



New England Fishery Management Council

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ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT (EFH) OMNIBUS
AMENDMENT

PHASE 1

DECISION DOCUMENT

June 19, 2007

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GOALS

- 1. Approve essential fish habitat (EFH) designations for 27 species under management by NEFMC**
- 2. Consider and approve habitat area of particular concern (HAPC) designations**
- 3. Approve evaluation of major prey species for species in NEFMC fishery management units (FMU)**
- 4. Approve evaluation of potential impacts of non-fishing activities on EFH**

DECISION 1

GOAL 1

Approve essential fish habitat (EFH) designations for 27 species under management by NEFMC

Council motion:

To approve the EFH designations for all species under management by the New England Fishery Management Council as recommended by the Habitat/MPA/Ecosystems Committee including all technical corrections outlined by the Habitat PDT .

Supplemental Information

Habitat/MPA/Ecosystem Committee motion (June 5, 2007):

Move the amended preferred alternatives to the Council as the recommendations for EFH designations for all species under management by the Council.

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee modifications to preferred alternatives (as embodied in other June 5, 2007 Committee motions – see document 9):

Atlantic salmon (no preferred alternative selected in DSEIS): Atlantic salmon Alternative 2A, Option 2 with the addition of the areas adjacent to the Connecticut and Pawcatuck Rivers within a three mile radius seaward of the mouth of these two rivers.

Winter flounder: Alternative 3E for winter flounder adult text description minimum depth be changed from 2m to 0.3m and the maximum depth is 72 meters (requires new map).

Include the ten-minute-squares as EFH as outlined in the un-surveyed squares table in the PDT meeting memo with the addition of blocks 6 and 7 for silver hake juvenile and adults (see map in PDT memo to Committee – Document 6).

Species	Life Stage	DSEIS Map Number(s)	Blank ten min squares
American plaice	Juvs/Adults	295/299	1,2
Haddock	Juvs/Adults	333/338	1,3
Little skate	Juvs/Adults	343/346	1,2,4-7
Monkfish	Juvs	351	1,3
Pollock	Juvs	374	1,2
Red hake	Juvs/Adults	381/386	1,2, 4-7
Silver hake	Juvs/Adults	401/405	1-3, 6,7
Silver hake	Eggs/Larvae	224	1-3
Smooth skate	Juvs	410	3
Thorny skate	Juvs/Adults	417/422	3
White hake	Juvs/Adults	426/430	1-3
Witch flounder	Juvs	465	1-3
Witch flounder	Adults	469	3

DECISION 2

GOAL 2

Consider and approve habitat area of particular concern (HAPC) designations

Council motion:

To approve the designation as a habitat area of particular concern (HAPC) the following areas as described in the DSEIS and as modified by the Habitat/MPA/Ecosystem Committee recommendations:

Alternative 1A – *Status quo Atlantic salmon HAPC*

Alternative 1B - *Status quo Georges Bank cod HAPC*

Alternative 2A with identifiable EFH – *Bear and Retriever Seamounts HAPC*

Alternative 3A – *Heezen Canyon HAPC*

Alternative 3E – *Hydrographer Canyon HAPC*

Alternative 3F- *Veatch Canyon HAPC*

Alternative 3G – *Alvin/Atlantis Canyons HAPC*

Alternative 3H – *Hudson Canyon HAPC*

Alternative 3J - *Wilmington Canyon HAPC*

Alternative 3K - *Baltimore Canyon HAPC*

Alternative 3L – *Washington Canyon HAPC*

Alternative 3M – *Norfolk Canyon HAPC*

Alternative 3N – *Combined Lydonia/Gilbert/Oceanographers Canyons HAPC*

Alternative 3O – *Combined Hendrickson/Toms/Middle Toms Area HAPC*

Alternative 4 as modified to be the current Cashes Ledge Habitat Closed Area – *Cashes Ledge Area HAPC*

Alternative 6A current Western Gulf of Maine Habitat Closed Area – *Jeffreys Ledge/Stellwagen Bank HAPC*

Alternative 7B – *Inshore Juvenile Cod HAPC (0 to 20m).*

Supplemental Information:Committee motion (June 5, 2007):

Move to the Council the implementation Alternative 1A, Alternative 1B, Alternative 2A with identifiable EFH, Alternative 3A, Alternative 3E, Alternative 3F, Alternative 3G, Alternative 3H, Alternative 3J, Alternative 3K, Alternative 3L, Alternative 3M, Alternative 3N and Alternative 3O, Alternative 4 as modified to be the current Cashes Ledge Habitat Closed Area, Alternative 6A current Western Gulf of Maine Habitat Closed Area and Alternative 7B (0 to 20m).

Motion passed unanimously.

See Document 3 (HAPC maps).

DECISION 3

GOAL 3

Approve evaluation of major prey species for species in NEFMC fishery management units (FMU)

Council motion:

To approve the prey species evaluation (EFH) included in the DSEIS for all species under management by the Council.

Supplemental Information:

Committee motion (June 5, 2007):

Move the prey species evaluation and the non-fishing impacts evaluation sections of the document forward to the Council for approval.

Motion passed unanimously.

DECISION 4

GOAL 4

Approve evaluation of potential impacts of non-fishing activities on EFH

Council motion:

To approve the non-fishing impacts evaluation (EFH) included in the DSEIS for all species under management by the Council.

Supplemental Information:

Committee motion (June 5, 2007):

Move the prey species evaluation and the non-fishing impacts evaluation sections of the document forward to the Council for approval.

Motion passed unanimously.