



New England Fishery Management Council

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E.F. "Terry" Stockwell, Chairman | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 14, 2014
TO: Recreational Advisory Panel (RAP)
FROM: Frank Blount, Groundfish Oversight Committee Chairman
SUBJECT: RAP meeting on Wednesday, January 22, 2014

The Recreational Advisory Panel will meet at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel in Danvers, MA on **Wednesday, January 22 starting at 9:00 AM.**

Purpose. The main purpose of the meeting is to review the alternatives in Habitat Omnibus Amendment 2 and impacts analysis in the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) of interest to the recreational fishery. In addition, there may be a discussion of the current state of Gulf of Maine cod and haddock management.

Meeting Materials. Paper copies of the documents listed below will be provided at the meeting. A PDF of each document is posted to www.nefmc.org. Staff will provide copies of any additional meeting materials that are not included in this package. If you have any questions about the documents, please contact Jamie Cournane (jcournane@nefmc.org; 978-465-0492 ext. 103) or Michelle Bachman (mbachman@nefmc.org; 978-465-0492 ext. 120).

1. Meeting memo (this document)
2. Agenda
3. Habitat Amendment management alternatives
4. Selected analyses from Habitat Amendment DEIS
5. PowerPoint presentation – summary of habitat alternatives and analyses

Recent activity. At the December Council meeting, the Council discussed Habitat Omnibus Amendment 2. The RAP requested to convene to discuss the alternatives in the Amendment in order to make recommendations on the alternatives to the Groundfish Oversight Committee.

During 2013, the Groundfish Plan Development Team conducted several analyses related to the Gulf of Maine haddock stock. Furthermore, Gulf of Maine haddock is scheduled for a benchmark assessment in 2014.

Next steps. Following a staff presentation, the RAP will ask questions of clarification on the Habitat Omnibus Amendment 2 alternatives, then review and provide feedback on the impacts analysis, and then may discuss and recommend alternatives as appropriate.

The Council will have a special two-day meeting on February 25 and 26, 2014 for the sole purpose of approving the draft document of Habitat Omnibus Amendment 2 for public comment. The meeting will also be held at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel in Danvers, MA.

In addition, Council staff will update the RAP on recent activities related to Gulf of Maine haddock. Then, time permitting; the RAP may decide to discuss the current state of Gulf of Maine cod and haddock recreational fishery management, and in particular recent experiences under accountability measures for both stocks.