf of Maine haddock

**4:30 Whiting Committee Report** (David Goethel)

Update on the development of Amendment 19 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP to address the small mesh fishery which includes stocks of red hake, silver hake and offshore hake

**Thursday, November 17, 2011**

- 8:30 a.m. Monkfish Committee Report** (Mark Alexander)  
Possible Council approval of recommendations for goals and objectives for Amendment 6 to the Monkfish FMP, an action that includes the consideration of catch shares management approaches for the monkfish fishery; discussion of a postponed motion requesting that NMFS calculate individual contribution factors (allocation shares or sector contribution) for three historical periods and forward that information to permit holders
- 10:30 Dogfish Committee Report** (Frank Blount)  
Council approval of the spiny dogfish annual catch limit for 2012 at 44.868 million pounds, the annual catch target at 44.737 million pounds, the total allowable landings at 35.740 million pounds, and the commercial quota at 35.694 million pounds; and to set the trip limit at 4,000 pounds; these specifications already have been approved by the Mid-Atlantic Council
- 11:00 Enforcement Committee Report** (Frank Blount)  
Discuss recommendations for changes to gear stowage requirements, a letter supporting vessel and gear marking, recommendations for hake incidental catch limits and skate identification at the dock; discuss and comment on the recently published advanced notice of proposed rulemaking titled *Changes to Vessel Replacement and Upgrade Provisions for Fishing Vessels Issued Limited Access Federal Fishery Permits*
- 11:45 Overview of an Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management (EBFM) Research Project** (Ingrid Biedron)  
Brief description of a Cornell University project involving the development of EBFM and Council member, staff and independent views about the subject
- Noon Scoping for a new amendment to the Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan** (Jacqueline Wilson, HMS Division, NMFS Silver Spring)  
Identification of issues relevant to the management of sandbar, dusky and blacknose shark, and on a new status determination for scalloped hammerhead based on recent stock assessments for these species
- 12:30 p.m. Other Business**
- 1:00 Adjourn**

*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](http://www.nefmc.org). If you are submitting comments for Council consideration at this meeting, they must be received at the Council office by 12 p.m. EST on Thursday, November 10, 2011. Notice Issue, Oct. 25, 2011.**

