



New England Fishery Management Council

News Release

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NEFMC Requests Candidate Proposals for HAPCs

Newburyport, MA The New England Fishery Management Council is asking the public for proposals that identify areas to be considered as Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs). Applicants may propose candidate areas for use in the Council's fishery management plans --- Northeast Multispecies (including small mesh multispecies), Scallop, Monkfish, Herring, Red Crab, Skates and Atlantic Salmon. The request for proposals (RFP) is now posted on the Council website, www.nefmc.org. The deadline for receipt of all the relevant information is 5 p.m., March 25, 2005. Applicants may submit electronic proposals to a special NEFMC mailbox, proposals@nefmc.org.

The Council has expressed a preference for proposals that will improve fisheries management in the U. S. EEZ, include Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) designations for more than one Council managed species in order to maximize the benefit of the designations, include juvenile cod EFH and meet more than one of the EFH Final Rule criteria outlined in the RFP. Please note that the Council is unable to provide any analytical or mapping assistance to proposal developers.

Complete details, including format, required information and justifications, evaluation criteria, and required topics, are provided in the RFP. All questions should be directed to the EFH Plan Development Team Chair Leslie-Ann McGee (508-495-2358) or LeslieAnn.McGee@nefmc.org.

The New England Fishery Management Council, one of eight regional Councils established by federal legislation in 1976, is charged with conserving and managing fishery resources from three to 200 miles off the coasts of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut.

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