

New England Fishery Management Council  
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## Council Meeting Agenda

Monday - Thursday, November 17-20, 2014

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Submitting Comments? If you plan to submit written comments for consideration at this meeting, they must be received at the NEFMC office by Wednesday, Nov. 12, by 12:30 p.m.  
If using email, please send your comments to [comments@nefmc.org](mailto:comments@nefmc.org)

### Monday, November 17, 2014

**1:00 p.m. Introductions and Announcements** (Council Chairman Terry Stockwell)

**1:35 Reports on Recent Activities**

Council Chairman, Executive Director, NOAA Fisheries Regional Administrator (Greater Atlantic Region), NOAA General Counsel, Northeast Fisheries Science Center and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council liaisons; and representatives of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, U.S. Coast Guard, and NOAA Enforcement

**3:30 Public Comment Period** (Terry Stockwell)

Opportunity for the public to provide brief comments on issues that are relevant to Council business but not listed on this agenda (individuals are asked to sign up beforehand and limit remarks to between 3-5 minutes)

**3:45 Monkfish Committee Report** (Dr. John Quinn)

Update on the development of alternatives for inclusion in Amendment 6 to the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP); possibly initiate a framework adjustment to expedite measures previously proposed as part of the amendment

**4:15 Northeast Skate Complex FMP** (Dr. Fiona Hogan, Council staff)

Annual skate monitoring report presentation

**4:45 Small Mesh Multispecies (Whiting) Committee Report** (Vincent Balzano)

Approve 2015-2017 specifications for the small-mesh multispecies fishery

**5:45 Post Meeting Session: Overview of the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office Strategic Plan** (Council mtg room)

### Tuesday, November 18, 2014

**8:30 a.m. Vessel Baseline Omnibus Amendment** (Melissa Hooper, GARFO staff)

Discuss public comments and take final action on the amendment

**9:00 Amendment 18 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP** (Frank Blount)

Approve alternatives to be considered for inclusion in this action; the discussion will focus on accumulation limits and an inshore/offshore line to address the concentration of fishing effort in the inshore Gulf of Maine

**10:30 Scientific and Statistical Committee Report** (Dr. Jake Kritzer)

Receive the committee's recommendation on overfishing limits and acceptable biological catch (ABC) for Gulf of Maine cod, pollock, Gulf of Maine winter flounder, and Georges Bank winter flounder

**12:00 p.m. Lunch Break**

**1:00 Framework Adjustment 53 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP** (Frank Blount)

Approve final action; the framework will address specifications and management measures including:

- Status changes (Gulf of Maine haddock) and specifications for several groundfish stocks (Gulf of Maine cod and haddock; Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank winter flounder; pollock; and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder, cod and haddock);
- Windowpane flounder sub-annual catch limits (ACLs) for groundfish sectors and common pool, and the scallop fishery; and
- Measures that address additional spatial protection for Gulf of Maine cod and possibly other rules for this stock, a roll-over provision for specifications, and ACE carryover provisions for sectors

**Wednesday, November 19, 2014**

**8:30 a.m. Framework Adjustment 53** – *decision-making continued until adjournment for the day*

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

**Thursday, November 20, 2014**

**8:30 a.m. Sea Scallop Committee Report** (Mary Beth Tooley)

Review and select final measures for Scallop Framework 26; the action includes fishery specifications for 2015 and default measures for 2016, including days at sea allocations, access area allocations and limited access general category (LAGC) fishery allocations; other issues under consideration include:

- measures to address fishing in state waters if the federal Northern Gulf of Maine TAC is reached;
- consistency for sea turtle regulations;
- accountability measures for northern windowpane flounder sub-ACLs; adjustments to existing accountability measures for Georges Bank and Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder sub-ACLs;
- measures to allow limited access vessels to steam “off the clock” on their return to port; and
- an adjustment to the turtle deflector dredge requirements that relates to the flaring bar provision

**11:30 Management Priorities** (Executive Director Tom Nies)

Finalize the NEMFC’s 2015 management priorities

**12:15 p.m. Lunch Break**

**1:15 Management Priorities Discussion** – *continued*

**2:30 Risk Policy Working Group** (Mary Beth Tooley)

Approve the Draft Risk Policy Statement developed by the working group and briefly discuss steps to apply it across all New England Council FMPs

**3:30 Observer Committee Report** (Terry Stockwell)

Update on the development of an Omnibus Industry-Funded Monitoring Amendment, including a summary of committee meeting outcomes; consider and possibly approve recommendations of alternatives for inclusion in the action

**4:30 Other Business**

*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).*

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.