

#### **4.2.7 Alternative 7: Inshore Juvenile Cod**

This alternative seeks to designate the inshore areas of the Gulf of Maine and Southern New England specifically to recognize the importance of the inshore areas to juvenile Atlantic cod. In 1999, the Council voted to approve this alternative and include it in the next appropriate fishery management plan vehicle. Since that time, the Habitat Plan Development Team has advised the Habitat Committee, based on the supporting information, that the Alternative should be expanded to include two options for public comment:

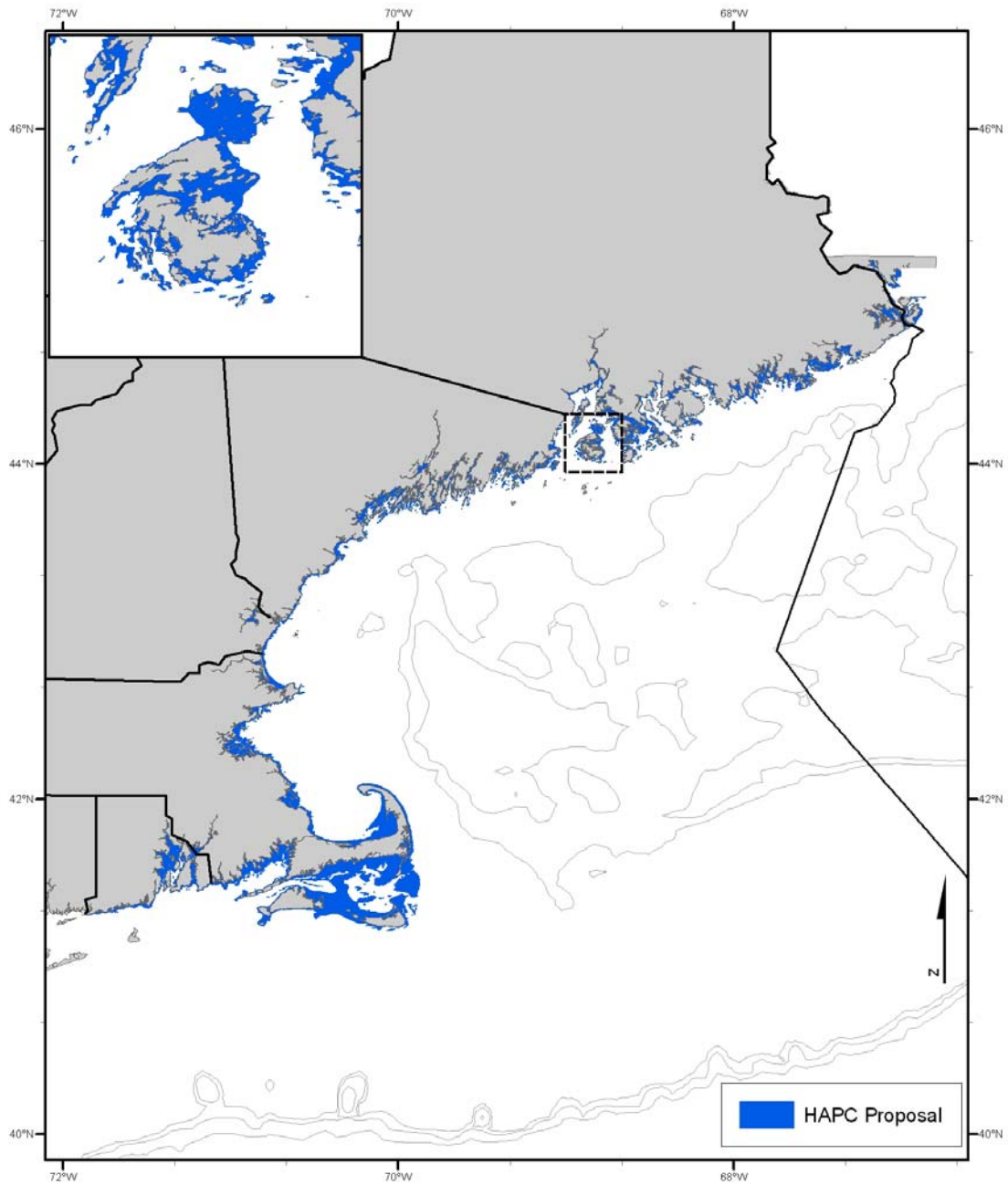
The most practical approach for delineating an HAPC for settled age-0 cod is to circumscribe the reported center of distribution for this life stage throughout the range of the stock. The information available suggests that the HAPC should be from the low tide line to a depth of 10 m (33') MLLW (Option A) or alternatively from the low tide line to a depth of 20 m (33') MLLW (Option B) from eastern Maine to the Rhode Island/Connecticut border. This narrow depth range describes critical habitat from settlement through the first autumn of life and overlaps seasonal habitat of age-1 juvenile cod. It also bounds the critical nursery zone for early benthic stages of important juvenile habitat for some other groundfish.

Option A: 0-10 meters (MLLW)

Option B: 0-20 meters (MLLW)

##### **4.2.7.1 Alternative 7A: Inshore Juvenile Cod (0-10m depth contour)**

Map 590. Alternative 7A: Inshore Juvenile Cod HAPC Alternative (0 - 10m depth contour)



### 4.2.7.2 Alternative 7B: Inshore Juvenile Cod (0-20m depth contour)

Map 591. Alternative 7B: Inshore Juvenile Cod HAPC (0-20m depth contour)

