



New England Fishery Management Council

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

Habitat Plan Development Team Meeting

Date: Tuesday, September 18, 2018
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott
185 MacArthur Drive
New Bedford, MA 02740
Phone: (774) 634-2000

Agenda:

Clam Dredge Exemption Framework

1. Review exemption area proposals suggested by fishing industry, and develop more specific alternatives and supporting analysis in response to Committee tasking, which was to analyze five of the areas proposed by the clam industry (Rose and Crown, McBlair, Zone A, Zone B, and Zone D) for development into a rotational area management scheme, which should: (a) minimize adverse effects on essential fish habitat per the goals/objectives of the Omnibus Habitat Amendment; (b) consider historical fishing effort; (c) develop 2-3 distinct areas for rotation with a timeframe of a minimum of 7 years open per area in succession; and (d) consider age distribution of clams in these areas.
2. Discuss information on age and growth of surfclams in the Great South Channel Habitat Managed Area (HMA)
3. Review other alternatives in the framework document related to monitoring and sunset provisions; flesh out/flag any issues as appropriate.
4. Discuss approaches for filling gaps in the scientific understanding of the effects of fishing in habitats within the Great South Channel HMA.
5. The PDT will also discuss other business, including update on fishing effects model development, and the timing of future calls/meetings.

Directions:

From the South – I-95 North to I-95 East. Take Exit 15 to merge onto MA 18 South. Turn left at Union Street. Turn right on MacArthur Drive.

From the North – I-95 South to I-93 South toward Boston. Take Exit 4 onto Route 24 South toward Brockton. Take Exit 12 onto Route 140 South towards New Bedford. Take Exit 2A to I-95 East towards Cape Cod. Take Exit 15 onto Route 18 South. Turn left at Union Street. Turn right onto MacArthur Drive.

The New England Fishery Management Council generally posts announcements of Plan Development Team (PDT) meetings on the Council's website, occasionally with very little notice. An agenda may or may not be included. Team members may discuss topics, if listed, in any order or add other issues not contained in the meeting notice.

Members of the public may attend PDT meetings, or listen in if the meetings are broadcast, but should not expect to participate unless the PDT chair invites input. Public comments and questions will not be taken during PDT conference calls.

PDTs are responsible to the Council and work on technical analyses as directed by their oversight committee. Once complete, PDT work products are reviewed at oversight committee meetings to which the public is invited. It is at this point that comments are encouraged on a range of issues, including PDT reports and recommendations, proposed management options or other information that is relevant to the committee's business at that time. The committee, in turn, makes management recommendations to the full Council based on the full suite of information it has available to it.