



NORTHEAST REGION COORDINATING COUNCIL CHARTER



New England
Fishery Management
Council



MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY
MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL

The Northeast Region Coordinating Council Charter

Background

Formed in 2001, the Northeast Region Coordinating Council (NRCC) consists of members from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO), Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC), New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC), and Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC).

Mission

To prioritize, communicate, and coordinate fisheries scientific and management resources through in-person meetings that include Federal, state, Council, and Commission managers and scientists of the Greater Atlantic region of the United States.

Roles and Responsibilities

Formal Members

The following are the decision-making, voting members of the NRCC representing the five partner organizations:

- ASMFC Chair
- ASMFC Vice-Chair
- ASMFC Executive Director
- MAFMC Chair
- MAFMC Vice-Chair
- MAFMC Executive Director
- NEFMC Chair
- NEFMC Vice-Chair
- NEFMC Executive Director
- NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Administrator
- NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science and Research Director

NRCC Deputies

NRCC Deputies are non-voting, standing members from each member organization with the following titles:

- Assistant Regional Administrator (ARA) for Sustainable Fisheries, GARFO
- Interstate Fishery Management Program Director, ASMFC
- Deputy Director (or designee), NEFMC
- Deputy Director (or designee), MAFMC
- Chief, Resource Evaluation and Assessment Division, NEFSC

These designated deputies form an oversight panel that reviews and approves the membership of research track stock assessment working groups, as well as confirm the selection of external experts nominated to serve on management track or research track peer review panels.

Ex-Officio Members

Ex-officio members may attend and participate in NRCC meetings to provide organizational support and expertise. Ex-officio members include:

- MAFMC Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Chair
- NEFMC SSC Chair
- Fisheries Science Program Director, ASMFC
- ARA for Analysis and Program Support, GARFO
- Stock Assessment Workshop Chair, NEFSC
- NOAA General Counsel, Northeast Section

Support Staff

Two support staff, appointed by the GARFO Regional Administrator, attend every NRCC meeting to assist with meeting logistics. Support staff solicit members for agenda items in advance of the meetings, take notes and record action items during meetings, and are responsible for drafting and distributing meeting summaries following NRCC meetings. Support staff will provide drafts of meeting summaries to all parties for review prior to finalization. Support staff are also responsible for organizing and providing support for any intercessional meetings or conference calls deemed necessary by the NRCC.

Invited Participants

Other technical staff may attend, as necessary, based on specific meeting agenda topics.

Operations

Rotational Chairs

The Executive Directors, Chairs, and Vice-Chairs of the Councils and Commission, the GARFO Regional Administrator, and the NEFSC Science and Research Director will each rotate into the NRCC chair position on an annual basis. The rotational chair schedule is provided below:

| GARFO | | S2023, F2023 | S2028, F2028 |
|-------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| ASMFC | S2019, F2019 | S2024, F2024 | S2029, F2029 |
| MAFMC | S2020, F2020 | S2025, F2025 | S2030, F2030 |
| NEFSC | S2021, F2021 | S2026, F2026 | S2031, F2031 |
| NEFMC | S2022, F2022 | S2027, F2027 | S2032, F2032 |

F= Fall; typically October S=Spring; typically May

As further described below, the chair is responsible for finalizing meeting agendas, including the selection of special agenda topics, and for leading the meeting discussions with the help of the lead NRCC GARFO support staffer.

Scheduling

The NRCC meets twice annually, in the spring and fall, to discuss assessment scheduling and crosscutting fisheries issues. Meetings are generally two days in length, but can extend to three days at the discretion of the NRCC chair to handle larger coordination issues, as appropriate. Intercessional calls may also be scheduled between in-person meetings.

Agenda Setting

Agenda topics for NRCC meetings that extend beyond assessment scheduling and prioritization should be relevant to at least three of the NRCC member organizations. Formal NRCC members are the points of contact for consolidating and submitting agenda items to GARFO NRCC support staff.

In preparation for each NRCC meeting, the NRCC chair will coordinate with support staff to finalize the agenda prior to the start of the NRCC meeting.

Logistics/Hosting Rotation

When member organizations are chairing the NRCC meetings, they will also host the meetings, which requires setting up the hotel reservations, making dinner reservations, and providing the necessary meeting space and equipment. The hosting rotation schedule is the same as the schedule provided under to Rotational Chairs section on page 2. Logistical questions for hosts should be sent to the current NRCC GARFO support staff.

Decision Making

The formal NRCC members are decision makers for setting stock assessment priorities and schedules (See Assessment Scheduling below). Voting in these cases is accomplished by consensus and decisions are recorded in the meeting summaries. If there is ever a need to conduct a formal vote, each organization will vote as a block and represent one vote.

In other instances, the NRCC's role is to be a coordinating body that makes consensus recommendations to be considered by the Councils, Commission, NEFSC, and GARFO.

Assessment Scheduling

With respect to assessment priorities, the NRCC (a) sets/recommends long-term (five-plus year) schedules for both the management and research track, (b) reviews and adjusts those schedules as needed, and (c) recommends priorities among complex management track assessments (i.e., assessments requiring expedited or enhanced peer reviews) in situations where more complex assessments are proposed than can be accommodated.

The specifics of the assessment scheduling process is outlined in Appendix 1: Description of New England and Mid-Atlantic Stock Assessment Process

NRCC Committees

NRCC members will occasionally form (and appoint membership to) ad-hoc sub-committees as needed. These sub-committees will be focused on particular subjects that arise from NRCC discussions and will convene only as long as necessary to complete a particular task.

Public Engagement

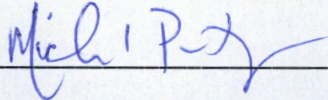
The primary purpose of the NRCC is to coordinate actions and resource allocations for the member groups. Meetings are generally open to the public. Occasionally, a conference call will be available when a requested presenter or NRCC attendee cannot attend a specific meeting.

The NRCC meeting agendas, briefing material, and meeting summaries are made publically available on the NEFMC's website (<https://www.nefmc.org/committees/northeast-regional-coordinating-council-nrcc>).

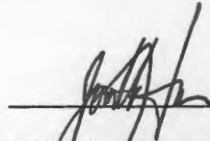
Signatures and Approval

We, the formal membership of the NRCC, hereby agree to the terms of this NRCC charter, as initially finalized on 2/5/2019.

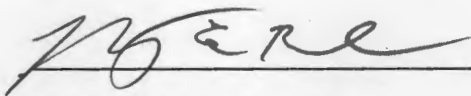
DATE



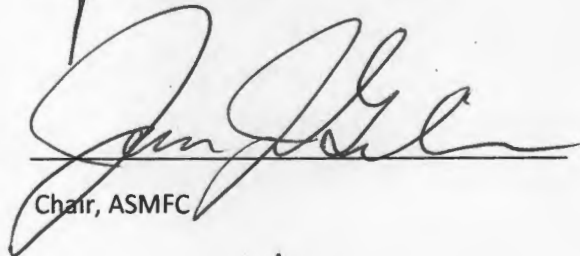
Regional Administrator, GARFO



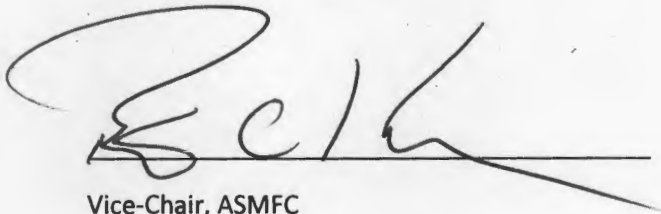
Science and Research Director, NEFSC



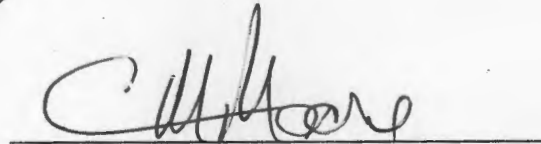
Executive Director, ASMFC



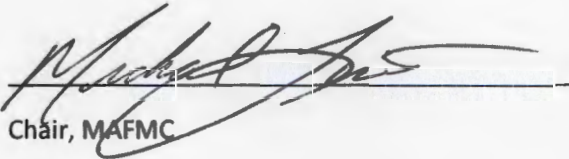
Chair, ASMFC



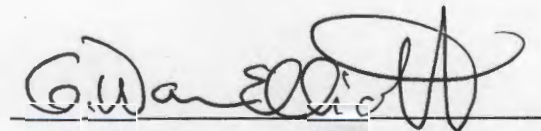
Vice-Chair, ASMFC



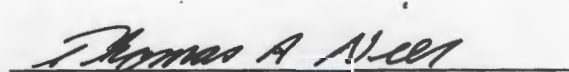
Executive Director, MAFMC



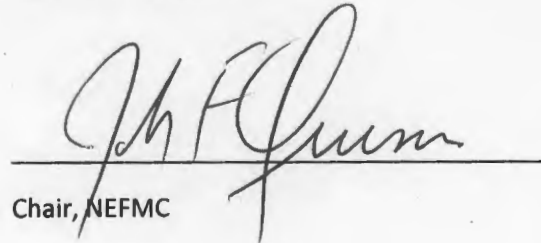
Chair, MAFMC



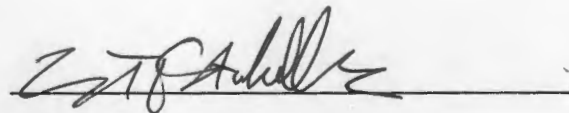
Vice-Chair, MAFMC



Executive Director, NEFMC



Chair, NEFMC



Vice-Chair, NEFMC