

14.0 Glossary

Adult stage – one of several marked phases or periods in the development and growth of many animals. In vertebrates, the life history stage where the animal is capable of reproducing, as opposed to the juvenile stage.

Adverse effect – any impact that reduces quality and/or quantity of EFH. May include direct or indirect physical, chemical, or biological alterations of the waters or substrate and loss of, or injury to, benthic organisms, prey species and their habitat, and other ecosystem components, if such modifications reduce the quality and or quantity of EFH. Adverse effects to EFH may result from actions occurring within EFH or outside of EFH and may include sites-specific or habitat wide impacts, including individual, cumulative, or synergistic consequences of actions.

Aggregation – a group of animals or plants occurring together in a particular location or region.

Anadromous species – fish that spawn in fresh or estuarine waters and migrate to ocean waters

Amphipods – a small crustacean of the order Amphipoda, such as the beach flea, having a laterally compressed body with no carapace.

Amendment – a formal change to a fishery management plan (FMP). The Council prepares amendments and submits them to the Secretary of Commerce for review and approval. The Council may also change FMPs through a "framework adjustment procedure" (see below). The Commission prepares amendments and submits them to the Commission's Atlantic Herring Section for approval. Implementing regulations are adopted by the states.

Benthic community – *Benthic* means the bottom habitat of the ocean, and can mean anything as shallow as a salt marsh or the intertidal zone, to areas of the bottom that are several miles deep in the ocean. *Benthic community* refers to those organisms that live in and on the bottom.

Biota – all the plant and animal life of a particular region.

Catch – the sum total of fish killed in a fishery in a given period. Catch is given in either weight or number of fish and may include landings, unreported landings, discards (bycatch), and incidental deaths.

Continental shelf waters – waters overlying the continental shelf, which extends seaward from the shoreline and deepens gradually to the point where the sea floor begins a slightly steeper descent to the deep ocean floor; the depth of the shelf edge varies, but is approximately 200 meters in many regions.

Crustaceans – invertebrates characterized by a hard outer shell and jointed appendages and bodies. They usually live in water and breathe through gills. Higher forms of this class include lobsters, shrimp and crawfish; lower forms include barnacles.

Demersal species – most often refers to fish that live on or near the ocean bottom. They are often called benthic fish, groundfish, or bottom fish.

Egg stage – one of several marked phases or periods in the development and growth of many animals. The life history stage of an animal that occurs after reproduction and refers to the developing embryo, its food store, and sometimes jelly or albumen, all surrounded by an outer shell or membrane. Occurs before the *larval* or *juvenile stage*.

Elasmobranch – any of numerous fishes of the class Chondrichthyes characterized by a cartilaginous skeleton and placoid scales: sharks; rays; skates.

Embayment – a bay or an indentation in a coastline resembling a bay.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – an analysis of the expected impacts of a fishery management plan (or some other Proposed Action) on the environment and on people,

initially prepared as a “Draft” (DEIS) for public comment. After an initial EIS is prepared for a plan, subsequent analyses are called “Supplemental” (i.e., DSEIS, FSEIS).

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) – those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity. The EFH designation for most managed species in this region is based on a legal text definition and geographical area that are described in the Habitat Omnibus Amendment (1998).

Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) – for the purposes of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the area from the seaward boundary of each of the coastal states to 200 nautical miles from the baseline.

Fathom – a measure of length, containing six feet; the space to which a man can extend his arms; used chiefly in measuring cables, cordage, and the depth of navigable water by soundings.

FMP (fishery management plan) – also referred to as a “plan,” this is a document that describes a fishery and establishes measures to manage it. The New England Fishery Management Council prepares FMPs and submits them to the Secretary of Commerce for approval and implementation. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission prepares FMPs and implementing regulations are adopted by the States.

Juvenile stage – one of several marked phases or periods in the development and growth of many animals. The life history stage of an animal that comes between the *egg* or *larval stage* and the *adult stage*; juveniles are considered immature in the sense that they are not yet capable of reproducing, yet they differ from the larval stage because they look like smaller versions of the adults.

Larvae (or Larval) stage – one of several marked phases or periods in the development and growth of many animals. The first stage of development after hatching from the *egg* for many fish and invertebrates. This life stage looks fundamentally different than the juvenile and adult stages, and is incapable of reproduction; it must undergo metamorphosis into the juvenile or adult shape or form.

Meter – a measure of length, equal to 39.37 English inches, the standard of linear measure in the metric system of weights and measures. It was intended to be, and is very nearly, the ten millionth part of the distance from the equator to the north pole, as ascertained by actual measurement of an arc of a meridian.

Plan Development Team (PDT) – a group of technical experts responsible for developing and analyzing management measures under the direction of the Council.

Prey availability – the availability or accessibility of prey (food, forage) to a predator. Important for growth and survival.

Primary production – the synthesis of organic materials from inorganic substances by photosynthesis.

Recovery time – the period of time required for something (e.g. a habitat) to achieve its former state after being disturbed.

Recruitment – the amount of fish added to the fishery each year due to growth and/or migration into the fishing area. For example, the number of fish that grow to become vulnerable to fishing gear in one year would be recruitment to the fishery.

Species assemblage – several species occurring together in a particular location or region

Species composition – a term relating the relative abundance of one species to another using a common measurement; the proportion (percentage) of various species in relation to the total on a given area.

Species diversity – the number of different species in an area and their relative abundance.

Species richness – see *Species diversity*. A measurement or expression of the number of species present in an area; the more species present, the higher the degree of species richness.

Stock – a grouping of fish usually based on genetic relationship, geographic distribution and movement patterns. A region may have more than one stock of a species.