



New England Fishery Management Council

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

AGENDA

HABITAT ADVISORY PANEL

MAY 29, 2026

Via Webinar:

https://nefmc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/vtzdupHcTOK9MZxDp_rAcg

- 9:00 am Background and charge to the advisory panel..... (McGuire, M. Smith)
- 9:10 Introductions(McGuire, AP members)
- 9:30 Advisory Panel Policies and Procedures...(Bachman)
- 10:00 Dedicated Habitat Research Areas. (Bachman, McGuire)
- *Review status of Georges Bank and Stellwagen DHRAs and recommend retention or sunseting of one or both areas*
 - *Review research that has occurred in the Jordan Basin DHRA*
- 10:45 Break
- 11:00 Clam Exemption Program Evaluation. (Bachman, McGuire)
- *Discuss the scope, structure, and information sources that will be evaluated*
 - *Suggest refinements to approach*
- 11:45 2026 Essential Fish Habitat Framework..... (Garrison, McGuire)
- *Provide a brief overview of EFH designation approach, which is consistent with the approach used for the 2025 Framework*
 - *Review draft designations for 12-16 species and offer feedback 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*
- 12:45 pm Other business..... (McGuire)
- 1:00 Adjourn