

STATUS OF THE GROUND FISH ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Situation: The Council has been briefed on the NMFS decision to develop a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) that will analyze alternatives for designating essential fish habitat (EFH) and minimizing the adverse effects of fishing on EFH. The NMFS project manager for the EFH SEIS will brief a joint session of the Scientific and Statistical Committee, Habitat Committee, Groundfish Advisory Subpanel, and Groundfish Management Team on Monday, April 7 regarding the status of the project and the results of the Ad Hoc Groundfish Habitat Technical Review Committee workshop held in Seattle, Washington on February 19-20, 2003. He will also provide an abbreviated overview under this agenda item.

Council Task:

- 1. Discuss and provide guidance to NMFS on further development of the Groundfish EFH SEIS.**

Reference Materials:

1. Preliminary Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Groundfish Habitat Technical Review Committee (Exhibit E.9, Attachment 1).

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. NMFS Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. Council Discussion

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