



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
Daniel Salerno, *Acting Chair* | Cate O'Keefe, PhD, *Executive Director*

Joint Habitat Advisory Panel and Committee Meeting Agenda September 11, 2025 9:00-3:00 p.m.

Four Points by Sheraton, One Audubon Road, Wakefield, MA 01880

Zoom registration link: <https://nefmc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/VsZQSVIsQ7aIyMThqjVJMg>

NEFMC Committee Members	MAFMC Committee Members
Melissa Smith, ME <i>Chair</i>	Michelle Duval, PA
Geoff Smith, ME <i>Vice Chair</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
Peter Aarrestad, CT	
Togue Brawn, ME	GARFO designee to Committee
Eric Hansen, MA	Christopher Boelke, GARFO HESD
Scott Olszewski, RI	
Renee Zobel, NH	
Peter Whelan, NH	
Habitat Advisory Panel Members	
Chris McGuire <i>Chair</i>	Meghan Lapp
Gib Brogan	Drew Minkiewicz
Rip Cunningham	Ron Smolowitz
Jeff Kaelin	Dave Wallace
Lane Johnston	

9:00 Welcome, review agenda (M. Smith)

9:10 2025 EFH Framework

- Review the draft 2025 Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Framework including EFH designation alternatives
- Identify a preferred alternative for Council consideration on September 24

11:40 Sensitive Habitat Viewer Demonstration

- Receive a demonstration of the New England Sensitive Habitat Viewer Story Map, developed by the NOAA Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries (GARFO) Office Habitat and Ecosystem Services Division (HESD)

12:00 Lunch break

1:00 3-Year Dedicated Habitat Research Area Review

- Discuss the ongoing three-year review of the Stellwagen and Georges Bank Dedicated Habitat Research Areas. Per regulations developed from Omnibus EFH Amendment 2, the Council can recommend that the Regional Administrator sunset one, both, or neither of these areas.

September 3, 2025

1:30 Ocean Planning

- Receive updates on ocean planning activities and consider any potential next steps for Council work
- Receive an update on the Offshore Wind Regional Fund Administrator Compensation Process

2:00 Work Planning

- Discuss EFH-related work that could be completed following completion of the 2025 framework, including next steps identified during the EFH Technical Review and the 2026 EFH Framework.

2:30 Other business

3:00 Adjourn

MEETING MATERIALS

1. Tasking memo from Committee Chair Melissa Smith
2. Presentations
 - a. Council staff
 - b. New England Sensitive Habitat Viewer (GARFO HESD)
 - c. Offshore Wind Regional Fund Administrator Compensation Process
3. Meeting summaries
 - a. Habitat PDT – August 25, 2025 (Draft)
 - b. Habitat PDT – July 21, 2025
 - c. Habitat PDT – May 22, 2025
 - d. Joint Habitat Committee and Advisory Panel – January 13, 2025
4. 2025 EFH Framework (Draft, September 5, 2025)
5. Council staff memo on work planning for 2026
6. Correspondence