



## New England Fishery Management Council

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

### MEETING NOTICE HABITAT COMMITTEE

**Date:** Tuesday, January 9, 2018  
**Time:** 9:30 a.m.  
**Location:** Four Points by Sheraton  
1 Audubon Road  
Wakefield, MA 01880  
Phone: (781) 245-9300

#### Agenda:

- The Committee will: Review an updated coral management zone alternative including boundary changes and impacts analysis. The Committee will then recommend final preferred deep-sea coral alternatives to the Council for action during its January 30-February 1 meeting, considering any recommendations from the Habitat Advisory Panel and Plan Development Team. Many aspects of the amendment have already been finalized. The remaining topic for consideration is a coral protection zone or zones along the continental slope, canyons, and seamounts south of Georges Bank.
- Discuss next steps stemming from the anticipated January 4 NOAA Fisheries decision on Omnibus Essential Fish Habitat Amendment 2. This will include a discussion of alternatives development for the trailing action to consider clam dredge exemption areas on Georges Bank and Nantucket Shoals, as well as a discussion about how the decision on the amendment might influence 2018 management priorities.
- Discuss any updates related to offshore wind and oil and gas development, and recommend specific projects for the Council to comment on during early 2018.
- Hear a progress update on fishing impacts modeling efforts and receive updates on other habitat-related aspects of the Council's fishery management program, as needed, for example ongoing EFH consultation work.

If you would like your written comments to be considered at this meeting, they must be received at the NEFMC office no later than 5 p.m. on Thursday, January 4, 2018. Please address them to Council Chairman Dr. John Quinn or Executive Director Tom Nies. Email submissions should be sent to [comments@nefmc.org](mailto:comments@nefmc.org).

For information about meeting materials and detailed agenda, please consult the Council's website at [www.nefmc.org](http://www.nefmc.org).

*This meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 USC 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.*

*This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities.  
This schedule is subject to change. If you have questions, please call the Council office.*

**\*Directions on Reverse\***

**Directions:**

**From the South:** Take I-95/128 North to Exit 42 (Salem Street). At the bottom of the exit ramp, take a left onto Salem St. At the second traffic light/Sunoco Station turn left onto Audubon Road. Go under the underpass, through the traffic light, and turn right at the second traffic light. The hotel entrance will be immediately on the right.

**From the North:** Take I-95/128 South to Exit 42 (Salem Street). At the bottom of the exit ramp take a right onto Audubon Road, then take your first right at the traffic light. The hotel entrance will be immediately on the right.

TA #: 18-4

cc: Council Members, Habitat Committee, Habitat IPs

Notice date: December 15, 2017