

**New England Fishery Management Council Meeting Agenda**  
**Tuesday – Thursday, December 7-9, 2021**  
[By Webinar](#)

Sending comments? Written comments must be received at the NEFMC office no later than 8:00 a.m., Thursday, December 2, 2021 to be considered at this meeting. Please address comments to Council Chair Eric Reid 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 public safety considerations related to [COVID-19](#), this meeting will be conducted by webinar. Please continue to monitor the Council's [December 2021 meeting webpage](#) for updates.

**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 December 8, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. should email Janice Plante at [jplante@nefmc.org](mailto:jplante@nefmc.org) to get on the list.

**Tuesday, December 7, 2021**

**9:30 a.m. 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, and NOAA Enforcement

**11:30 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

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

**1:45 Habitat Committee Report** (Council Chair Eric Reid; Brian Hooker, BOEM)  
Offshore wind: (1) approve revised Council policy on wind energy, (2) receive Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) presentation on Atlantic offshore wind leasing activity; Habitat: update on other ongoing habitat-related work

**3:15 Spiny Dogfish Committee Report** (Nichola Meserve; Jason Didden, Mid-Atlantic Council staff)  
Review results of recent spiny dogfish meetings; consider appropriate actions, including: (1) committee and Mid-Atlantic Council recommendations to increase the federal trip limit to 7,500 pounds; and (2) potentially prioritize a 2022 framework action to consider additional trip limit changes pending the results of the Spiny Dogfish Research Track Assessment

**4:15 CCC Subcommittee on Area-Based Management** (Council Chair Eric Reid)  
Progress report on work by the Council Coordination Committee (CCC) Subcommittee on Area-Based Management to assist the CCC in responding to the 30x30 initiative in the draft White House report titled "Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful"

**4:45 Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful** (Executive Director Tom Nies)  
Review and approve Council comment letter in response to NOAA's request for input on "Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful"

**Wednesday, December 8, 2021**

**9:00 a.m. Sea Turtle Bycatch in Trawl Fisheries** (Carrie Upite, GARFO)  
GARFO presentation on outreach process for development of bycatch reduction measures to reduce takes of sea turtles in trawl fisheries

**9:45 Fall 2021 Management Track Stock Assessments Peer Review** (NEFSC)  
Report on Peer Review of 2021 Management Track Stock Assessments for Gulf of Maine cod and Georges Bank cod

- 10:45 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Report** (SSC Chair Dr. Lisa Kerr)  
Receive SSC recommendations on overfishing limits (OFLs) and acceptable biological catches (ABCs) for: (1) Atlantic sea scallops for fishing years 2022 and defaults for 2023; (2) Georges Bank cod and Gulf of Maine cod for fishing years 2022-2024; (3) Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank haddock for 2022; and (4) white hake for fishing year 2022
- 11:45 Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC)** (Libby Etrie)  
Report on TMGC's November 4, 2021 intersessional meeting
- 12:00 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)
- 12:15 Lunch Break**
- 1:30 Groundfish Committee Report** (Rick Bellavance)  
Framework Adjustment 63: final action, which includes (1) 2022 TACs for U.S./Canada shared resources on Georges Bank (GB), (2) 2022-2023 specifications for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder, (3) 2022-2024 specifications for Georges Bank cod and Gulf of Maine cod, (4) possible adjustment of 2022 specs for Georges Bank and Gulf of Maine haddock, (5) adjustment of 2022 specs for white hake based on rebuilding plan, (6) additional measures to promote stock rebuilding, and (7) alternatives for setting groundfish default specifications

**Thursday, December 9, 2021**

- 9:00 a.m. Scallop Committee Report** (Melanie Griffin)  
Framework Adjustment 34: final action on 2022 fishery specifications, 2023 default specifications, and inclusion of Amendment 21 measures in Framework 34; Evaluation of Rotational Management Program: receive draft report; Scallop Survey Working Group: update
- 11:30 Introduction to New NOAA Fisheries Assistant Administrator** (Janet Coit, NOAA Fisheries)  
Remarks from the new head of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS/NOAA Fisheries) and opportunity for Council questions
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch Break**
- 1:15 2022 Council Priorities** (Executive Director Tom Nies)  
Final action on 2022 Council Priorities for all fishery management plans and other Council responsibilities
- 3:15 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

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Melvin Bell, Chair | Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Vice Chair  
John Carmichael, Executive Director

## SAFMC Meeting Agenda FINAL

December 6-10, 2021

The Beaufort Hotel  
2400 Lennoxville Road  
Beaufort NC 28516

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, which begins December 8, 2021 at 4 PM, will allow for both in-person and remote verbal public comment. Individuals intending to provide verbal public comment via webinar are asked to sign-up at the following link: <https://safmc.wufoo.com/forms/2021-dec-council-meeting-virtual-comment-signin/>. 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/2021-dec-council-meeting-public-comment>.

Written comments will be accepted from November 19 to December 10, 2021. 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/2021-dec-meeting-public-comment/>

Written comments submitted by mail/fax received by close of business the Monday before the meeting (11/29/21) will be compiled, posted to the website as part of the meeting materials, and included in the administrative record.

From November 30<sup>th</sup> to 5 PM on December 10<sup>th</sup>, written comments must be submitted electronically through the online public comment form at the link above.

## **Monday, December 6, 2021**

## **COUNCIL SESSION**

### **COUNCIL SESSION I (CLOSED)/Mel Bell 8:30 am – 10:00 am**

1. Advisory Panel and SSC Socio-Economic Panel selection
2. Consider Filling Vacant SSC Seat
3. Participant Approval for SEDAR 82 (South Atlantic Gray Triggerfish)
4. Update Participant list for SEDAR 76 (South Atlantic Black Sea Bass)
5. Legal briefing (if needed)

**COUNCIL SESSION I /Mel Bell 10:00 am – 12:00 Noon**

Call to order and introductions

Adopt agenda

Approve minutes

1. Reports (NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, US Coast Guard, state agencies, Council liaisons)
2. Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology Review – NMFS SERO
  - a. SSC recommendations – Genny Nesslage, SSC Chair
3. Exempted Fishing Permit Brief

**12:00 noon to 1:30 pm      Lunch**

**Monday, December 6, 2021**

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**Mackerel Cobia Committee/Spud Woodward 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm**

1. Atlantic King Mackerel (CMP Amendment 34)
  - a. Overview and review public hearing input
2. Gulf Cobia (CMP Amendment 32)
  - a. Overview and review public hearing input
  - b. Recommend approval for formal review
3. Gulf King Mackerel (CMP Amendment 33)
  - a. Overview of options

**Tuesday, December 7, 2021**

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

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

1. Ecopath project on red snapper recruitment
  - a. Modeling team discussion – Lauren Gentry, FWRI
  - b. SSC comments
2. Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Revisions
  - a. AP comments and recommendations – Jimmy Hull, AP Chair
  - b. Release Mortality Reduction Framework
  - c. Guidance from Private Recreational Workgroup – Spud Woodward, Chair
  - d. Red Snapper Response and Holistic Management Approach
  - e. White Paper on Commercial Snapper Grouper Permits

**12:00 noon to 1:30 pm      Lunch**

**Snapper Grouper Committee/Jessica McCawley 1:30 pm – 5:30 pm**

3. SEDAR 68 Scamp Research Track Assessment
  - a. Presentation, NMFS SEFSC
  - b. SSC Recommendations
4. Snowy Grouper (SG Amendment 51)
  - a. AP comments and recommendations

- b. Overview of options and approve for scoping
- 5. Golden Tilefish (SG Amendment 52)
  - a. AP comments and recommendations
  - b. Overview of options and approve for scoping
- 6. Gag (SG Amendment 53)
  - a. SSC recommendations
  - b. AP Comments and recommendations
  - c. Overview of options and approve for scoping

**Wednesday, December 8, 2021**

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

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

- 7. Greater Amberjack (SG Amendment 49)
  - a. Overview and approve for public hearings
- 8. Yellowtail Snapper (SG Amendment 44)
  - b. Overview of scoping comments
  - c. AP comments and recommendations

**12:00 noon to 1:30 pm      Lunch**

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

- 9. Red Pogy (SG Amendment 50)
  - a. Overview
  - b. Approve all actions
- 10. AP comments on items not covered
- 11. Red Snapper and Greater Amberjack Project Updates

**Wednesday, December 8, 2021**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**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/2021-dec-council-meeting-virtual-comment-signin/>**

**Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) Requests**

**Approval for scoping:**

- (1) Snowy Grouper (SG Amendment 51)
- (2) Golden Tilefish (SG Amendment 52)
- (3) Gag (SG Amendment 53)

**Approval for public hearings:**

- (1) Greater Amberjack (SG Amendment 49)

**Final approval:**

- (1) Gulf Cobia (CMP Amendment 32)

**Thursday, December 9, 2021**

**COUNCIL SESSION**

**COUNCIL SESSION II (CLOSED)/Mel Bell 8:00 am – 9:00 am**

1. Executive Director review

**Thursday, December 9, 2021**

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**SEDAR Committee /Mel Bell 9:00 am – 11:00 am**

1. SEDAR Steering Committee Report
2. Revise SEDAR/SAFMC Process and Approvals
3. SEDAR 68 Scamp Operational Assessment
  - a. Terms of Reference Approval
  - b. Schedule Review
4. SEDAR 82 Gray Triggerfish Research Track Assessment
  - a. Terms of Reference Approval
  - b. Schedule Review
5. SEDAR 83 Vermilion Snapper Operational Assessment
  - a. Terms of Reference Approval
  - b. Schedule Review
6. SEDAR 86 Red Grouper Operational Assessment
  - a. Terms of Reference Approval
  - b. Schedule Review
7. Review 2024 golden Tilefish Operational Assessment Statement of Work
8. Stock Prioritization

**Citizen Science Committee/Kerry Marhefka 11:00 am – 12:00 noon**

1. Updated Citizen Science Research Priorities
  - a. Review, discuss, and consider for adoption
2. Citizen Science Program Update

**12:00 noon to 1:30 pm      Lunch**

**Outreach and Communications Committee/Spud Woodward 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm**

1. Outreach & Communications Advisory Panel Report
2. Sea Grant Fellowship Introduction
3. Website Demo

**Thursday, December 9, 2021**

**COUNCIL SESSION**

**COUNCIL SESSION III Mel Bell 3:00 pm – 5:30 pm**

1. Law Enforcement Officer of the Year 2020 Award
2. Exempted Fishing Permit Discussion
3. Legal brief (if needed)
4. SSC recommendations not covered under Committees (if needed)
5. Council staff reports
  - a. Executive Director
  - b. Climate Change Scenario Planning
6. NMFS SEFSC reports
  - a. Commercial E-Logbook Update
  - b. Headboat Survey Annual Report
  - c. Southeast Reef Fish Survey (SERFS) Annual Report

**Friday, December 10, 2021**

**COUNCIL SESSION**

**COUNCIL SESSION III/Mel Bell 8:30 am – 12:00 noon**

7. Briefing on Kitty Hawk Wind project – Rick Robins
8. Committee & Full Council Sessions Reports
9. FMP Workplan Review and Upcoming Meetings
10. NMFS SERO reports
  - a. SEFHIRE Update
  - b. Protected Resources Update
  - c. SAFE Report Status
  - d. Blueline Tilefish Summary
11. Other business

Adjourn