

New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda
Tuesday – Thursday, December 5-7, 2023
Hotel Viking, One Bellevue Avenue, Newport, RI 02840
tel: (401) 847-3300 | [Hotel Viking](#)
[Webinar Registration Option](#)

Sending comments? Written comments must be received at the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) office no later than 8:00 a.m., Thursday, November 30, 2023 to be considered at this meeting. Please address comments to Council Chair Eric Reid or Executive Director Cate O’Keefe at: NEFMC, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950. Email submissions should be sent to comments@nefmc.org. ** Written comments must address items listed on the agenda for this meeting or issues that will be brought up under the open period for public comment.

IMPORTANT: *The Council will hold its December 2023 meeting at the Hotel Viking in Newport, RI. This will be a hybrid meeting with in-person participation, coupled with a webinar option for individuals who cannot or prefer not to attend in person. Updates will be posted on the [Council’s December 2023 meeting webpage](#).*

PUBLIC COMMENTS: *The Council’s “Guidelines for Providing Public Comments” can be found [here](#). Anyone interested in speaking during the open period for public comment on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 11:45 a.m. should fill out the sign-up sheet on the table at the entrance to the Council meeting room. To speak remotely, email Janice Plante at jplante@nefmc.org to get on the list.*

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

9:30 a.m. Introductions and Announcements (Council Chair Eric Reid)

9:35 Reports on Recent Activities

Council Chair, 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 (ASMFC), U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA Enforcement, Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel (NTAP), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

11:15 Risk Policy Working Group Report (Megan Ware)

Progress report on addressing Terms of Reference 1 and 2 to revise the Council’s Risk Policy; review potential changes to Risk Policy Statement

11:45 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)

12:15 p.m. Lunch Break

1:30 East Coast Climate Coordination (Staff)

Report on first meeting of the East Coast Climate Coordination Group, one of two groups formed as an outcome of the East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning Initiative

2:30 Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA Executive Director Dr. Reneé Reilly)

Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA) report on the alliance’s mission, activities, and steps to support the Council’s offshore wind efforts and streamline communications

3:00 Habitat Committee Report (Council Chair Eric Reid)

Offshore Wind and Other Habitat-Related Work: review Council comments on draft Wind Energy Areas for Gulf of Maine (GOM) and discuss other GOM leasing/planning issues; receive presentation on other offshore wind and habitat-related updates

- 4:15** **NOAA Guidance to Councils on Financial Disclosures and Voting Recusals** (Mitch MacDonald, NOAA GC)
NOAA General Counsel briefing on disclosure of financial interests and voting recusal regulations for regional fishery management council members
- 5:00** **Council Adjourns**
- 6:00** **Council Public Outreach**
Informational exchange to foster open lines of communication among Council members, staff, industry, and meeting attendees; all are welcome; light snacks provided

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

- 9:00 a.m.** **September 2023 Management Track Stock Assessments** (NEFSC)
Presentation on peer-reviewed results of September 2023 Management Track Stock Assessments for Acadian redfish, Atlantic mackerel, northern and southern red hake, the Northeast skate complex, northern windowpane flounder, and spiny dogfish
- 10:15** **Scientific and Statistical Committee** (SSC Chair Dr. Lisa Kerr)
Presentation on Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) overfishing limit (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) recommendations for Gulf of Maine haddock, Acadian redfish, northern and southern windowpane flounder, white hake, northern and southern red hake, northern silver hake, southern whiting (silver and offshore hake combined), Atlantic sea scallops, and the Northeast skate complex
- 11:45** **Skate Committee Report** (Scott Olszewski)
Framework 12: final action to develop 2024-2025 fishery specifications and measures to expand possession of smooth and barndoor skates
- 12:30 p.m.** **Lunch Break**
- 1:45** **Whiting Committee Report** (Rick Bellavance)
Final action on 2024-2026 specifications for the small-mesh multispecies (whiting) fishery
- 2:30** **Scallop Committee Report** (Melanie Griffin)
Framework 38: final action on 2024 fishery specifications, 2025 default specifications, increased vessel monitoring system (VMS) polling rates near closed area boundaries, and other measures
- 4:30** **Northern Edge** (Council Chair Eric Reid)
Update on action to potentially authorize scallop fishery access to the Habitat Closure Area on the Northern Edge of Georges Bank

Thursday, December 7, 2023

- 9:00 a.m.** **Groundfish Committee Report** (Rick Bellavance)
Framework 66: final action that includes (1) 2024-2025 total allowable catches for U.S./Canada shared resources on Georges Bank, (2) 2024-2025 specifications for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder, white hake, and Gulf of Maine haddock, (3) 2024-2026 specifications for Acadian redfish, northern windowpane, and southern windowpane, (4) a revised white hake rebuilding plan, (5) Atlantic halibut issues, (6) extending removal of the sector management uncertainty buffer for white hake and Gulf of Maine haddock until the next specifications cycle, and (7) modification of the scallop fishery accountability measure for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder for fishing years 2024 and 2025; Framework 68: progress report on action to revise groundfish acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rules; Atlantic Cod Management Transition Plan: update and Council discussion
- 12:00 p.m.** **Lunch Break**
- 1:15** **2024 Council Priorities** (Executive Director Cate O'Keefe)
Final action on 2024 Council Priorities for all fishery management plans and other Council responsibilities

4:00 Other Business

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

This meeting is being held in person and 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, 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

Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Chair | Trish Murphey, Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

Agenda

December 4-8, 2023

The Beaufort Hotel
2440 Lennoxville Road
Beaufort NC

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.

Hybrid Public Comment Session:

The public comment session for the meeting (December 6, 2023, at 4 PM), will allow for both in-person and remote (via webinar) verbal public comment. Individuals intending to provide verbal public comment remotely are asked to sign-up at the following link: [\[LINK\]](#). Members of the public intending to provide verbal public comment in-person will be asked to sign-in at the meeting.

Written Comments:

To submit written comment on items on this agenda, visit the online public comment form: [\[LINK\]](#)

Written comments will be accepted from November 17 to December 8, 2023. These comments are accessible to the public, part of the Administrative Record of the meeting, and immediately available for Council consideration.

View submitted written comments at: [\[LINK\]](#)

Written comments submitted by mail/fax received by close of business the Monday before the meeting (November 27, 2023) will be compiled, posted to the website as part of the meeting materials, and included in the administrative record.

From November 28 to 5 PM on December 8, written comments must be submitted electronically through the online public comment form at the link above.

Photo scanning event for FISHstory project: staff will be ready to scan historic photos contributed to the project all day on Wednesday, December 6.

Monday, December 4, 2023

COUNCIL SESSION

COUNCIL SESSION I/Belcher 8:30 am – 12:00 noon (CLOSED)

1. Litigation brief – NOAA General Counsel
2. Appointments

12:00 noon to 1:30 pm

Lunch

COUNCIL SESSION I/Belcher 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm (OPEN)

- Approve agenda

- Approve minutes (September 2023)
- 1. Reports:
 - a. NOAA Office of Law Enforcement
 - b. US Coast Guard
 - c. Council liaisons
 - d. State agencies
 - e. Congressional Activities – David Whaley, Legislative Liaison
 - f. Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Report – Jeff Buckel, Chair
 - g. Outreach and Communications Advisory Panel (AP) – Scott Baker, Chair
- 2. Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER) presentation – Michelle Masi, SEFHIER Program Manager
- 3. Update on the reliability of commercial discard estimates – Dave Gloeckner, Fisheries Statistics Division Director, SEFSC

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mackerel Cobia Committee/Roller 8:30 am – 10:00 am

- Approve agenda
- Approve minutes (September 2023)
- 1. Advisory panel report – Ira Laks, Chair
- 2. CMP Framework Amendment 13 (Spanish Mackerel) – review scoping comments
- 3. Port meetings update

Dolphin Wahoo Committee/Marhefka 10:00 am – 11:00 am

- Approve agenda
- Approve minutes (June 2023)
- 1. Advisory panel report – Chris Burrows, Chair
- 2. Update on Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for Dolphin – Cassidy Peterson, SEFSC

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

- Approve agenda
- Approve minutes (September 2023)
- Update on Red Snapper Notice of Funding Opportunity/EFPs – NMFS SERO
- Update on amendments undergoing rulemaking – NMFS SERO

12:00 noon to 1:30 pm

Lunch

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

1. System Management Plan Workgroup update – Chip Collier
2. Wreckfish (Amendment 48)

- a. Wreckfish Advisory Group and Sub-Committee report
- 3. Private Recreational Permit (Amendment 46)
 - a. AP recommendations – Bob Lorenz, Chair
 - b. Overview and approve for public hearings

4:30 - 5:00 PM Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Comments from Janet Coit, Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Snapper Grouper Committee/McCawley 8:30 am – 12:00 noon

- 4. Gag and Black Grouper Vessel Limit and On-Demand Gear for Black Sea Bass (Regulatory Amendment 36)
 - a. AP recommendations
 - b. Overview and approve for scoping
- 5. Scamp/Yellowmouth Grouper (Amendment 55)
 - a. AP recommendations
 - b. Overview
- 6. Yellowtail Snapper (Amendment 44)
 - a. Guidance on development

12:00 noon to 1:30 pm

Lunch

Snapper Grouper Committee/McCawley 1:30 pm – 3:45 pm

- 7. Red Snapper (Regulatory Amendment 35)
 - a. Overview and re-consider submittal
- 8. Best Fishing Practices Outreach Update
 - b. Outreach Activities Update – Ashley Oliver, David Hugo
- 9. AP recommendations on topics not on agenda – Bob Lorenz, Chair

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

PUBLIC COMMENT

4:00 pm

Public comment will be accepted from individuals attending the meeting (in-person and remotely) 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. Those intending to provide verbal public comment via webinar can sign-up here: [\[LINK\]](#)

- Gag and Black Grouper Vessel Limit and On-Demand Gear for Black Sea Bass (SG Regulatory Amendment 36) – approval for scoping
- Private Recreational Permit (SG Amendment 46) – approval for public hearings

Thursday, December 7, 2023

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Citizen Science Committee/Marhefka 8:30 am – 10:30 am

- Approve agenda
- Approve minutes (March 2023)
- 1. Updated citizen science research priorities – consider approval
- 2. SciFish update and platform demonstration
- 3. Citizen Science Program update

Habitat & Ecosystem Committee/Murphey 10:30 am – 12:00 noon

- Approve agenda
- Approve minutes (September 2023)
- 1. Advisory panel report – Paul Medders, Vice-Chair
- 2. EFH 5-year review
- 3. Habitat Blueprint
 - a. Review draft workplan
 - b. Review draft annual report outline
- 4. Coral management
 - a. Guidance on utilization of deepwater coral modeling for management
 - b. Coral Amendment 10 – guidance on resubmission

12:00 noon to 1:30 pm

Lunch

SEDAR Committee/Belcher 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

- Approve agenda
- Approve minutes (September 2023)
- 1. SEDAR Steering Committee Report
- 2. SEDAR 94 Terms of Reference
- 3. Review Schedule
- 4. Species for 2027 assessments slots

Thursday, December 7, 2023

COUNCIL SESSION

COUNCIL SESSION II/Belcher 2:30 pm – 5:00 pm

- Litigation Brief (if needed)
- 1. Staff Report

2. Council Coordination Committee Report
3. Allocations Review Guidelines – consider approval
4. Stakeholder meetings planning
5. Presentation on offshore wind activities (Kitty Hawk Project and Carolina Long Bay) – Jen Banks (TotalEnergies), Lela Shlenker (Avangrid), and Nathan Craig (Duke Energy)
6. Approve topics for Law Enforcement AP
7. Agency reports
 - a. NMFS Southeast Regional Office Report – NMFS SERO
 - b. NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center Report – NMFS SEFSC

Friday, December 8, 2023

COUNCIL SESSION

COUNCIL SESSION II/Belcher 8:00 am – 12:00 noon

- Executive Director Review (**CLOSED**)
- Committee reports
- 8. Council workplan
- 9. Upcoming meetings

Other business

Adjourn