



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492

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

Meeting Agenda

JOINT HABITAT COMMITTEE AND ADVISORY PANEL

August 20, 2026

Fairfield Inn & Suites, 185 MacArthur Dr., New Bedford, MA 02740

And via webinar

Documents and Zoom Registration: <https://www.nefmc.org/calendar/aug-20-2026-habitat-joint-committee-and-advisory-panel-meeting>

- 9:00 am Opening remarks and agenda review.....(M. Smith)
- 9:10 Ocean Planning Updates..... (Couture)
- 9:30 2026 Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Framework.....(Garrison)
- Review contents of EFH Framework and feedback received
 - Review EFH designation text descriptions and maps for 16 species
 - Recommend adjustments to designations if needed
 - Recommend a preferred alternative to the Council
- 12:00 Lunch(All)
- 1:15 Surfclam Exemption Program Review(Bachman)
- Receive a presentation on the draft report prepared by the PDT
 - Suggest clarifications, revisions, and/or additional analyses to be completed prior to sharing the report with the Council
 - Note recent Mid-Atlantic Council discussion of this topic
 - Discuss possible next steps following Council review of the report
- 3:15 Other Business (M. Smith, McGuire)
- Discuss other business, as needed
- 3:30 pm Adjourn.....(M. Smith)

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. The agenda is subject to change. The Council's meeting webpage (link above) has the latest information about the meeting. If you would like to provide written comments to be considered at this meeting, they must be received at the NEFMC office no later than Monday, August 17, 2026. Please address them to Council Chair Daniel Salerno or Executive Director Cate O'Keefe. Email submissions should be sent to comments@nefmc.org.