



New England Fishery Management Council

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Daniel Salerno, *Chair* | Cate O'Keefe, PhD, *Executive Director*

MEETING NOTICE HABITAT ADVISORY PANEL WEBINAR

Date: Friday, May 29, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Agenda:

The Habitat Advisory Panel will meet to:

- Review Advisory Panel policies and procedures.
- Consider how past and potential future scientific surveys and studies within two Dedicated Habitat Research Areas (Stellwagen DHRA, Georges Bank DHRA) address habitat research questions posed by the Council via Omnibus Habitat Amendment 2 and develop a recommendation to the Habitat Committee as to whether to request administrative removal of either designation.
- Discuss scope, structure, and information sources for a review of the clam dredge exemption program within the Great South Channel Habitat Management Area and suggest refinements to the approach.
- Review draft essential fish habitat designations for groundfish, small mesh, and Atlantic sea scallops, and comment on spatial coverage of maps, key descriptions of habitat use to include in text, and additional information sources or experts that could be considered/consulted to improve each designation.
 - Species list: Acadian redfish, American plaice, Atlantic halibut, Atlantic sea scallop, Atlantic wolffish, haddock, ocean pout, offshore hake, pollock, red hake, silver hake, white hake, windowpane flounder, winter flounder, witch flounder, and yellowtail flounder. At least 12 of the 16 species in the 2026 framework will be available for review at this meeting.
- Discuss other business, as necessary.

Online access: This meeting will be broadcast online via Zoom. Preregistration is required. Register here: https://nefmc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/ytzdupHcTOK9MZxDp_rAcg. Use VoIP with a microphone and speakers for audio. A headset is recommended. For the best audio and visual experience, your Zoom desktop application must be updated prior to the meeting.

Call in information: After registering for the meeting you will be e-mailed webinar information, including a call-in number. Please note that this is not a toll-free number.

If you would like written comments to be considered at these meetings, they must be received at the NEFMC office no later than **Tuesday, May 26, 2026**. Please address them to Council Chair Dan

Salerno or Executive Director Cate O'Keefe. Email submissions should be sent to comments@nefmc.org.

For information about meeting materials and detailed agenda, please consult the Council's website at 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.*

TA #: 26-93

cc: Habitat Advisors, PDT and IPs, Council Members

Notice date: May 4, 2026