

## NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

### Habitat/Marine Protected Areas/Ecosystems

#### I. STATUS

##### A. MEETINGS

SASI Peer Review Panel: A peer review panel convened February 15-17, 2011 to evaluate various aspects of the Swept Area Seabed Model and their application to management decision making. The panel's report will be discussed during the SSC agenda item on Tuesday, April 26 (see report under SSC tab). The PDT will present an overview PowerPoint presentation of the impacts of the peer review conclusions on PDT activities following the Habitat Committee report on Wednesday, April 27 (**binder document #1**).

Habitat Oversight Committee: The Committee met on March 10 to review and approve EFH designations (text descriptions and maps). The committee also discussed deep-sea coral alternatives and received a presentation from a representative of NOAA's deep-sea coral program. See **binder document #2** for a summary of this meeting.

##### B. ONGOING WORK/ISSUES OF INTEREST

Note that EFH closed areas and their relationship to other management areas will be discussed during the Management Area Coordination agenda item on Thursday, April 28 (see staff whitepaper under correspondence tab). The next committee and PDT meetings to discuss adverse effects minimization alternatives for inclusion in EFH Omnibus 2 will likely occur in May, pending the outcome of the management area coordination discussion.

The Council's attention is directed to a letter (**binder document #3**) from NSF to various interested parties regarding updated micro-siting of the Pioneer Ocean Observing array. The Council has previously commented on this issue (October 2010). A link to the site specific EA as well as previous Council comments can be found on the habitat section of [www.nefmc.org](http://www.nefmc.org) under What's New. The Council's attention is also directed to a letter (**binder document #4**) from the Council to BOEMRE outlining the Council's position on a RFI related to wind power development offshore of southeastern MA.

#### II. COUNCIL ACTION

No Council action at this meeting.

#### III. INFORMATION

1. Draft presentation – Overview of the Impacts of the SASI Model Peer Review Conclusions on Habitat PDT Activities
2. Draft summary – March 10, 2011 Committee meeting
3. Letter from NSF - Notice of Public Comment Period and Public Meeting for Pioneer Array (OOI)
4. March 28, 2011 letter to BOEMRE re Wind Power on OCS Offshore Massachusetts

*See also: Management Area Coordination white paper under Correspondence, SASI Peer Review Panel report under SSC*