

## **NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

### **Habitat/Marine Protected Areas/Ecosystems**

#### **I. STATUS**

##### **A. MEETINGS**

Committee: The Committee met on January 6 to discuss management options to minimize the adverse effects of fishing on EFH, and to discuss alternatives to designate deep-sea coral zones and minimize fishing impacts on corals. The committee also received a presentation on the NMFS Habitat Assessment Improvement plan and habitat-related research from Thomas Noji, NEFSC, Sandy Hook Lab, and discussed a Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and Regulation Enforcement (BOEMRE) Request for Information regarding potential offshore wind lease sites of the southern Massachusetts coast. See document 1 for a detailed discussion of these topics.

##### **B. ONGOING WORK**

An external peer review of the SASI model is planned for February 14-16, 2011. An agenda, terms of reference, and meeting documents were posted to the NEFMC webpage in mid-January. The meeting will be open to members of the public.

The PDT is in the final stages of updating EFH designation maps and text descriptions for inclusion in the Omnibus Phase 1/2 DEIS. A habitat committee meeting on this topic is planned for late February or early March.

The next committee meeting to discuss adverse effects minimization alternatives will occur in mid-late April.

#### **II. COUNCIL ACTION**

No Council action at this meeting.

#### **III. INFORMATION**

1. Habitat Committee summary dated January 6.