



New England Fishery Management Council

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

September 3, 2026

Mr. Michael Pentony
Regional Administrator
NOAA Fishery Service
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

Re: ME DMR Dynamic Management EFP

The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) has reviewed the exempted fishing permit (EFP) application submitted by the Maine Department of Marine Resources (ME DMR) entitled 'Testing the applicability of dynamic management in Maine's lobster fishery during potential future North Atlantic Right Whale (NARW) aggregations near Jeffrey's Ledge.' The Council has no objection to the issuance of this EFP that would provide relief from gear marking requirements.

The Council notes that dynamic management in the fixed gear lobster fishery could have implications for mobile gear fishermen participating in Council managed fisheries. The Council urges ME DMR to proactively communicate with mobile gear fishermen about this project, and to share plans for dropped end lines with mobile gear fishermen to help avoid gear conflicts.

Please contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cate O'Keefe'.

Cate O'Keefe
Executive Director