

**East Coast Forum  
June 26-29, 2013 • Annapolis, Maryland  
Habitat Considerations**

**FINAL AGENDA**

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**Goals and Learning Objectives**

The purpose of the 2013 East Coast Forum is to explore opportunities for regional fishery management councils to strengthen the integration of habitat science and considerations into the decision-making process. Specifically, participants will:

- Enhance their understanding of the existing habitat authorities under the Magnuson-Stevens Act;
  - Discuss their experiences with habitat related decision-making, focusing on the processes councils use to consider tradeoffs and evaluate options for designating Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), siting Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs), and minimizing adverse impacts;
  - Develop their ability to lead through communication by sharing and evoking stories and lessons learned through council experience;
  - Identify the steps councils have taken to monitor, prioritize and engage in consultations on non-fishing impacts to EFH;
  - Increase their understanding of NOAA Fisheries initiatives to advance habitat science and policy through the Habitat Assessment Improvement Plan and Habitat Blueprint;
  - Explore habitat as the structural foundation of ecosystems, and examine the role of habitat in councils' ecosystem-based management initiatives; and
  - Consider outcomes from the habitat panel session at the third Managing Our Nation's Fisheries Conference.
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**Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>**

**6:30 – 9:00 pm**

**Welcome reception**

*Crush Kitchen and Winehouse • 114 West Street*

*This is casual! Late arrivals are encouraged to attend. Walking directions are provided in the Forum travel and logistics document.*

**Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup>**

*Meeting room: Point Lookout (located in the Powerhouse building, directly across the parking lot from the main lobby)*

**7:30 – 8:30 am**

**Breakfast**

*Lookout Foyer (3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Powerhouse building)*

- 8:30 – 9:00 am**      **Opening remarks and introductions**
- Introduction  
*John Henderschedt, Fisheries Forum Executive Director*
  - Agenda overview  
*Katie Latanich, Fisheries Forum Program Manager*
  - Participant and speaker introductions
- 9:00 – 10:00 am**      **Opening presentations: Healthy habitat, healthy fisheries**  
Objective: Review key habitat terminology and habitat authorities under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and introduce habitat as the structural foundation of ecosystems.
- Re-envisioning habitat: From “what’s on the bottom” to the structural foundation of ecosystems**  
*Dr. John Boreman, North Carolina State University*
- Habitat protection in the Magnuson-Stevens Act**  
*Terra Lederhouse, Office of Habitat Conservation, NOAA Fisheries*
- 10:00 – 10:15 am**      **BREAK**
- 10:15 – 12:00 pm**      **Panel presentation and discussion: Regional processes for EFH decision-making**  
Objective: Share examples of the processes councils have developed to structure habitat-related decision-making, and to address region-specific challenges and objectives.
- 1) The New England Council and the Swept Area Seabed Impact Model:  
An economic perspective on minimizing adverse impacts  
*Chad Demarest, NEFSC, NOAA Fisheries*
  - 2) The Gulf Council and artificial substrate as Essential Fish Habitat  
*Dr. Greg Stunz, Texas A&M University Corpus Christi*
  - 3) The Pacific Council’s approach to Essential Fish Habitat reviews:  
One size does not fit all  
*Kerry Griffin, Pacific Fishery Management Council*
- 12:00 – 1:00 pm**      **LUNCH**  
*Windmill Point (2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Powerhouse building)*

- 1:00 – 3:30 pm**      **Lessons learned: Leading through communicating experience**  
Objective: Identify opportunities for council members to lead through communication by sharing and evoking insight and lessons learned through council experience. (See Tab 6 for session agenda)  
*Instructor: Don Wells, Don Wells Consulting*
- 3:30 – 3:45 pm**      **BREAK**
- 3:45 – 5:15 pm**      **Roundtable discussion: How do councils currently integrate habitat considerations into their management policies?**  
Objective: Explore councils' and council members' experiences with habitat authorities and habitat-related decision making, and identify regional differences in council process.  
*Facilitators: Fisheries Forum staff*
- Discussion questions:
- During your tenure as a council member, what major habitat actions or decisions has your council undertaken? From your perspective, what was significant about the process or outcome?
  - What are the processes, policies, relationships, and other pathways through which your council integrates habitat information into the decision-making process? What is their purpose?
    - Committees and advisory panels
    - Habitat policies
    - Fishery ecosystem plans and other ecosystem initiatives
    - Engagement in EFH consultations
    - Presentations by other agencies at council meetings
  - Where do you feel that your council has made meaningful progress on a habitat related issue? Where have you felt frustrated, and why? What insights or lessons learned can you share from your council's experience?
- 6:30 – 9:00 pm**      **Dinner**  
*Harry Browne's • 66 State Circle*
- Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup>**  
*Meeting room: Point Lookout*
- 7:30 – 8:30 am**      **Breakfast**  
*Lookout Foyer*

- 8:30 – 10:00 am**      **Roundtable discussion: Council engagement in EFH consultations**  
Objective: Explore councils' use of the discretionary authority to comment on actions affecting habitat for managed stocks.  
*Facilitators: Fisheries Forum staff*
- Discussion questions:
- What processes, council bodies, and relationships does your council utilize to monitor potential non-fishing impacts to habitat, and identify opportunities for your council to engage in EFH consultations?
  - What questions do you have about the EFH consultation process?
  - When have you felt that your council's comments were meaningful or influential in the outcome of a consultation?
  - Are there opportunities to strengthen councils' engagement in the consultation process, and if so, how? From your perspective as a council member, staff member, or NOAA Fisheries staff, what are the potential advantages, disadvantages, opportunities, or barriers associated with greater council involvement?
- 10:00 – 10:15 am**      **BREAK**
- 10:15 - 11:15 am**      **Presentations and discussion: Advances in habitat science**  
Objective: Provide insight into NOAA Fisheries initiatives to advance habitat science, consider the rationale for investing in habitat science, and examine how habitat science can support stock assessments and advance ecosystem-based decision-making.
- Coordinating habitat science at NOAA Fisheries**  
*Kirsten Larsen, Office of Science and Technology, NOAA Fisheries*
- OpenOcean 2013 – Integrating habitat dynamics into population and ecosystem assessment: Cooperative research within an operational ocean observatory**  
*Dr. John Manderson, NEFSC, NOAA Fisheries*
- 11:15 – 12:00 pm**      **Keynote Presentation: Managing fisheries in the face of changing ecosystem productivity**  
*Dr. Jason Link, Senior Scientist for Ecosystem Management, NOAA Fisheries*
- 12:00 – 1:00 pm**      **LUNCH**  
*Windmill Point*

- 1:00 – 3:00 pm**      **Panel session: Habitat and the third Managing our Nation’s Fisheries Conference**  
Objective: Discuss outcomes from the habitat panel session at MONF3, and consider intersections with council decision-making.
- Overview of MONF3 habitat session**  
*John Henderschedt, Fisheries Forum Executive Director*
- The Habitat Blueprint and integrating habitat into ecosystem-based fishery management**  
*Buck Sutter, Director, Office of Habitat Conservation, NOAA Fisheries*
- A historical perspective on habitat authorities**  
*Dr. John Boreman, North Carolina State University*
- Panel and group discussion**  
Based on presentations and findings from MONF3, where are there opportunities to refine, leverage and focus habitat authorities to achieve ecosystem or landscape level habitat protection in support of sustainable and rebuilding fisheries?  
*Facilitators: Fisheries Forum staff*
- 3:00 – 3:15 pm**      **BREAK**
- 3:15 – 4:45 pm**      **Wrap up discussion and council perspectives: What does it mean to effectively integrate habitat considerations in the council process?**  
Objective: Share perspectives on the steps councils can take to integrate habitat considerations into the decision-making process.  
*Facilitators: Fisheries Forum staff*
- 4:45 – 5:00 pm**      **Wrap-up and closing remarks**
- 6:30 – 9:00 pm**      **Dinner**  
*Level • 69 West Street*
- Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup>**
- 7:30 – 8:30 am**      **Breakfast (provided)**  
*Location TBD*
- 8:30 – 1:00 pm**      **Field trip**  
*Final details to be provided via email. Box lunch and transportation provided.*