

**New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda**  
**Tuesday – Thursday, September 29-October 1, 2020**  
[By Webinar](#)

Sending comments? Written comments must be received at the NEFMC office no later than 8:00 a.m., Thursday, September 24, 2020 to be considered at this meeting. Please address comments to Council Chairman Dr. John Quinn or Executive Director Tom Nies at: NEFMC, 50 Water St., Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950. Email submissions should be sent to [comments@nefmc.org](mailto:comments@nefmc.org).

**IMPORTANT:** Due to ongoing federal and state travel restrictions and public safety guidelines related to [COVID-19](#), this meeting will be conducted by webinar. Please continue to monitor the Council's [September 2020 meeting webpage](#).

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** The Council's "Guidelines for Providing Public Comments" can be found [here](#).

**Tuesday, September 29, 2020**

- 9:00 a.m. Introductions and Announcements** (Chairman Dr. John Quinn)
- 9:10 Swearing-in of New and Reappointed Council Members** (GARFO Regional Administrator Mike Pentony)
- 9:20 Election of 2020-2021 Officers**
- 9:40 Reports on Recent Activities**  
Council Chairman, Council Executive Director, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) Regional Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) General Counsel, Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC), Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC), Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA Enforcement, Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel (NTAP), Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), SAFMC Dolphin/Wahoo, Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel
- 11:30 Skate Committee Report** (Dr. Matt McKenzie)  
Annual Monitoring Report: overview of fishing year 2019; Northeast Skate Complex Amendment 5: progress report on development of problem statement, goals, and objectives for development of a limited access program through this amendment
- 12:30 p.m. Open Period for Public Comment**  
Opportunity for the public to provide brief comments on issues relevant to Council business but not listed on this agenda (please limit remarks to 3-5 minutes)
- 12:45 Lunch Break**
- 1:45 Spring 2020 Management Track Assessments** (Northeast Fisheries Science Center)  
Report on peer reviewed Spring 2020 Management Track Assessments for Atlantic herring, longfin squid, butterfish, and surfclams and ocean quahogs
- 2:30 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Report – Part 1** (SSC Chair Dr. Jason McNamee)  
Receive SSC recommendations on Atlantic herring overfishing limits (OFLs) and acceptable biological catches (ABCs) for fishing years 2021-2023
- 2:50 Atlantic Herring Report** (Rick Bellavance)  
Framework Adjustment 8: final action for 2021-2023 specifications and adjustments to measures in the herring plan that may inhibit the Atlantic mackerel fishery from achieving optimum yield; Framework Adjustment 7: update on action to protect spawning herring on Georges Bank; Council/ASMFC Herring Management Coordination: working group and leadership team update
- 5:00 North Atlantic Right Whales** (GARFO)  
Update on status of North Atlantic Right Whale Draft Biological Opinion and upcoming rulemaking

At 6:00 p.m. or shortly following the close of Council business, the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) will host a virtual roundtable to gather input from New England fishermen and other industry stakeholders on two topics: (1) the impacts of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing on the U.S. fishing industry; and (2) the impacts of seafood imports on U.S. products and markets. All stakeholders are encouraged to join the discussion. No preregistration is needed. A link to the webinar will be forthcoming.

### **Wednesday, September 30, 2020**

- 8:30 a.m. Groundfish Committee Report – Part 1** (Terry Alexander)  
Groundfish Monitoring Amendment 23: review public hearing comments; take final action on measures to improve the accuracy and accountability of catch reporting in the commercial groundfish fishery, including the level of at-sea monitoring coverage to be required on groundfish sector trips, among other actions
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:30 Groundfish Committee Report – Part 1 Continued** (Terry Alexander)
- 3:00 Groundfish Committee Report – Part 2** (Terry Alexander)  
Petition on Rulemaking for Atlantic Cod: receive Committee, GAP, and RAP input; Council discussion
- 4:00 Transboundary Resources Assessment Committee (TRAC)** (Tara Trinko Lake)  
Receive TRAC summary of 2020 assessment results for Eastern Georges Bank cod, Eastern Georges Bank haddock, and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder
- 4:20 Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC) Report** (Chairman Dr. John Quinn)  
Review and approve TMGC recommendations for 2021 total allowable catches for shared U.S./Canada stocks on Georges Bank
- 4:35 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Report – Part 2** (SSC Chair Dr. Jason McNamee)  
Receive SSC recommendations for OFLs and ABCs for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder for fishing years 2021 and 2022; receive SSC input on possible rebuilding approaches for white hake
- 4:55 Groundfish Committee Report – Part 3** (Terry Alexander)  
Framework Adjustment 61: progress report on action to include (1) 2021 total allowable catches for U.S./Canada stocks of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder, (2) 2021-2023 specifications for roughly half of the groundfish stocks, (3) white hake rebuilding, and (4) other measures; Council action on Georges Bank yellowtail OFLs and ABCs for Framework 61

### **Thursday, October 1, 2020**

- 8:30 a.m. Habitat Committee Report** (Eric Reid)  
Brief update on offshore wind development activities
- 8:45 Scallop Committee Report** (Vincent Balzano)  
Amendment 21: review public hearing comments, take final action on measures to address (1) Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area issues, (2) the Limited Access General Category (LAGC) possession limit, and (3) individual fishing quota (IFQ) transfers; Framework 33: preliminary overview of 2020 surveys; progress report on 2021 fishery specifications, 2022 default specifications, and other measures
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:15 Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM) Committee Report** (John Pappalardo; Dave and Paula Jasinski, Green Fin Studio)  
Georges Bank example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP): (1) approval of EBFM public outreach materials, including stakeholder profiles, brochures, two completed infographics, presentations, an introductory video, and other tools for public outreach; (2) committee recommendations and Council approval of an EBFM workshop format using the eFEP and public outreach materials; and (3) presentation of tangible worked examples developed by the Plan Development Team to demonstrate the eFEP catch framework for Georges Bank

- 3:15**      **Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (SBNMS)** (Superintendent Pete DeCola; Chief Economist Danielle Schwarzmann, SBNMS)  
Presentation on two pre-COVID-19 economic reports supporting the SBNMS Management Plan Review: (1) a fisheries report analyzing commercial fishing and recreational for-hire fishing activity within SBNMS and the economic contributions of these activities; and (2) a whale watching report summing up data/economic contributions
- 3:45**      **2021 Council Priorities – Initial Discussion** (Executive Director Tom Nies)  
Initial discussion on 2021 Council Priorities, including identification of potential actions that respond to the May 7, 2020 Executive Order on Promoting American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth
- 5:00**      **Other Business**

*Times listed next to the agenda items are estimates and are subject to change.*

*This meeting is being held entirely by webinar. Council member financial disclosure forms are available for examination on the Council website.*

Although other non-emergency issues not contained on 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 check the Council's website, [www.nefmc.org](http://www.nefmc.org), or call (978) 465-0492 for copies.**

**This meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 USC 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.**



# SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston SC 29405  
Call: (843) 571-4366 | Toll-Free: (866) SAFMC-10 | Fax: (843) 769-4520 | Connect: [www.safmc.net](http://www.safmc.net)

Jessica McCawley, Chair | Mel Bell, Vice Chair  
John Carmichael, Executive Director

## SAFMC Meeting Agenda

September 14-17, 2020

Webinar

(SAFMC website webinar registration: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8246680664509373452>)

Except for advertised (scheduled) public hearings and public comment sessions, the times indicated on the agenda may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the completion of agenda items. Interested parties should be aware that meetings may start earlier or later than indicated.

Written comments received by 5 pm the Monday before the meeting (9/7) will be compiled, posted to the website as part of the meeting materials, and included in the administrative record. Please use the online comment form at: <https://safmc.wufoo.com/forms/m279ih41b0ukyq/> to ensure your comments are posted immediately to the Council's website and available for Council consideration.

Individuals that wish to submit comments after 9/7 must use the Council's online form at: <https://safmc.wufoo.com/forms/m279ih41b0ukyq/>. Comments will automatically be posted to the website and available for Council consideration. Comments received prior to 9 am on Wednesday of the Council meeting (9/16) will be a part of the meeting administrative record. To view comments, <https://safmc.wufoo.com/reports/2020-sept-council-meeting-public-comment-report/>.

### **Monday, September 14, 2020**

#### **Webinar startup and troubleshooting 8:30 am – 9:00 am**

1. Webinar Startup and Connection Testing

#### **COUNCIL SESSION I (CLOSED)/Jessica McCawley 9:00 am – 12 noon**

1. Introduction and Meeting Process Overview
2. AP Appointments
3. SEDAR Appointments
4. Legal Briefing on Litigation, if needed

**12:00 noon to 1:30 pm      Lunch**

#### **COUNCIL SESSION II/Jessica McCawley 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm**

1. Swearing in Ceremony for new Council Members
2. Executive Order Response
3. Emergency Action Requests Status Update
  - a. Vermilion Snapper commercial trip limit increase
  - b. King Mackerel recreational bag limit increase
4. Additional Emergency Action Considerations
5. SBRM Report on Topics for Amendment Development

**Tuesday, September 15, 2020**

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**COUNCIL SESSION II (cont.)/Jessica McCawley 9:00 am – 11:00 am**

6. Allocations Options, Data, and Analyses

**Snapper Grouper Committee/Jessica McCawley 11:00 am – 12 noon**

1. Status of Amendments under Formal Review
  - a. Abbreviated Framework 3 (Blueline Tilefish)
  - b. Regulatory Amendment 33 (Red Snapper Season)
  - c. Regulatory Amendment 34 (SMZs off NC and SC)
2. Review of 2020 Red Snapper Season

**12:00 noon to 1:30 pm Lunch**

**Snapper Grouper Committee/Jessica McCawley 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm**

3. Wreckfish ITQ Modernization Options Paper
  - a. Action: Recommend for scoping
4. Red Porgy Options Paper to End Overfishing and Revise Rebuilding
5. Topics for November AP meeting

**SEDAR Committee/Jessica McCawley 4:30 pm – 5:00 pm**

1. SEDAR Process Presentation
2. Statement of Work Approvals
3. Steering Committee Guidance

**Wednesday, September 16, 2020**

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**Dolphin Wahoo Committee/Anna Beckwith 9:00 am – 12 noon**

1. Revise Dolphin and Wahoo Management Measures: Amendment 10

**12:00 noon to 1:30 pm Lunch**

**Dolphin Wahoo Committee/Anna Beckwith 1:30 pm – 3:45 pm**

2. Adding Bullet Mackerel and Frigate Mackerel to the FMP as Ecosystem Component Species: Amendment 12
  - a. Overview
  - b. Action: Recommend for final approval
3. Dolphin Tagging Program Presentation
4. Topics for October AP meeting

**Wednesday, September 16, 2020**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**4:00 pm If you would like to provide comment during the live public comment session, please sign up at the following link:**

<https://safmc.wufoo.com/forms/m1gq9x6r1sn1zee/>

**Public comment will be accepted regarding any of the items on the Council agenda. The Council Chair, based on the number of individuals wishing to comment, will determine the amount of time provided to each commenter.**

**Approval for Formal Review:**

- (1) Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 12 (Bullet & Frigate Mackerel as Ecosystem Component Species)

**Approval for Scoping:**

- (1) Snapper Grouper Amendment 48 (Wreckfish ITQ Modernization)

**Thursday, September 17, 2020 9:00 am – 12 noon COUNCIL SESSION**

**Executive Committee (PARTIALLY CLOSED)/Jessica McCawley 9:00 am – 12 noon**

Closed Session

1. SSC Composition
2. OC Composition
3. Sexual Harassment Prevention

Open Session

4. New Travel Forms
5. Council Priorities Work Schedule

**12:00 noon to 1:30 pm Lunch**

**COUNCIL SESSION III/Jessica McCawley 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm**

Call to Order and Introductions/Jessica McCawley, Chair

Adopt Agenda/Jessica McCawley

Approve Minutes/Jessica McCawley

Council Elections

1. Council Staff Reports
  - a. Executive Director
  - b. Outreach and Communications Update
  - c. Citizen Science Update
  - d. Climate Change Scenario Planning
2. NMFS SEFSC Reports
  - a. Commercial Electronic Logbooks Status
  - b. COVID Impacts on Surveys and Fishery Monitoring
3. NMFS SERO Reports
  - a. For-hire amendment status
4. Protected Resources Report
5. Committee Reports
  - a. Snapper Grouper/Jessica McCawley
  - b. SEDAR/Jessica McCawley

- c. Dolphin Wahoo/Anna Beckwith
- d. Executive/Jessica McCawley
- 6. Advisory Panel & SEDAR Appointments
- 7. Agency and Liaison Reports
- 8. Other Business
- 9. Upcoming Meetings

Adjourn