



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492

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

AGENDA

HABITAT COMMITTEE

June 12, 2026

Via Webinar:

<https://nefmc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/SNbcPOqUSdWbgijKGTNJtg>

- 9:00 am Welcome and charge to the committee.....(M. Smith)
- 9:10 Ocean Planning Updates.....(Couture, M. Smith)
- 9:25 Dedicated Habitat Research Areas.(Bachman, M. Smith)
 - *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*
- 10:15 Clam Exemption Program Evaluation.(Bachman, M. Smith)
 - *Discuss the scope, structure, and information sources that will be evaluated*
 - *Suggest refinements to approach*
- 11:15 Break
- 11:45 2026 Essential Fish Habitat Framework.....(Garrison, M. Smith)
 - *Provide a brief overview of EFH designation approach, which is consistent with the approach used for the 2025 Framework*
 - *Review draft designations 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*
- 1:15 pm Other business.....(M. Smith)
- 1:30 Adjourn