

## **NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

### **Habitat**

#### **I. STATUS**

##### **MEETINGS AND ONGOING WORK**

- A. The habitat and groundfish technical teams and committees have been meeting jointly since the April Council meeting to continue development of area management options and alternatives. Specifically, these alternatives include areas related to vulnerable habitat and juvenile groundfish conservation that would be protected on a year round basis by restricting the use mobile bottom-tending gears, and spawning protection areas where use of gears capable of catching groundfish would be restricted on a seasonal basis.
- B. The Habitat PDT and Closed Area Technical Team met jointly on 4/29, 5/10, 5/29, and 5/30. The Habitat and Groundfish Committees met jointly on 5/17 and will also meet on 6/11. The SSC reviewed the CATT's hotspot analyses on 5/16 and their report is provided under the SSC tab.

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

- A. Final approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils regarding development of management measures to protect deep-sea coral ecosystems.
- B. Approve a range of alternatives for analysis in the Omnibus EFH Amendment 2 DEIS.

#### **III. INFORMATION**

- 1. Deep-sea coral MOU
- 2. Meeting summary from Habitat/Groundfish Committee meeting, 5/17
- 3. DRAFT meeting summary from Habitat/Groundfish Committee meeting, 6/11 (to be distributed later)
- 4. Omnibus EFH Amendment 2 alternatives decision document (to be distributed after the Joint Committee meeting; however 6/11 Committee materials are available on the Council's webpage)
- 5. Letter dated 6/5/13 from Regional Administrator to Council re Closed Area Technical Team recommendations/Omnibus Amendment alternatives development
- 6. Other correspondence