

New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda
Monday – Thursday, December 5-8, 2022
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, December 1, 2022 to be considered at this meeting. Please address comments to Council Chair Eric Reid or Executive Director Tom Nies 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 2022 meeting at the Hotel Viking in Newport, RI. A webinar option will be available for individuals who cannot or prefer not to attend in person. The Council continues to follow all public safety measures related to [COVID-19](#) and intends to do so for this meeting. Please participate remotely if you are experiencing COVID symptoms or do not feel well. Updates will be posted on the [Council's December 2022 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 6, 2022 at 1:45 p.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.*

Monday, December 5, 2022

1:00 p.m. Introductions and Announcements (Council Chair Eric Reid)

1:05 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)

2:45 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

3:30 Introduction to Chief of BOEM's Office of Renewable Energy Programs (Karen Baker, BOEM)
Update on Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) activities and community engagement from the Chief of the agency's Office of Renewable Energy Programs

4:00 Habitat Committee Report (Council Chair Eric Reid)
Aquaculture: update on framework adjustment to facilitate offshore Atlantic salmon aquaculture; Dedicated Habitat Research Areas (DHRAs): discuss retention of Georges Bank DHRA; Offshore Energy and Habitat-Related Work: update

5:00 Preventing Harassment in the Fishery Management Council Process (Council Chair Eric Reid)
Discussion on policies for preventing harassment of Council staff and all other Council process participants

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

9:00 a.m. Monkfish Management Track Stock Assessment Peer Review (Dr. Jon Deroba, NEFSC)
Presentation on peer review results for September 2022 Monkfish Management Track Stock Assessment

9:30 September 2022 Groundfish Management Track Stock Assessments (Dr. Russ Brown, NEFSC)

Presentation on peer-reviewed September 2022 Management Track Stock Assessments for numerous groundfish stocks

- 11:00 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Report** (SSC Chair Dr. Lisa Kerr)
Receive SSC recommendations for overfishing limits (OFLs) and acceptable biological catches (ABCs) for: (1) monkfish for fishing years 2023-2025; (2) Atlantic sea scallops for fishing year 2023 and defaults for fishing year 2024; and (3) Georges Bank cod and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder for fishing years 2023-2024, as well as 14 other groundfish stocks for fishing years 2023-2025
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:45 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)
- 2:00 Groundfish Committee Report** (Rick Bellavance)
Framework Adjustment 65: final action to include (1) 2023-2024 total allowable catches (TACs) for U.S./Canada shared resources on Georges Bank; (2) 2023-2024 specifications for Georges Bank cod and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder; (3) 2023-2025 specifications for 14 additional groundfish stocks; (4) revised rebuilding plan for Gulf of Maine cod; (5) additional measures to promote Georges Bank and Gulf of Maine cod stock rebuilding; and (6) acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rule revisions for groundfish

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

- 9:00 a.m. Atlantic Sturgeon** (Executive Director Tom Nies; Spencer Talmage, GARFO)
GARFO presentation on final action plan for Atlantic sturgeon; Council discussion on next steps to reduce sturgeon bycatch in federal large-mesh gillnet fisheries
- 9:45 Monkfish Committee Report** (Libby Etrie)
Framework Adjustment 13: final action on specifications for the 2023-2025 fishing years and other measures
- 11:00 Scallop Committee Report** (Melanie Griffin)
Framework Adjustment 36: final action on specifications for the 2023 fishing year, default specifications for 2024, and other measures
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:45 Climate Change Scenario Planning** (Staff; Jonathan Star, Scenario Insight)
Facilitated discussion to identify main takeaways and potential actions across four thematic areas – management and governance, data and science, alternative ocean uses, and adaptability – developed through the East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning initiative; recommend and prioritize actions for evaluation at a February 2023 Summit to assist East Coast fishery management organizations in adapting to climate change

Thursday, December 8, 2022

- 9:00 a.m. Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM) Committee** (John Pappalardo; Tom Balf, Oceanvest; Dr. Gavin Fay, UMass-Dartmouth)
EBFM Public Information Workshops: preliminary summary of seven in-person workshops conducted in October and November; Prototype Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE): overview of Prototype MSE scoping meetings for EBFM and the Georges Bank example Fishery Ecosystem Plan (eFEP); Council Member Ongoing Development (CMOD): report on November 2022 CMOD meeting
- 10:30 Spiny Dogfish Committee** (Melanie Griffin; Jason Didden, MAFMC)
Approve specifications for the 2023 spiny dogfish fishing year
- 11:30 Whiting Report** (Staff)

Presentation on 2022 Small-Mesh Multispecies (Whiting) Annual Monitoring Report covering the 2021 fishing year

12:00 p.m. National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy (Executive Director Tom Nies)

Approve Council comment letter on NOAA's updated Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy

12:15 Lunch Break

1:15 2023 Council Priorities (Executive Director Tom Nies)

Final action on 2023 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

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

Agenda

Blockade Runner
275 Waynick Boulevard
Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480

December 5-9, 2022

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 7, 2022, 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: <https://safmc.wufoo.com/forms/qt3tod0hftvz/>. 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:

<https://safmc.wufoo.com/forms/qowa39c1k7p6rl/>.

Written comments will be accepted from November 18 to December 9, 2022. 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: <https://safmc.wufoo.com/reports/2022-december-council-meeting-comment-report/>.

Written comments submitted by mail/fax received by close of business the Monday before the meeting (November 28, 2022) will be compiled, posted to the website as part of the meeting materials, and included in the administrative record.

From November 29 to 5 PM on December 9, written comments must be submitted electronically through the online public comment form at the link above.

Monday, December 5, 2022

COUNCIL SESSION I

COUNCIL SESSION I/Belcher 8:30 am – 10:30 am (CLOSED Session)

- Adopt agenda
- 1. Advisory Panel (AP) selection
 - a. Appoint members for open seats
 - b. AP policy review
 - c. Stakeholder group meetings

COUNCIL SESSION I/Belcher 10:30 am – 12:00 Noon

- Call to order and introductions
- Adopt agenda
- Approve transcript (September 2022)

1. Reports (NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, US Coast Guard, Council liaisons, state agencies)
2. Joint Commercial Electronic Logbook Amendment
3. Proposed Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary Presentation – LeAnn Hogan, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
4. Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Proposed Rule Comments

12:00 noon to 1:30 pm

Lunch

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

5. Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule Amendment
 - a. Consider for final approval
6. Climate Change Scenario Planning Workshop
 - a. Key discussion topics and recommendations for the 2023 Summit Meeting

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

- Status of amendments recently submitted
- 1. Release Mortality Reduction & Red Snapper (SG Regulatory Amendment 35)
 - a. Snapper Grouper AP input – Bob Lorenz, AP Chair
 - b. Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) input – Jeff Buckel, SSC Chair
 - c. Consider approval for public hearings

12:00 noon to 1:30 pm

Lunch

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

2. Snapper Grouper Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) Update
 - a. Snapper Grouper AP input
 - b. SSC input
3. Recreational Permitting & Reporting (SG Amendment 46)
 - a. Private Recreational Permit Advisory Panel report
 - b. Section 102 Workgroup report
 - c. Consider approval for scoping

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

4. Gag and Black Grouper (SG Amendment 53)
 - a. Snapper Grouper AP Recommendations
5. Snowy Grouper (SG Amendment 51)
 - a. Consider for final approval

12:00 noon to 1:30 pm

Lunch

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

6. Golden Tilefish and Blueline Tilefish (SG Amendment 52)
 - a. Consider for final approval
7. AP recommendations for items not on the agenda

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: <https://safmc.wufoo.com/forms/qt3tod0hfltvz/>.

Approval for scoping:

1. Recreational Permitting & Reporting (SG Amendment 46)

Approval for public hearings:

2. Release Mortality Reduction & Red Snapper (SG Regulatory Amendment 35)

Final approval:

1. ABC Control Rule Amendment
2. Snowy Grouper (SG Amendment 51)
3. Golden Tilefish and Blueline Tilefish (SG Amendment 52)

Thursday, December 8, 2022

COUNCIL SESSION II (CLOSED)

COUNCIL SESSION II/Belcher 8:00 am – 9:00 am

1. Executive Director Review

Thursday, December 8, 2022

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mackerel Cobia Committee/Roller 9:00 am – 12:00 noon

1. Mackerel Cobia AP Report – Ira Laks, AP Chair
2. Gulf King Mackerel (CMP Amendment 33)
 - a. Consider recent Gulf Council actions
3. Spanish Mackerel
 - a. SSC Recommendations
 - b. Allocation Decision Tool application
4. White Paper on False Albacore
5. Port Meetings discussion

12:00 noon to 1:30 pm

Lunch

Outreach and Communication Committee/Woodward 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

1. Outreach and Communications AP report – Scott Baker, AP Chair
2. Review Draft Best Fishing Practices Outreach Program (to inform Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 35)

Thursday, December 8, 2022

COUNCIL SESSION

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

1. Litigation Brief (if needed)
2. Staff Report
3. Update on Council Member Ongoing Development (CMOD)
4. Habitat Protection & Ecosystem Advisory Panel Report – Cindy Cooksey, AP Chair
5. Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team Update – Charlie Phillips
6. SSC Recommendations not addressed in Committees
7. NMFS Southeast Regional Office Report
 - a. Protected Resources Update
 - b. Update on SEFHIER program
8. NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center Report
 - a. Dolphin MSE Stakeholder Meetings Update
 - b. Update on South Atlantic Ecosystem Status Report and Climate Vulnerability Assessment

Friday, December 9, 2022

COUNCIL SESSION

COUNCIL SESSION III/Belcher 8:30 am – 12:00 noon

9. Committee reports
10. Council workplan
11. Upcoming meetings

Other business

Adjourn