

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Habitat/Marine Protected Areas/Ecosystems

I. STATUS

Meetings:

Plan Development Team: The PDT met concurrently with the last Council meeting on November 17 to finalize various aspects of the SASI model prior to SSC review. The next meeting has not yet been scheduled, but will likely occur in mid-February.

Scientific and Statistical Committee: The SSC met to review the SASI model on December 9 and will present results of this review to the Council at this meeting. A draft document that summarizes how the SASI model works, provides the results of the literature review and vulnerability assessment, and shows preliminary model outputs is included under the SSC tab. Broadly speaking, the SSC endorsed the use of the model to support development of EFH-related management alternatives, but stressed the need for sensitivity testing, and, in the future ground truthing. In addition, during the meeting, the habitat PDT will present model outputs requested by the SSC.

Committee: The habitat oversight committee met on January 13 to discuss the results of the SSC review of the SASI model, PDT progress towards completion of tasking assigned by the habitat committee at its last meeting in October, and CEQ's Interim Framework for Marine Spatial Planning (12/09/09). Briefly, the committee endorsed some aspects of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force's interim framework, but had substantial concerns in other areas. The task force's previous report (09/10/09), is also provided for background. Discussions related to tasking and comments on the SSC review are included in the meeting summary.

Advisory Panel: The Advisory Panel has not met since the last Council meeting.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

Review and approve Council comments letter on Interim Framework for Marine Spatial Planning.

III. INFORMATION

1. Interim Framework for Marine Spatial Planning (dated December 9, 2009)
2. Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force: Interim Report (dated September 10, 2009)
3. Comments letter on Interim Framework for Marine Spatial Planning (DRAFT) (*to be distributed*)
4. Committee meeting summary dated January 13, 2010 (DRAFT) (*to be distributed*)
5. SASI model document and SSC review materials (*included under the SSC tab*).