

## **NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

### **Habitat Oversight Committee**

#### **I. STATUS**

- A. Omnibus Amendment 2: GARFO will be sending comments on the FEIS this month, and staff will complete revisions prior to resubmission.
- B. Clam dredge framework adjustment: The Committee had a brief discussion of this action at their March 22 meeting. The PDT is working to assemble data to support development of alternatives.
- C. Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment: The PDT held a conference call on February 22 to finalize a series of recommendations for changes to coral zones (see document 3). The Committee reviewed these recommendations on March 22. The Committee has forwarded all of the PDT's recommendations to the Council for consideration. The Committee also recommended changes to the framework adjustment alternative in the amendment, and drafted a problem statement for the action.

#### **II. COUNCIL ACTION**

- A. Review and possibly adopt the Committee's recommendations for updates to the range of alternatives in the Deep-Sea Coral Amendment.
- B. In addition, review and possibly adopt the Committee's problem statement for the Deep-Sea Coral Amendment.

#### **III. INFORMATION**

- 1. Staff Presentation: Deep-Sea Coral Amendment Update (forthcoming)
- 2. March 15, 2016 PDT Memo on Recommended Updates to Coral Zones (including appendix)
- 3. Meeting Summaries
  - a. March 22, 2016 Habitat Committee Summary
  - b. February 22, 2016 Habitat PDT Call Summary
  - c. December 15, 2015 Habitat PDT Meeting Summary
  - d. December 4, 2015 Habitat PDT Meeting Summary
- 4. A Current draft of the Coral Amendment can be found on the Council website (last updated September 15, 2015)
- 5. Reference Materials: (1) Map of Slope, Canyon, and Seamount Coral Zones, (2) Map of Gulf of Maine Coral Zones, (3) Meters to Fathoms Conversion Table
- 6. Correspondence