

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648–XF731]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Scallop Committee to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: This meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 3, 2026 at 9 a.m. Webinar registration URL information: <https://nefmc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/Td6KfkPiTzmQI0Sts3nyOg>.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held at Hilton Garden Inn Providence, 220 Portugal Way, Providence, RI 02903; Phone (401) 272–5577.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cate O’Keefe, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465–0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Agenda**

The Scallop Committee will meet to develop recommendations for Scallop Research Set-Aside priorities for 2027/2028 and 2028/2029. They also plan to discuss Scallop Framework 42: Receive an update on the timeline and provide input on the development of expected measures. This action will be initiated at the June 2026 Council meeting. Also on the agenda is Scallop Long-Term Strategic Plan: Develop recommendations for sequencing Scallop Strategic Plan work items for 2027–2029. Other business will be discussed, if necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained on the 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. The public also should be aware that the meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Cate O’Keefe, Executive Director, at (978) 465–0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: May 1, 2026.

Anna Michelle Harrison,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–08815 Filed 5–5–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648–XF730]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Scallop Advisory Panel to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: This meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 2, 2026 at 9 a.m.

Webinar registration URL information: <https://nefmc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/Td6KfkPiTzmQI0Sts3nyOg>.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held at Hilton Garden Inn Providence, 220 Portugal Way, Providence, RI 02903; Phone (401) 272–5577.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cate O’Keefe, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465–0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Agenda**

The Scallop Advisory Panel will meet to develop recommendations for Scallop Research Set-Aside priorities for 2027/2028 and 2028/2029. They also plan to discuss Scallop Framework 42: Receive an update on the timeline and provide input on the development of expected measures. This action will be initiated at the June 2026 Council meeting. Also on the agenda is Scallop Long-Term Strategic Plan: Develop recommendations for sequencing Scallop Strategic Plan work items for 2027–2029. Other business will be discussed, if necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained on the 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. The public also should be aware that the meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Cate O’Keefe, Executive Director, at (978) 465–0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: May 1, 2026.

Anna Michelle Harrison,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–08810 Filed 5–5–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648–XF743]

Fisheries of the South Atlantic, Gulf and Caribbean; Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce (NOAA).

ACTION: Notice of webinar.

SUMMARY: The Southeast Data Assessment and Review (SEDAR) 101 assessment process will consist of a Data Workshop, an internal agency led assessment stage, and a Review Workshop. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

DATES: The SEDAR 101 Post-Data Workshop Webinar will be held from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. EDT May 27, 2026.

ADDRESSES: *SEDAR address:* 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405. *https://www.sedarweb.org*. *Meeting address:* The SEDAR 101 Post-Data Workshop Webinar will be held via webinar. The webinar is open to members of the public. The established times may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the timely completion of discussion relevant to the assessment process. Such adjustments may result in the meeting being extended from or completed prior to the time established by this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Emily Ott, SEDAR Coordinator; (843) 302-8434. Email: *Emily.Ott@safmc.net*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Gulf, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils, in conjunction with the NMFS and the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions have implemented the SEDAR process, a multi-step method for determining the status of fish stocks in the Southeast Region SEDAR is a participatory process for developing, evaluating and reviewing information used for fisheries management advice. The process may include (1) a Data stage, and (2) an Assessment stage, and (3) a Review stage. The product of the Data stage is a report which compiles and evaluates potential datasets and recommends which datasets are appropriate for assessment analyses. The product of the Assessment stage is a report which compiles and evaluates recommended model configurations that describes the fisheries, evaluates the status of the stock, estimates biological benchmarks and projects future population conditions. The product of the Review Workshop is a Review Summary documenting panel opinions regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the products reviewed. Participants for SEDAR Workshops are appointed by the Gulf, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils and National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, and Southeast Fisheries Science Center. Participants include data collectors and database managers; stock assessment scientists, biologists, and researchers; constituency

representatives including fishermen, environmentalists, and non-governmental organizations; International experts; and staff of Councils, Commissions, and state and Federal agencies.

The items of discussion in the Post-Data Workshop Webinar are as follows: The Panel will finalize data decisions that were not completed at the in-person data workshop. Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 business days prior to each workshop.

Note: The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: May 1, 2026.

Anna Michelle Harrison,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2026-08816 Filed 5-5-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No.: PTO-P-2020-0027]

Extension and Modification of the Fast-Track Appeals Pilot Program

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is extending the Fast-Track Appeals Pilot Program, initiated on July 2, 2020, and previously extended on July 12, 2021, and October 4, 2022. The Fast-Track Appeals Pilot Program permits appellants with a docketed *ex parte* appeal before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB or

Board) to file a petition to expedite the review of the appeal. The Fast-Track Appeals Pilot Program previously set a target of reaching a decision on each *ex parte* appeal within six months from the date the appeal entered the program. Effective in this extension, the Fast-Track Appeals Pilot Program will set a target of reaching a decision on each *ex parte* appeal within four months from the date the appeal enters the program.

DATES:

Applicability Date: May 6, 2026.

Duration: The Fast-Track Appeals Pilot Program will run until May 6, 2028. After that date, the USPTO may temporarily or permanently extend the Fast-Track Appeals Pilot Program (with or without modification) or discontinue the program.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Megan Carlson, PTAB, by telephone at 571-272-9797 or by email at *fasttrackappeals@uspto.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Ex parte appeals to the Board are normally taken up for decision in the order in which they are docketed. See USPTO Standard Operating Procedure 1, Rev. 16, Assignment of judges to panels (June 12, 2024), available at *www.uspto.gov/patents/ptab/resources*. Currently, average appeal pendency is about 8.5 months, down from 15 months in 2020, and 30 months in 2015. See the PTAB statistics available at *https://www.uspto.gov/dashboard/ptab/*. A small number of *ex parte* appeals are advanced out of turn, for example, because the appealed case is a reissue application or a reexamination proceeding, or because the appealed case was accorded special status in light of an inventor's advanced age or poor health.

On July 2, 2020, the PTAB adopted, on a temporary basis, the Fast-Track Appeals Pilot Program, where appellants may have an *ex parte* appeal to the Board advanced out of turn by filing a petition under 37 CFR 41.3 and paying the petition fee specified in 37 CFR 41.20(a). See Fast-Track Appeals Pilot Program (85 FR 39888, July 2, 2020) (Fast-Track Notice). The PTAB extended the Fast-Track Appeals Pilot Program on July 12, 2021. See Extension of the Fast-Track Appeals Pilot Program (86 FR 36530, July 12, 2021) (First Extension). The PTAB again extended the Fast-Track Appeals Pilot Program on October 4, 2022. See Extension of the Fast-Track Appeals Pilot Program (87 FR 60135, October 4, 2022) (Second Extension). The Fast-Track Appeals Pilot Program permits appellants to accelerate the Board's decision on an *ex parte* appeal, hastening patentability