



# New England Fishery Management Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 18, 2025

PRESS CONTACT: Alex Dunn

(978) 465-0492 x 112, [adunn@nefmc.org](mailto:adunn@nefmc.org)

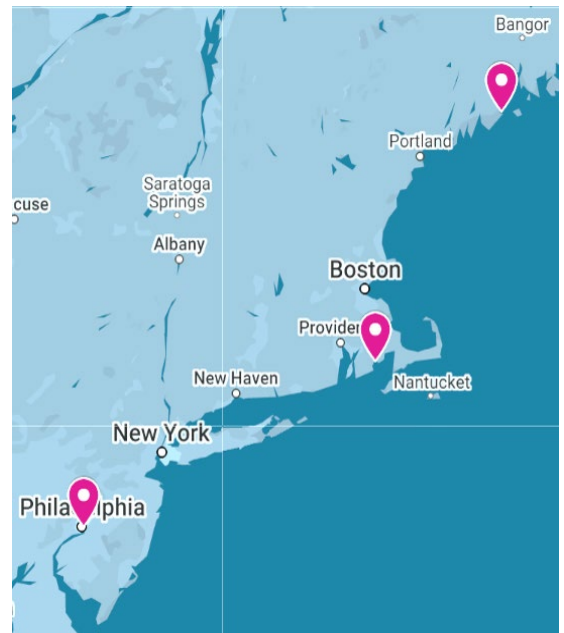
## Council Seeks Input at Scallop Strategic Plan Visioning Sessions

The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) has scheduled four Visioning Sessions to gather public input to help shape the development of a strategic plan to guide the future management of the Atlantic sea scallop fishery over the next 3-5 years.

Three of the sessions will be held in person and one will take place virtually. Here is the schedule:

- **Rockport, Maine:** [February 27, 2025](#), 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. at the Maine Fishermen’s Forum, Samoset Resort, 220 Warrenton Street
- **New Bedford, Massachusetts:** [March 4, 2025](#), 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Whaling Museum, 18 Johnny Cake Hill
- **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania:** [March 13, 2025](#), 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Windsor Suites, 1700 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
- **Webinar:** [March 24, 2025](#), 1 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Register [here](#)

For planning purposes [please fill out this Google Form](#) to let us know if you’ll be attending a session. The Rockport, New Bedford, and Philadelphia Visioning Sessions will not have a webinar option.



### WHAT INFORMATION DOES THE COUNCIL WANT TO KNOW?

- What is the current state of the scallop fishery?
- Where do you want the fishery to be in 3-5 years?
- What is your long-term vision for the fishery?
- What are the challenges facing the scallop resource, the scallop fishery, and scallop habitat?
- What does the Council need to do to achieve this vision?

### What do you think about?

- Fishing practices, such as high-grading and fishing in high density areas
- Impacts from changing ocean conditions
- Fleet capacity
- Scallop resource enhancement
- Scallop management in the Gulf of Maine / Northern Gulf of Maine



# New England Fishery Management Council

Through these Visioning Sessions, the Council will gather input on key challenges, emerging issues, and strategies. It will use the input to begin shaping the strategic plan to ensure the continued success of the fishery.

To learn more about the strategic planning timeline and process please visit the Council's [webpage](#) or view the [Visioning Sessions for the Development of a Long-Term Strategic Plan](#).

Strategic Plan Process	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Council Meetings											
Visioning sessions and initial public input											
Council to consider all input and guide development of draft plan											
Outreach meetings and additional public input											
Develop draft Strategic Plan											
Council approves final Strategic Plan											



Coonamessett Farm Foundation photo

## CAN'T ATTEND? SUBMIT A COMMENT

### Written comments can be sent to:

Cate O'Keefe, Executive Director  
 New England Fishery Management Council  
 50 Water Street, Mill 2  
 Newburyport, MA 01950

Email or phone:  
[comments@nefmc.org](mailto:comments@nefmc.org) or (978) 465-0492

- Include the subject line: "Scallop Strategic Visioning Sessions"

## QUESTIONS?

**Contact** Connor Buckley, the Council's scallop plan coordinator, at [cbuckley@nefmc.org](mailto:cbuckley@nefmc.org)