

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Habitat Oversight Committee

I. STATUS

- A. Omnibus EFH Amendment 2: The FEIS was resubmitted to GARFO on September 7. A timeline for the final stages of the amendment including FEIS publication, proposed rule, and final rule will be made available in the coming weeks.
- B. Clam dredge framework adjustment: The PDT met twice this summer and the Committee met once to discuss data to support this framework. The PDT is currently analyzing seafloor imagery from the two habitat management areas being considered for clam dredge exemption, and will use these data and other information to develop draft alternatives for the Committee to consider in the coming months.
- C. Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment: The PDT met twice this summer and the Committee met once to discuss the amendment. The Committee reviewed preliminary economic data on effort and revenue in various fisheries overlapping the coral zones. The Committee is also recommending two modifications to the range of coral zone alternatives.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

Receive updates on clam and coral actions and provide general guidance to the Committee and Plan Development Team as appropriate. Discuss and possibly approve modifications to coral zone alternatives.

III. INFORMATION

- 1. Presentation: Updates on habitat-related management actions – September 22, 2016
- 2. Habitat Committee meeting summary – August 18, 2016 (includes two motions for Council consideration at this meeting)
- 3. Habitat Plan Development Team meeting summary – July 28, 2016
- 4. Habitat Plan Development Team meeting summary – June 28, 2016

Note: a draft of the coral amendment and other recent Committee documents are available on the habitat page at <http://www.nefmc.org/management-plans/habitat>