

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Habitat

I. STATUS

The staff, Habitat Plan Development Team, and Closed Area Technical Team have been focused on development of the Omnibus EFH Amendment 2 DEIS. The teams held a short conference call on February 6 and will hold another on February 20.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

Review DEIS, select preferred alternatives for some or all sections of the document (if desired), and approve DEIS for initial submission to the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office for review.

III. INFORMATION

Draft Omnibus EFH Amendment 2 Environmental Impact Statement. This document is divided into volumes as follows:

1. Volume 1 – Executive summary, need and purpose; goals and objectives, management background; affected environment
2. Volume 2 – Essential Fish Habitat and Habitat Area of Particular Concern designation alternatives; preliminary impacts analysis of the EFH and HAPC alternatives
3. Volume 3 – Spatial management alternatives to designate habitat management areas, spawning management areas, and dedicated habitat research areas; impacts analysis of the spatial management alternatives
4. Volume 4 – Cumulative effects, compliance with applicable law, references (much of this volume will be drafted after the Council meeting for initial GARFO submission, or for the FEIS)
5. Volume 5 – Appendices
6. Decision document (an updated version will probably be distributed on February 21)
7. Correspondence (items already received will be included in the binder and others will be distributed at the Council meeting)