



# CCC AREA-BASED MANAGEMENT (ABM) SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

**Eric Reid**  
CCC ABM Subcommittee Chair  
New England Fishery Management Council



# AGENDA

- Update on CCC ABM Subcommittee work to date (this presentation).
- Brief Q&A on this presentation.
- Review draft NEFMC comment letter on NOAA's Request for Information (RFI) on Executive Order 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, or "30x30" (Deirdre Boelke presentation).
- *Potential Council Action*: Motion to approve and send NEFMC comment letter to NOAA.

# Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful

*A preliminary report to the National Climate Task Force recommending a ten-year, locally led campaign to conserve and restore the lands and waters upon which we all depend, and that bind us together as Americans.*



# Executive Order 14008

---

## **Sec. 216. Conserving Our Nation's Lands and Waters.**

(a) The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, and the heads of other relevant agencies, shall submit a report to the Task Force within 90 days of the date of this order recommending steps that the United States should take, working with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, agricultural and forest landowners, fishermen, and other key stakeholders, to achieve the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030.

(i) ... shall, as appropriate, solicit input from State, local, Tribal, and territorial officials, agricultural and forest landowners, fishermen, and other key stakeholders in identifying strategies that will encourage broad participation in the goal of conserving 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030.

(ii) The report shall propose guidelines for determining whether lands and waters qualify for conservation, and it also shall establish mechanisms to measure progress toward the 30-percent goal. The Secretary of the Interior shall subsequently submit annual reports to the Task Force to monitor progress.

# CCC AREA-BASED MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

- Created at the May 2021 CCC Meeting.
- Membership: 9 members:  
One staff member per Council plus one Council member as Chair.
- Three NOAA staff participate as observers.

## Members:

Eric Reid, (NEFMC) Chair	Deirdre Boelke (NEFMC)
Jessica Coakley (MAFMC)	Mark Fitchett (WPFMC)
John Froeschke (GMFMC)	Kerry Griffin (PFMC)
Roger Pugliese (SAFMC)	Miguel Rolon (CFMC)
Dave Witherell (NPFMC)	

## Observers from NOAA Fisheries:

Heather Sagar  
Tim Haverland  
Michelle Lennox

# CCC ABM SUB-COMMITTEE – TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Assist CCC with 30x30 effort.
  2. Prepare a report of existing fishery conservation areas.
  3. Prepare a journal article about area-based management in the US EEZ.
- Since June 2021, the ABM Subcommittee has met 6 times via webinar.
  - Great progress to date on:
    - 1) draft definition and criteria for conservation areas;
    - 2) database of existing fishery conservation areas in federal waters; and
    - 3) summary tables and maps with conservation area estimates (in km<sup>2</sup> and %).
  - Final report scheduled for Spring 2022 CCC Meeting.

# WHAT IS A CONSERVATION AREA?

## DRAFT WORKING DEFINITION:

For the purposes of the CCC Subcommittee report, a conservation area is an:

- 1) established, geographically defined area, with
- 2) planned management or regulation of environmentally adverse fishing activities, that
- 3) provides for the maintenance of biological productivity and diversity, ecosystem function and services (including seafood production).

From a Council perspective, conservation areas are established to:

1. Protect aspects of the ecosystem and maintain biodiversity (**Ecosystem Protection**).
2. Address numerous other fishery management challenges, such as spatial issues related to mortality reduction, spawning aggregations, allocations, catch limits, or bycatch concerns (**Year-round Fishery Management**).
3. Address other issues, such as human health PSP closures or seasonal restrictions (**Other or Seasonal Fishery Management**).

# REGIONAL CONSERVATION AREA SPREADSHEETS

Each area is catalogued:

Conservation Area Type, Focus/Objective, Area Name, Size (nm<sup>2</sup>), Year implemented, CFR, Relevant prohibitions, adjacent State water restrictions (y/n), Application of America the Beautiful principles.

Area Category	Primary Species/Focus	Area name	Size (Km2) geodesic	Year Implemented	Primary Objective	Prohibitions	Applicable America the Beautiful principles
Ecosystem Protection	Habitat; vulnerable ecosystem	Habitat Management Area - Closed Area II	639	2018	To protect vulnerable habitat from fishing gear impacts	Action prohibits the use of mobile bottom-tending fishing gear within the designated area year-round. This area also designated as a Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC).	1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8
Other	Research	Dedicated Habitat Research Areas - Stellwagen Dedicated Habitat Research Area	1,177	2018	To highlight research needs, particularly relating to evaluating the assumptions of the Swept Area Seabed Impact (SASI) model that the Council used as the basis for habitat management area (HMA) development.	Area closed to all commercial mobile bottom-tending gear, commercial sink gillnet gear, and commercial demersal longline gear. Research area designation effective for three years after implementation. RA will consult with the Council about whether the designation should be retained.	1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8
Ecosystem Protection	Habitat; vulnerable ecosystem	New England Deep-Sea Coral Protection Areas - Georges Bank	65,285	2021	To protect vulnerable habitat from fishing gear impacts	Prohibit the use of all bottom tending commercial fishing gear (static and mobile). One exemption for red crab pots. Recreational fishing is permitted.	1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8
Year Round Fishery Management	Conservation; ecosystem	Herring Mid-water trawl restricted area - Area 1A	34,499	2021	To prevent potential user conflicts and localized depletion of At. Herring in inshore waters.	MWT gear prohibited from Jan-Jun.	1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 10



## VERY PRELIMINARY RESULTS – NUMBER OF CONSERVATION AREAS

**Table 1. Number of Council established conservation areas, by objective\* and region, in the U.S. EEZ. Note: All data are preliminary.**

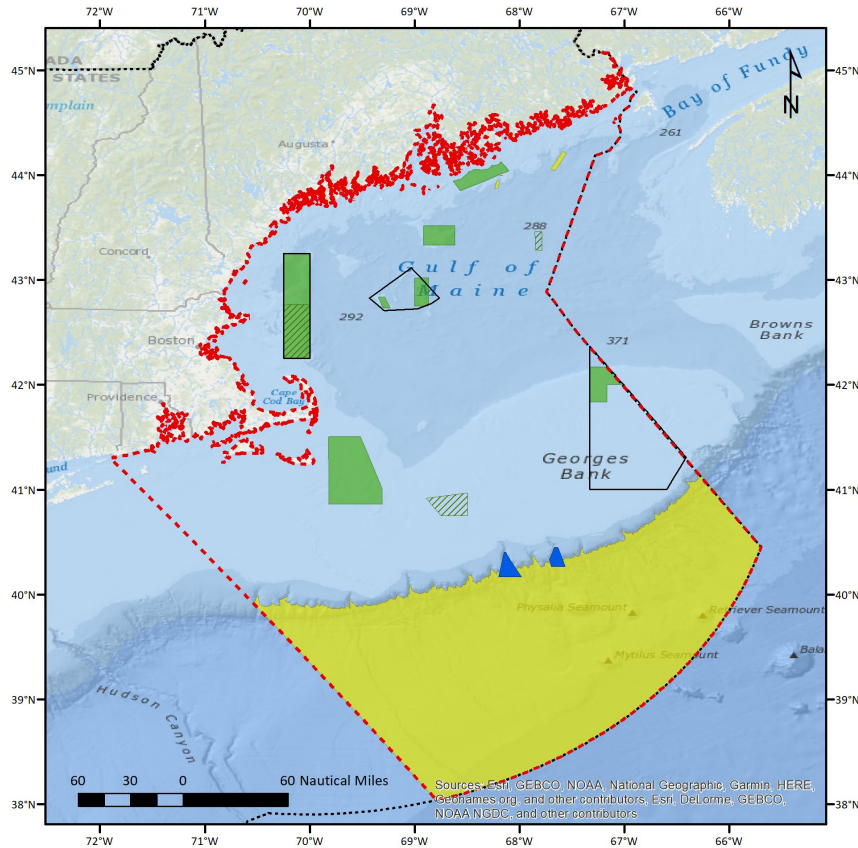
Region	Ecosystem Protection	Year-round Fishery Management	Seasonal Fishery Closures or Other	Total # (all areas)
New England	13	4	22	39
Mid Atlantic	5	19	6	30
South Atlantic	163	19	17	199
Caribbean	7	0	0	7
Gulf of Mexico	21	4	10	35
Pacific	76	TBD	20+	96
North Pacific	210	21	6	237
Western Pacific	7	12	1	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>79+</b>	<b>82+</b>	<b>663+</b>

\*Ecosystem Protection Areas are designed to protect habitat, biodiversity or special ecosystems, or vulnerable species. Year-round Fishery Management areas are designed to address spatially driven fishery management challenges. Seasonal Fishery Management/Other include areas that seasonally address spatially driven fishery management challenges, or other area-based conservation measures that may not fit in the other 2 categories.

# FIRST CUT MAPS (NEFMC)

Year-round closure to all mobile bottom tending gears

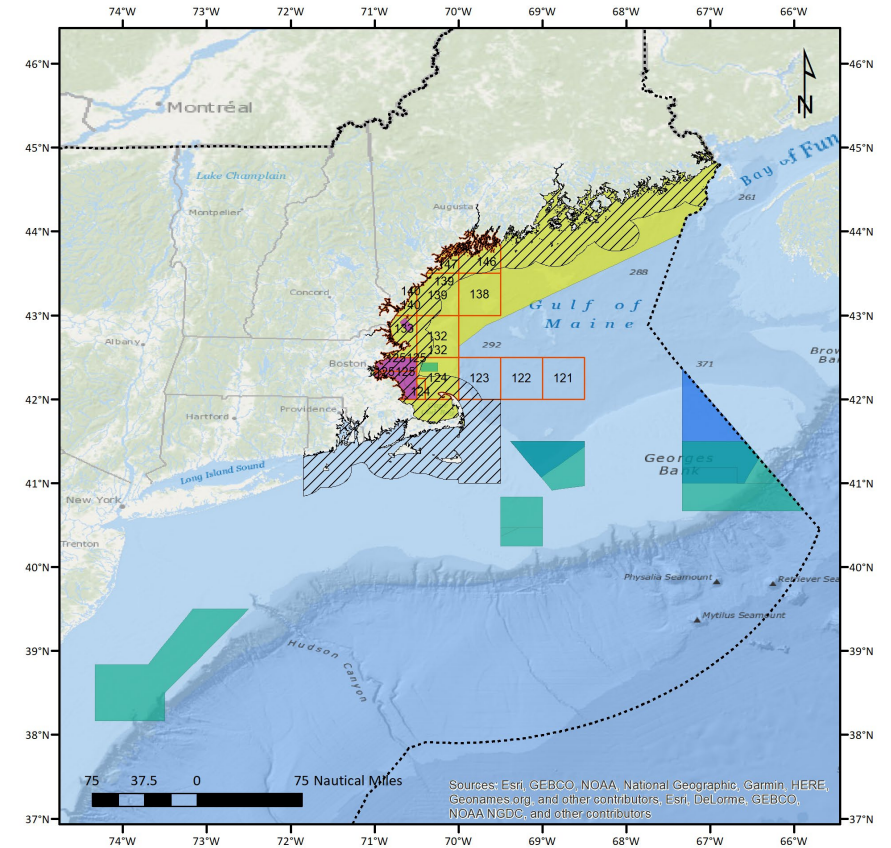
New England Fishery Management Council  
Tier 1 Management Areas



- Groundfish Closure Areas (Ecosystem Protection, Vulnerable Species)
- Habitat Management Areas (Ecosystem Protection, Habitat; Vulnerable Ecosystem)
- Monkfish Canyon Closed Areas (Ecosystem Protection, Habitat; Vulnerable Ecosystem)
- Deep Sea Coral Protection Zones (Ecosystem Protection, Habitat; Vulnerable Ecosystem)
- Dedicated Habitat Research Areas (Other)

Seasonal or temporary closures to specific fisheries or gears

New England Fishery Management Council  
Tier 2 Management Areas



- Herring MWT Restricted Area (1A) (Seasonal Fishery Management)
- Herring MWT Restricted Area (Inshore) (Year-Round Fishery Management)
- GOM Cod Protection Closures (Seasonal Fishery Management)
- GOM Spawning Groundfish Closures (Seasonal Fishery Management)
- GB Spawning Groundfish Closures (Seasonal Fishery Management)
- Scallop Rotational Areas (2021) (Other)

## NEXT STEPS FOR THE CCC ABM SUBCOMMITTEE

- Recommend methodology for conservation area criteria, and complete regional spreadsheets.
- Complete regional maps and conservation area calculations.
- Finalize written report for Spring CCC meeting.
- Continue to coordinate with NOAA Fisheries on development of Atlas database.
- Support the CCC on the development of any position statements on this issue.
- If time permits, draft journal article on use of area-based management in US fishery conservation and management.