



New England Fishery Management Council

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John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

**NOTICE OF SUPPLEMENTAL SCOPING PERIOD
DRAFT AMENDMENT 5 TO THE NORTHEAST SKATE COMPLEX
FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The New England Fishery Management Council is holding a supplemental scoping period for Amendment 5 to the Northeast Skate Complex Fishery Management Plan to identify management issues and develop alternatives for the wing and/or bait skate fishery. The scoping period includes two public hearings via webinar and is being held by the Council in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

<u>Date and Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Thursday, January 21, 2021 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Webinar Hearing Register to participate – https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3036577748943629579 Call in information: + (631) 992-3221 Access Code: 331-326-701
Monday, February 8, 2021 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Webinar Hearing Register to participate – https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6858166806279145739 Call in information: +1 (415) 655-0052 Access Code: 987-552-568

During the hearings, Council staff will brief the public on Draft Amendment 5 before receiving comments. The hearing will begin promptly at the time indicated above. If all attendees who wish to do so have provided their comments prior to the end time indicated, the hearing may conclude early. To the extent possible, the Council may extend hearings beyond the end time indicated above to accommodate all attendees who wish to speak.

The Supplemental Scoping Document and other information on Amendment 5 is available on the Council’s website (<https://www.nefmc.org/library/amendment-5-3>) or may be obtained by contacting the Council office at (978) 465-0492.

Members of the public may submit oral and/or written comments at these public hearings or submit written comments directly to the New England Fishery Management Council. Please note on your correspondence “Northeast Skate Complex Amendment 5 Scoping Comments”. Written comments must be received on or before 5:00 p.m. EST, Friday, February 12, 2021. Written comments received on or before this time, as well as comments provided at the hearings, will be reviewed by the Council’s Skate Committee and full Council at subsequent meetings.

Written comments should be sent to:

Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950
Fax (978) 465–3116
Email: comments@nefmc.org with “Northeast Skate Complex Amendment 5 Scoping Comment” in subject line

More info on back

Public Participation by Webinar: The Council will collect oral comments during the webinar public hearings. The Skate Committee Chair will run the meeting and, in an orderly fashion, call on individuals who use the “Raise Hand” button on the webinar and indicate their wish to speak. You **must** register for the webinar if you plan to provide oral comments. Those who call-in by telephone without registering for the webinar and entering the PIN provided will be in listen-only mode. Individuals are encouraged to submit written comments ahead of time and throughout the public comment period.

- The “Remote Participation Guide has instructions for how to provide oral comments during these webinar meetings and is available at: https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/NEFMC-meeting-remote-participation_generic.pdf

These meetings will be recorded. Consistent with 16 USC 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request. These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities.

cc: Council Members, Skate., AP, PDT and IP’s
Notice date: December 16, 2020