



## New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116  
Eric Reid, *Chair* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

### **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** March 8, 2023  
**TO:** Habitat Advisory Panel  
**FROM:** Eric Reid, Habitat Committee Chair

**SUBJECT: Charge to Advisory Panel for March 21, 2023 meeting**

There will be a Habitat Advisory Panel meeting on March 21 via webinar from 9:00-12:00. See here to register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1464733535707899991>. At the start of the session staff will provide an overview of Advisory Panel policies including the Council's recently revised harassment policy, given this is the AP's first meeting since the start of the 2023-25 membership term.

**Atlantic Salmon Aquaculture Framework**

The Habitat Plan Development Team, in consultation with the Habitat Committee and Council has developed a range of alternatives to authorize possession of farmed Atlantic salmon in federal waters. The Enforcement Committee will provide feedback on these alternatives on March 15. Final action on the framework is planned for the April 18-20 Council meeting. The Advisory Panel is asked to review and comment on these alternatives and the related background information and impacts analysis. The Advisory Panel may recommend a preferred alternative to the Habitat Committee, if desired.

**Northern Edge Habitat/Scallop Framework**

In December, the Council prioritized work on an action to facilitate scallop access to the Northern Edge of Georges Bank. This action will be developed through the joint efforts of the Habitat and Scallop Committees, Advisory Panels, and Plan Development Teams, consulting with others as needed. Separately and then jointly, the Habitat and Scallop Plan Development Teams have drafted goals and objectives for the action. The Advisory Panel is asked to review the goals and objectives, ask questions, and suggest edits. On March 23, the Habitat Committee will discuss the goals and objectives, along with any Advisory Panel input, and develop recommendations to the Council. The Scallop Advisory Panel and Committee will review the goals and objectives the following week. Staff will provide the combined input to the Council for consideration in April.

**Exempted Fishing Permit-based research in the Great South Channel Habitat Management Area**

At the Council's request, the Habitat Plan Development Team and Committee provided [recommendations](#) on the utility of results from an EFP-based study of the Rose and Crown section of the Great South Channel Habitat Management Area. The recommendations were based on a final report prepared by study authors at Coonamessett Farm Foundation and informed by discussions between the authors and the PDT. Around this same time, Coonamessett Farm Foundation requested another EFP to complete additional work. The GARFO administrator denied this request in December, and CFF

provided a rebuttal in January. We are sharing this information with the Advisory Panel because of the Council's prior engagement on the earlier phase of this work.

### **Other business**

Members can use this time to raise any other business items not otherwise on the agenda.

### **Meeting Materials**

The documents listed below will be posted to <https://www.nefmc.org/calendar/mar-21-2023-habitat-advisory-panel-webinar>. If you have any questions about the materials, please contact Ms. Bachman ([mbachman@nefmc.org](mailto:mbachman@nefmc.org); 978-465-0492 x120).

1. Tasking memo from Committee Chair Eric Reid
2. Meeting summaries
  - a. Habitat Plan Development Team (Aquaculture) – January 4, 2023
  - b. Habitat Committee – January 12, 2023
  - c. Habitat Plan Development Team (Aquaculture) – February 7, 2023
  - d. Habitat Plan Development Team meeting summary (Northern Edge) – February 22, 2023
  - e. Habitat/Scallop Plan Development Team (Northern Edge, DRAFT) – March 14, 2023
  - f. Enforcement Committee (Aquaculture, DRAFT) – March 15, 2023
3. Presentations
  - a. Advisory Panel Policies
  - b. Staff presentation covering all other topics
4. Draft Atlantic Salmon Aquaculture Framework
5. Draft Northern Edge Habitat/Scallop Framework Goals and Objectives
6. Coonamessett Farm Foundation EFP application, GARFO recommendation, and CFF rebuttal
7. Correspondence