

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

Council Meeting Agenda | June 19-21, 2012
Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland, Maine 04101
tel. 207.775.2311 | fax 207.761.8224 | website innbythebay.com/

**Please Note: NOAA Fisheries will host an HMS scoping hearing
for stakeholders and the general public at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, June 18, 2012
Casco Bay Hall, Holiday Inn by the Bay (*issues will be summarized for the Council on 6/19)**

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

- 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, NMFS Enforcement/VMS, and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
- 11:00 Update on a New Amendment to Address Standard Bycatch Reporting Methodology in NEFMC Fishery Management Plans** (Doug Potts, NOAA Fisheries, Northeast Regional Office)
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:15 Briefing on New Social Science Data Collection Efforts Initiated by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center** (Dr. Tammy Murphy, Northeast Fisheries Science Center)
- 2:00 Habitat Committee Report** (David Preble)
Following a discussion of Magnuson-Stevens Act discretionary provisions related to deep sea corals, possibly consider removing coral alternatives from the Omnibus Essential Fish Habitat Amendment and address them in a separate action
- 3:00 Climate Change and Fisheries** (Dr. Jon Hare, Northeast Fisheries Science Center)
A review of regional issues and work completed to date concerning the "state of science" as it relates to climate change and its impact on fisheries in the Northeast
- 4:15 *Consolidated Highly Migratory Species FMP, Scoping for Amendment 7** (NOAA Fisheries Headquarters Staff)
NMFS review of the scope and significance of issues to be analyzed in a draft environmental impact statement concerning management measures to address Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) management; through scoping, NMFS will determine if existing measures are the best means of achieving certain management objectives for BFT and providing flexibility for future management
- 5:00 Public Listening Session** (Rip Cunningham)
Open and informal question and answer session for stakeholders, interested parties and the general public; this is an opportunity to ask questions about Council issues or comment on items relevant to Council business but not otherwise listed on this agenda; it will not replace the public's opportunity to make comments during Council consideration of any agenda item

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

- 8:30 a.m. Herring Committee Report** (Doug Grout)
- Review and discuss public comments received, as well as Herring Plan Development Team, Advisory Panel, and Herring Committee recommendations regarding the management alternatives/options under consideration in Amendment 5 to the Atlantic Herring FMP and its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
 - Approve final measures for inclusion in Amendment 5, scheduled for submission to NMFS in July 2012; proposed measures would establish a catch monitoring program for the herring fishery and address bycatch; other measures may include adjustments to the fishery management program, measures to address carrier vessels and transfers at-sea, trip notification, permitting, and reporting requirements; measures to address interactions with the Atlantic mackerel fishery; the allocation of observer coverage on limited access herring vessels; measures to maximize sampling and address net slippage; measures to address river herring bycatch; and criteria for midwater trawl vessel access to groundfish closed areas

12:15 p.m. Lunch Break

1:15 Herring Agenda Items – continued for the remainder of the day

Thursday, June 21, 2012

8:30 a.m. Monkfish Committee Report (Mark Alexander)

Consider a motion deferred from the April Council meeting that would remove Individually Transferrable Quotas (ITQs) from the range of alternatives under development in Amendment 6 to the Monkfish FMP

9:00 Whiting Committee Report (David Goethel)

Approve Draft Amendment 19 management measures, including alternatives to increase the whiting possession limit from 30,000 up to 40,000 pounds for vessels using trawls with 3-inch or larger mesh in all or part of the Southern New England and Mid-Atlantic Exemption Areas

9:30 Groundfish Committee Report (Terry Stockwell)

Discuss and possibly propose actions to mitigate the impact of the low catch limits recently set for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder; receive a summary of the scoping comments submitted for proposed Amendment 18 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP; approve initial action on a framework adjustment to modify sector measures (including monitoring requirements), as well as set acceptable biological catches for fishing year 2013-2015, and adjust annual catch limits and accountability measures

12:15 p.m. Lunch Break

1:15 Groundfish Agenda Items – continued

4:30 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 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 call (978) 465-0492 for copies or check the Council website at www.nefmc.org. **If you are submitting written comments for Council consideration at this meeting, they must be received at the NEFMC office by 12 p.m. EST on Thursday, June 14, 2012.** Notice Issue: May 29, 2011.