

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Habitat Oversight Committee

I. STATUS

- A. Omnibus EFH Amendment 2: The Council deemed the regulations during March and a proposed rule will be published later this spring.
- B. Clam dredge framework adjustment: The PDT met during February to review seafloor imagery from the two habitat management areas being considered for clam dredge exemption, and will use these data and other information over the coming months to develop draft alternatives for the Committee to consider. The Committee has received an update on the analysis but has not discussed specific management approaches. The timeline for this action has been pushed back because it is a trailing action to OHA2, and publication of the OHA2 proposed rule has been delayed.
- C. Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment: The PDT has been working on the amendment document and environmental assessment. There have been a number of meetings to discuss this amendment, including workshops in New Bedford and Portsmouth. The Committee will meet on April 14 to recommend preferred alternatives.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

Select preferred alternatives for the Deep-Sea Coral Amendment.

III. INFORMATION

- 1. Staff presentation (*to be distributed*)
- 2. Coral amendment materials
 - a. Draft Deep-Sea Coral Amendment
 - b. ASMFC Lobster Technical Committee memo to Lobster Board
 - c. ASMFC Lobster Advisory Panel memo to Lobster Board
 - d. Coral Amendment decision worksheet (*updated version with Committee preferences will be distributed prior to the meeting*)
- 3. Meeting summaries
 - a. DRAFT Habitat Committee, Apr. 14, 2017 (*to be distributed*)
 - b. Coral Amendment Workshops, Mar. 13 and 15, 2017
 - c. Habitat Committee, February 24, 2017
 - d. Habitat PDT, February 16, 2017
 - e. Habitat Advisory Panel, January 30, 2017
- 4. Correspondence