

EFH Omnibus Amendment #2 Timeline

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PHASE 1 - Major Topics and Milestones			
EFH Designations / HAPCs	Prey Species and Non-Fishing Impacts	Approximate Date	Type of Meeting
Planning meeting with NEFMC, NERO, and NEFSC		February 12, 2004	Interagency informal
Notice of Intent filed / Scoping Period Public scoping meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3/5 Rockland, ME • 3/10 New Bedford, MA • 3/15 Stonington, CT • 3/16 Wrightsville Beach, NC • 3/23 Gloucester, MA 		February 24, 2004 – April 30, 2004	Scoping
Planning meeting with core NEFMC, NERO and NEFSC EFH staff		March 3, 2004	Interagency informal
Staff makes presentation to Council on scoping hearing summaries		March 23-25, 2004	Council
Planning meeting with core NEFMC, NERO and NEFSC EFH staff		April 6, 2004	Interagency informal
Scoping Period ends		April 30, 2004	
Meeting to discuss implementation of peer review process and draft resource plan		May 17-18, 2004 (Providence, RI)	NRCC
PDT reviews scoping comments and provides advice to Habitat Committee		May 25&26, 2004 (NEFSC Woods Hole Lab)	Habitat PDT
Committee meets to review scoping comments and to develop goals and objectives for the Council's consideration		June 16, 2004 (Portsmouth, NH)	Committee (Joint with Advisory Panel)

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NE Regional EFH Steering Committee meets to plan the EFH Designation Methodology Workshop and to discuss overall 5-year review planning		June 30, 2004 (NEFSC Sandy Hook Lab)	NER EFH SC
<i>Council staff briefs the Council on the scoping comments and Council approves goals and objectives for the Amendment</i>		<i>July 13-15, 2004 (Portland, ME)</i>	<i>Council</i>
Planning meeting with NERO, Ctte. Chair and Staff		August 19, 2004	Interagency informal
Committee meets to review draft HAPC RFP		September 8, 2004 (Braintree, MA)	Committee
<i>Council staff briefs the Council on the ongoing work of the EFHD WG and the other topics on the 5-year review plan. Council approves RFP HAPC.</i>		<i>September 14-16, 2004 (Fairhaven, MA)</i>	<i>Council</i>
Habitat Evaluation Working Group (EFH Designation Methodologies)		November 17, 2004	EFHD WG
Council issues RFP for Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC) proposals (90 days)		December 18, 2005 – March 25, 2005	RFP
Habitat Evaluation Working Group (EFH Designation Methodologies) meeting		January 4, 2005	Working Group
	Topic Workshop: Evaluation of Non-fishing impacts to EFH	January 10-12, 2005	Scientific Workshop
<i>Update on the HAPC candidate proposals (received to date) Closing date: March 25, 2005.</i>	<i>Update on the NMFS Non-Fishing Impacts [on EFH] Workshop held in Mystic, CT on January 10-12, 2005.</i>	<i>February 1-3, 2005 Portsmouth, NH</i>	<i>Council</i>
Habitat Evaluation Working Group (EFH Designation Methodologies) meeting		February 22, 2005 UCONN/NURC Avery Point, CT	Working Group

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Update on Habitat Evaluation Working Group	Report on the evaluation of non-fishing impacts on EFH (Workshop)	February 16, 2005	Committee/PDT/AP (Chair and Vice Chair)
Habitat Evaluation Working Group (EFH Designation Methodologies) meeting		March 17, 2005 URI/GSO	Working Group
PDT/AP meets to be briefed on candidate HAPC proposals.		April 13, 2005 (AM) Narragansett, RI (URI/GSO)	PDT/AP
Habitat Evaluation Working Group (EFH Designation Methodologies) meeting		April 14, 2005 NEFSC Narragansett	Working Group
Habitat Evaluation Working Group (EFH Designation Methodologies) meeting		May 19, 2005	Working Group
Committee meets to review Habitat Evaluation WG work prior to peer review workshop and become familiar with public HAPC proposals.		May 26, 2005 Narragansett, RI	Committee
Topic Workshop: Habitat Evaluation Review Committee (HERC) Re: EFH Designation Methods and Tools		June 28-30, 2005 NEFSC Woods Hole, MA	Peer Review Workshop
Review results and recommendations of Habitat Evaluation Review Committee; Meet to review PDT evaluation of public HAPC proposals.		August 22, 2005	Committee
<i>Update on Habitat Evaluation Working Group and Habitat Evaluation Review Committee report (peer review).</i>		<i>September 2005 Hyannis, MA</i>	<i>Council</i>
Salmon EFH source document completed and subgroup completes work on EFH designation materials.		January –April 2006	Salmon EFH subgroup
PDT implements the peer review suggestion to improve the status quo EFH designation method and text descriptions to be “more comprehensive of the habitats that the species utilize.”		October 2005 – March 2006	PDT

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EFH Designations / HAPCs	Prey Species and Non-Fishing Impacts	Approximate Date	Type of Meeting
<p>1. PDT meets to review final report of Habitat Evaluation Review Committee and results of NEFSC method improvement exercise. Develops approach document for Committee to review with which EFH designation alternatives will be developed. (PDT NEFSC representation to include staff with method development and data experience).</p> <p>2. PDT to make Committee revisions to HAPC alternatives.</p>	<p>PDT meets to develop for Committee consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prey Species Section 	<p>September 27, 2005 (Woods Hole, MA)</p> <p>October 18, 2005 (Mansfield, MA)</p> <p>October 27, 2005 (Woods Hole, MA)</p>	PDT
Review PDT document on approach to EFH designations and approves so PDT can move forward with alternative development.		November 14, 2005 (Mansfield, MA)	Committee
<i>Brief Council on progress towards EFH Designation Method</i>		<i>November 2005</i>	<i>Council</i>
PDT meets to develop a range of EFH designation alternatives based on HERC report and tools.		December 1, 2005 (Newburyport, MA) <p>December 14-15, 2005 (Woods Hole, MA)</p>	PDT
Review PDT EFH designation alternatives for example species; Review progress on HAPC development.		January 11, 2005 (Mystic, CT)	Committee
PDT meets to continue work on EFH and HAPC designations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Non-fishing impacts section 	January 25, 2006 (Woods Hole, MA)	PDT
<i>Brief Council on progress towards EFH Designation alternatives – example species.</i>		<i>January/February 2006 (Portland, ME)</i>	<i>Council</i>

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EFH Designations / HAPCs	Prey Species and Non-Fishing Impacts	Approximate Date	Type of Meeting
PDT meets to finalize EFH designation of the 12 priority species for the Committee's review		February 14, 2006 (conference call) February 23, 2006 (conference call) March 13 and 14, 2006 (Woods Hole, MA)	PDT
AP meets to review HAPC proposals and finalize gear descriptions provide advice and comments on range of EFH designation alternatives.		March 7, 2006 (Plymouth, MA)	AP
Committee meets to review EFH designation alternatives for the 11 species (group 1) and make recommendations to the Council for inclusion in Phase 1 of DSEIS	Prey species section for the 11 group 1 species.	March 20, 2006 (Plymouth, MA)	Committee
<i>Council briefing on progress of EFH designation alternatives for example species. Understanding and clarification on methods and approach is goal.</i>		<u>April 2006</u> (Mystic, CT)	<i>Council</i>
PDT meets to finalize EFH designations for the Committee's review.		April 18, 2006 May 17-18, 2006 (Woods Hole, MA)	PDT
Advisory Panel meets to review and make recommendations to the Committee on the juvenile cod HAPC proposal/alternative, review progress on EFH designation alternatives and finalize the gear description document.		May 8, 2006 (Portsmouth, NH)	AP

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EFH Designations / HAPCs	Prey Species and Non-Fishing Impacts	Approximate Date	Type of Meeting
Committee meets to review EFH designation alternatives and make recommendations to the Council for inclusion in Phase 1 of DSEIS (with exception of Atlantic salmon and deep-sea red crab)	Committee reviews and recommends the following sections to the Council for inclusion in Phase 1 of the DSEIS: - Prey species section (delayed)	June 6-7, 2006 (Mansfield, MA)	Committee
<p><i>Council approves for inclusion in the DSEIS:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Range of EFH designation alternatives (with exception of Atlantic salmon and Deep-sea red crab)</i> 		June 13-15, 2006 (Newport, RI)	Council
<p>PDT meets to continue work on HAPC alternatives and prepare a range of alternatives for consideration by the Committee and AP.</p> <p>PDT meets to develop a range of EFH designation alternatives for Atlantic salmon and Deep-sea red crab.</p>	<p>PDT meets to develop the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prey species - Non-fishing impacts section 	July 26, 2006 Woods Hole, MA	PDT
Advisory Panel meets to review the HAPC alternatives and make recommendations to the Committee.		August 15, 2006 Danvers, MA	AP

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EFH Designations / HAPCs	Prey Species and Non-Fishing Impacts	Approximate Date	Type of Meeting
Committee meets to review and recommend a range of HAPC alternatives for inclusion in Volume 1 of DSEIS and a range of EFH designation alternatives for Atlantic salmon and Deep-sea red crab(Phase 1).	Committee reviews and recommends the following sections to the Council for inclusion in Phase 1 of the DSEIS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prey species section - Non-fishing impacts section (summary) 	September 7, 2006 Fairhaven, MA	Committee
<p><i>Council approves for inclusion in the DSEIS:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Range of EFH designation alternatives for Atlantic salmon and Deep-sea red crab</i> • <i>Range of Habitat Areas of Particular Concern</i> 	<p><i>Council approves:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>prey species section</i> • <i>non-fishing impacts section for inclusion in the DSEIS.</i> 	September 26, 2006 (Peabody, MA)	Council
PDT meets to begin work on the DSEIS for Phase 1 topics and to develop and/or review a Great South Channel HAPC alternative.		October 3, 2006 Woods Hole, MA	PDT
Staff and PDT develop DSEIS (Volume 1 Phase 1 Topics) which will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redefine, refine or update the identification and description of all EFH for those species of finfish and mollusks managed by the Council (27), including the consideration of HAPCs; 	Staff and PDT develop DSEIS (Volume 1 Phase 1 Topics) which will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify, review and update the major non-fishing activities that may adversely affect the EFH of those species managed by the Council; • Prey Species section 	October - December 2006	

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EFH Designations / HAPCs	Prey Species and Non-Fishing Impacts	Approximate Date	Type of Meeting
<i>Staff briefs the MAFMC on Phase 1, Volume 1 of DSEIS</i>		<i>October 11, 2006 Kitty Hawk, NC</i>	<i>MAFMC Council</i>
Committee meets to develop and/or review a Great South Channel HAPC alternative.		November (during Council meeting)	Committee
<i>Council reviews and approved potential additional HAPC alternatives for inclusion in DSEIS</i>		<i>November 2006</i>	<i>Council</i>
<i>Review and approval of a range of EFH alternatives for Monkfish for inclusion in the Phase 1 of DSEIS (joint plan)</i>		<i>December 12-14, 2006 New York, NY</i>	<i>MAFMC Council</i>
Committee meets to review PDT work on the DSEIS for Phase 1 topics and to recommend approval by the Council.		January 16, 2007 Providence, RI	Committee
<i>Council reviews and approves Phase 1 DSEIS for public comment</i>		<i>February 2007 (Portsmouth, NH)</i>	<i>Council</i>
Staff completes work on DSEIS and submits to NMFS		March 2007	
Public Hearings / Public Comment Period on Phase 1 topics (Draft Volume 1 of EIS)		April 6, 2007 – May 21, 2007	<i>Council</i>
Public Hearing		April 11, 2007 Mystic, CT	
Public Hearing		April 18, 2007 Ocean City, MD	
Advisory Panel meets to review public comments		May 2007	AP
Committee meets to review public comments and develop recommendations for the Council		June 2007	Committee
<i>Council considers public comments and makes decisions on Phase 1 topics</i>		<i>June 19-21, 2007 (Portland, ME)</i>	<i>Council</i>
Staff and PDT complete work on Volume 1 of EIS based on Phase 1 topics and decisions.		July 2007	
CONTINUE WORK ON PHASE 2 TOPICS			

PHASE 2 - Major Topics and Milestones

A. Gear Effects Evaluation B. Adverse Impacts Determinations / MMNT Threshold	C. Threshold and Goal Setting D. Minimize Adverse Impacts, if any	E. Dedicated Habitat Research Areas (DHRAs) F. Research and Info., Conservation Recs,	Approximate Date	Type of Meeting
Council staff briefs the Council on the scoping comments and Council approves goals and objectives for the Amendment			July 13-15, 2004 (Portland, ME)	Council
	Habitat PDT meets to develop advice to Committee on habitat terms of reference strategy for prioritizing habitat protection and reduced impact gear list.	Habitat PDT meets to develop advice to Committee on DHRAs	July 21, 2004 (SBNMS Office, Scituate, MA)	Habitat PDT
Council staff briefs the Council on the ongoing work of Omnibus topics.			September 14-16, 2004 (Fairhaven, MA)	Council
	MPA/EFH Education and Outreach Project Steering Committee meeting		October 13, 2004	Steering Committee
Advisory Panel meets to prepare advice on gear descriptions.		Advisory Panel meets to discuss DHRA strategy	October 13, 2004	AP
	MPA/EFH Education and Outreach Project Steering Committee		November 29, 2004	Steering Committee

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	MPA/EFH Education and Outreach Project Steering Committee		January 6, 2005	Steering Committee
	MPA/EFH Education and Outreach Project Steering Committee		January 31, 2005	Steering Committee
	<i>Update on the MPA Education and Outreach Workshop planning</i>		<i>February 1-3, 2005 Portsmouth, NH</i>	<i>Council</i>
Review on progress on improved gear descriptions by AP.	Joint discussion with PDT and AP leaders on continued development of a strategy for minimizing adverse impacts from fishing on EFH		February 16, 2005	Committee/PDT/AP (Chair and Vice Chair)
	MPA/EFH Education and Outreach Project Steering Committee		March 16, 2005	Steering Committee
	MPA/EFH Education and Outreach Project Steering Committee		April 4, 2005	Steering Committee
AP meets to continue work on refined gear descriptions.			April 13, 2005 (AM) Narragansett, RI (URI/GSO)	PDT/AP

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A. Gear Effects Evaluation B. Adverse Impacts Determinations / MMNT Threshold	C. Threshold and Goal Setting D. Minimize Adverse Impacts, if any	E. Dedicated Habitat Research Areas (DHRAs) F. Research and Info., Conservation Recs,	Approximate Date	Type of Meeting
	MPA Education and Outreach Workshops towards a Council policy on MPAs		May 5-6, 2005 W. Greenwich, RI May 10-11, 2005 Ogunquit, ME	External Workshops
	Review PDT progress on risk assessment for developing a strategy for minimizing adverse impacts.		May 26, 2005 Narragansett, RI	Committee
	<i>Council updated on preliminary results of MPA workshops (towards an Council MPA policy)</i>		<i>June 21-23, 2005 Portland, ME</i>	<i>Council</i>
	Reviews MPA workshop report and develops draft MPA policy for Council consideration		August 22, 2005	Committee
	<i>Council reviews and approves MPA policy.</i>		<i>September 2005 Hyannis, MA</i>	<i>Council</i>
PDT meets to develop work plan for Phase 2 and to consider peer review process			July 2007	

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<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PDT to develop Gear Effects Evaluation: review and incorporate AP's gear descriptions with additional info. From AP; Update literature and scientific review of gear effects (A13); update fishery distribution analysis; 2. PDT to develop Adverse Impacts Determinations 			August – October 2007	
Peer review of gear effects evaluation (GEE) and adverse impacts (AI) determinations (MMNT)			November – December 2007	Habitat Evaluation Review Committee (NEFSC) (tentative)
	<i>Brief Council on gear effects evaluation and adverse impacts determination.</i>		<i>January 2008</i>	<i>Council</i>

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	PDT to finalize risk assessment based on results from applied methods implementation, gear effects evaluation and adverse impacts determination.	PDT/AP to develop DHRA proposals for Committee to consider. Habitat PDT develops: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft of research and information needs section - Draft conservation and enhancement recommendations (including national guidance) 	January –February 2008	PDT/AP

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A. Gear Effects Evaluation B. Adverse Impacts Determinations / MMNT Threshold	C. Threshold and Goal Setting D. Minimize Adverse Impacts, if any	E. Dedicated Habitat Research Areas (DHRAs) F. Research and Info., Conservation Recs,	Approximate Date	Type of Meeting
	Committee to review risk assessment outcome and develop policy strategy for developing alternatives to minimize adverse effects of fishing on EFH (guidance for PDT)	Committee to consider PDT / AP's DHRA proposals and develop recommendations for Council consideration and draft of research and information needs section and draft conservation and enhancement recommendations (including national guidance)	February 2008	Committee
	Habitat PDT develop a range of alternatives under direction from the Committee (may include representatives from other PDTs)		March - April 2008	Habitat PDT / Other PDTs
	Committee reviews alternatives and makes recommendations to the Council for approval in Phase 2 DSEIS.		May 2008	Committee

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	<i>Council considers the range of alternatives for minimizing adverse impacts from fishing across all Council-managed EMPs and approves a range for analysis in the Phase 2 DSEIS.</i>		<i>June 2008</i>	<i>Council</i>

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<p>Staff and PDT develop DSEIS (Volume 2 – to accompany Volume 1) which will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify, review and update the major fishing activities (MSA and non-MSA) that may adversely affect the EFH of those species managed by the Council; • Identify and implement mechanisms to protect, conserve, and enhance the EFH of those species managed by the Council to the extent practicable; • Define metrics for achieving the requirements to minimize adverse impacts to the extent practicable; • Integrate and optimize measures to minimize the adverse impacts to EFH across all Council managed FMPs; 			<p>June 2008-September 2008</p>	

PHASE 2 - Major Topics and Milestones

A. Gear Effects Evaluation B. Adverse Impacts Determinations / MMNT Threshold	C. Threshold and Goal Setting D. Minimize Adverse Impacts, if any	E. Dedicated Habitat Research Areas (DHRAs) F. Research and Info., Conservation Recs,	Approximate Date	Type of Meeting
<i>Council Approves EIS (Volume 1 and 2)</i>			<i>November 2008</i>	<i>Council</i>
Public Hearings / Public Comment Period			January-February 2009	
Final Council vote / Council decisions			April 2009	
Submit Final EIS / Omnibus Amendmnet Document (Volume 1 and 2 combined)			June 2009	