

# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

## Habitat Committee

October 23-24, 2012  
1:00 - 5:00 p.m. and 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

### Draft Agenda

The times listed are approximate; the order in which these items will be taken is subject to change; other items may be added as necessary.

#### Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>

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|---|-----------|
| 1. Welcome and Introductions ( <i>B. Van Dolah</i> )                | 1:00 p.m. |
| 2. ACFHP Update ( <i>E. Greene</i> )                                | 1:10 p.m. |
| 3. Review 2012 Action Plan ( <i>M. Caldwell</i> )                   | 1:15 p.m. |
| 4. Review Draft 2013 Habitat Action Plan ( <i>M. Caldwell</i> )     | 2:00 p.m. |
| Break   | 2:40 p.m. |
| 5. Fish Passage Update ( <i>J. Kipp</i> )                           | 3:00 p.m. |
| 6. Habitat Management Series:                                       | 3:30 p.m. |
| • Habitat Impacts of Harbor Deepening Projects ( <i>D. Clarke</i> ) |           |
| • Future Habitat Management Series Topics                           |           |
| 7. Habitat Managers Database  | 4:30 p.m. |
| 8. Adjourn Day 1  | 5:00 p.m. |

#### Wednesday October 24<sup>th</sup>

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|---|-----------|
| 9. Use of Habitat Information in Stock Assessments ( <i>G. Nesslage</i> ) | 8:30 a.m. |
| • Eel Stock Assessment & Eel Habitat GIS                                  |           |

The meeting will be held at the Radisson Plaza-Warwick Hotel, 220 South 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 215.735.6000

*Healthy, self-sustaining populations for all Atlantic coast fish species or successful restoration well in progress by the year 2015*

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|---|------------|
| 10. Bottlenecks ( <i>M. Caldwell</i> )  | 9:00 a.m.  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bottlenecks in Habitat Updates: Red Drum, Lobster, Black Drum</li><li>• FMP Outline</li><li>• Future: expand to a large effort?</li></ul> |            |
| 11. Habitat Hotline   | 10:30 a.m. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2012 Issue (<i>C. Patterson</i>)</li><li>• Future Issues</li></ul>  |            |
| 12. Election of Vice Chair  | 11:50 a.m. |
| 13. Other Business/Adjourn  | 12:00 p.m. |

**Note:**

2:45 pm – 5 pm      ISFMP Policy Board Meeting: HC Report & Habitat Program Discussion

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## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Section 1.4: Habitat Considerations**

#### **Part 1.4.1: Habitat Important to the Stocks**

##### **Subsection 1.4.1.1: Description of the Habitat**

- Part A. Spawning Habitat
- Part B. Eggs & Larvae Habitat
- Part C. Juvenile Habitat
- Part D. Sub-Adult Habitat
- Part E. Adult Habitat

2. Maps describing local and regional habitats, migratory routes, and species range
3. A table that includes any significant environmental factors affecting the species at different life stages, with citations for all information included.

##### **Subsection 1.4.1.2: Identification and Distribution of Habitat and Habitat of Concern**

##### **Subsection 1.4.1.3: Present Condition of Habitats and Habitat of Concern**

This subsection should include separate segments for each different type of habitat that was identified in Subsection 1.4.1.1. The following outline should be used:

###### **I. Habitat Type 1**

- A. Estimates of habitat quantity and any changes over time, such as but not limited to aerial extent and trends over time, availability to the species and changes in availability, etc.
- B. Description of habitat quality and any changes over time, such as but not limited to water quality, functional ability of wetlands, etc.
- C. Description of current threats, including:
  - a. What is the magnitude of the impact, especially in light of the use by the species?
  - b. What is the length in time of the impact and does it occur when the habitat is used by the species?
  - c. Are the impacts irreversible?
  - d. How can the impacts be avoided, minimized, or mitigated? (This information will be especially important for Section 4.4)
  - e. Estimates of cumulative and secondary impacts to the habitat.
- E. Any affects of degradation or loss of this habitat on the ability to harvest and/or market the species

###### **II. Habitat Type 2 (etc...)**

##### **Subsection 1.4.1.4: Ecosystem Considerations**

**Section 1.5 Impacts of the Fishery Management Program**  
**Part 1.5.4: Other Resource Management Efforts**  
**Subsection 1.5.4.1: Artificial Reef Development/Management**

**MONITORING PROGRAM SPECIFICATIONS/ELEMENTS**  
**Section 3.7: Habitat Monitoring Program**

Elements of a monitoring program should include the following:

1. Development of a monitoring plan based on historic and existing habitat quality and quantity records/data.
2. Designation of reference sites based on life stage requirements.
3. Determination of appropriate spatial and temporal scales for monitoring specific habitat types and locations.
4. Coordination of monitoring of essential habitat across all life stages.
5. Enhanced coordination of fish stock assessment and management with habitat monitoring.

**1. Issues and options associated with monitoring programs**

- a. *Scale:*
  1. Regional vs. site specific - broad indicators/remote sensing tools vs. single indicators
  2. Regional approaches – existing landscape approaches e.g. river basin/coastal association or commission data
  3. Species range approach – monitor on a species by species FMP approach
- b. *Frequency: Cost-benefit*
- c. *Prediction: Quantify/track cumulative effects of climate change and continued watershed and coastal development on aquatic habitat*
  1. Land use/management plans to select landscape indicators
  2. Climate prediction models to select precipitation/storm surge effects to monitor
- d. *Location: Overlay all life-stage habitat types for all species with FMPs and develop coordinated monitoring by location*
- e. *Existing fish stock information: Coordinate with collection and analysis of habitat information*

**2. Monitoring indicators: Referenced with natural variation and analyzed spatially/temporally**

- a. *Large-scale: Remote sensing and existing monitoring programs- coordinate and fill gaps*
  1. Land use – include infrastructure (roads, etc.), water, development, dredging, channelization, riprap, etc.
  2. Specific habitat types (quantity and quality)
  3. Temperatures of rivers, tributaries, estuaries, and oceans – ridge to reef
  4. Sediment movement and changes

- 5. Water quality and quantity
  - b. *Intermediate-scale: Aquatic communities, species numbers, diversity, and distributions*

**3. Integration of habitat and water quality data with fishery monitoring data through Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis**

**MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION**

**Section 4.4: Habitat Conservation and Restoration**

**Part 4.4.1: Preservation of Existing Habitat**

**Part 4.4.2: Habitat Restoration, Improvement, and Enhancement**

**Part 4.4.3: Avoidance of Incompatible Activities**

**Part 4.4.4: Fisheries Practices**

**Part 4.4.5: Habitat Monitoring**

**COMPLIANCE**

**Section 5.1: Mandatory Compliance**

**Part 5.1.1: Mandatory Elements of State Programs (*as applicable*)**

**Subsection 5.1.1.5: Habitat Requirements**

**MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH NEEDS**

**Section 6.2: Research and Data Needs**

**Part 6.2.4: Habitat**