Habitat Committee Motions from April 26 and May 22, 2018

1. Recommend an alternative to allow a hydraulic clam dredge exemption in the northwestern and northeastern quadrants shown on Map 1 of the May 16, 2018 PDT memo. Approximate coordinates are: Northwest: (1) 69°49'20"W, 41°30'00"N, (2) 69°43'00"W, 41°30'00"N, (3) 69°43'00"W, 41°21'00"N, (4) 69°36'20"W, 41°21'00"N, (5) 69°36'20"W, 41°08'30"N, (6) 69°49'20"W, 41°08'30"N. Northeast: (1) 69°36'20"W, 41°21'00"N, (2) 69°27'10"W, 41°21'00"N, (3) 69°20'12"W, 41°04'00"N, (4) 69°36'20"W, 41°04'00"N. The intent is for the analysis to examine attributes of the two quadrants individually and combined to allow one or both areas to be selected for exemption.

2. Recommend an alternative to allow a hydraulic clam dredge exemption in the Great Rip cobble/boulder G* (=the Great Rip Area) area shown on Map 5 of the May 16, 2018 PDT memo. Approximate coordinates are: (1) 69°45'00"W, 41°21'00"N, (2) 69°36'15"W, 41°21'00"N, (3) 69°36'15"W, 41°05'00"N, (4) 69°45'00"W, 41°05'00"N.

3. Recommend an alternative to allow a hydraulic clam exemption in an area below the existing MBTG closure, centered around Davis Bank (referred to as the Davis Bank Area). Approximate coordinates are: (1) 69°43'00"W, 41°21'00"N, (2) 69°27'10"W, 41°21'00"N, (3) 69°27'10"W, 41°08'30"N, (4) 69°43'00"W, 41°08'30"N.

4. Recommend an alternative to allow a hydraulic clam exemption in the southwestern quadrant shown on Map 1 of the May 16, 2018 PDT memo. Approximate coordinates are: (1) 69°49'00"W, 41°08'30"N, (2) 69°36'20"W, 41°08'30"N, (3) 69°36'20"W, 40°51'30"N, (4) 69°49'00"W, 40°51'30"N.

5. Recommend that any exemption granted under this framework be subject to the following two sub-options: (1) that vessels carry two VMS units, the existing NMFS-approved satellite unit, and a second unit that is pinging at 1-minute intervals, and (2) that any exemption granted under this framework sunset on April 9, 2021. The intent is that these sub-options could be selected independently or in combination.

6. Recommend an alternative to grant an exemption for the mussel fishery in the northwestern quadrant shown on Map 1 of the May 16, 2018 PDT memo. Approximate coordinates are as follows: (1) 69°49'20"W, 41°30'00"N, (2) 69°43'00"W, 41°30'00"N, (3) 69°43'00"W, 41°21'00"N, (4) 69°36'20"W, 41°21'00"N, (5) 69°36'20"W, 41°08'30"N, (6) 69°49'20"W, 41°08'30"N.

7. That the Council request that the Northeast Fisheries Science Center investigate the feasibility of side scan sonar surveys in any exemption areas designated under this framework.

8. That the Council adopt the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s policies on offshore wind and oil and gas development.