

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT --

NWFSC/SWFSC GROUND FISH EFH TASKING FOR SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

At its March 2014 meeting, the Council requested that the Northwest and Southwest Fisheries Science Centers investigate the question of groundfish essential fish habitat (EFH) effectiveness, accuracy, and completeness, in the best way possible within the next five months, using existing staff resources, and to present their findings in the advance Briefing Book for consideration at the September 2014 Council meeting. The attached table summarizes tasks and associated products being considered for the September meeting, referenced by Council Member or requester.

### NWFSC/SWFSC Groundfish EFH Tasking for September Council Meeting

Council Member / Requester	Task	Products	Likely to be Available by Sept Council Meeting, Y/N
Dale Myer	Describe and analyze effects of gear changes (e.g. footrope regs), Analyze untrawlable habitat as proxy for closed areas	List of gear changes and list of key papers with short summary statements	Y
Dale Myer	Analyze how amendment 20 is affecting fishing (catch shares)	Analysis is part of the Amendment 20 Biological Opinion	<b>scheduled for February</b>
Dale Myer	Analyze if amendment 20 is positive effect for habitat (catch shares)	Analysis is part of the Amendment 20 Biological Opinion	<b>scheduled for February</b>
Dale Myer	Analyze effects of RCA	2 to 5 pager	Y
Dale Myer	Analyze whiting data within EFH Cons. Areas for bottom contact	Table of % of tows contacting the seafloor in closed vs. open areas by province and by depth	Y
Michelle Culver	Map of displaced or restored trawl effort that would result from proposals	GIS Layers and Maps that can be used in presentation to the Council	Y
Michelle Culver	What % of trawl effort would be displaced/restored by proposals AND What percentage of the area would be displaced or restored by the proposals?	Table with summary of the % of trawl effort displaced or restored by proposal by province by gear type	Y
Michelle Culver	What % of the catch composition in aggregate is in the proposed closed areas?	Table with summary as a percentage of aggregate catch (e.g., sharks, rockfishes, flatfishes, etc.) by proposal by province by gear type	Y
Michelle Culver	Identify overlap in spatial boundaries among proposals	GIS Layers and Maps that can be used in the presentation to the Council	Y

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Michelle Culver	Map of proposed closures with overlay of tribal areas (North of 46-degrees 53' N lat to US-Canada border; shoreward of 125-degrees 44' W long.)	GIS Layers and Maps that can be used in the presentation to the Council	Y
Michelle Culver	Region should develop process options for implementation of new regs in 2016 and 2017. More specifically, she asked the Region to come back with 1 or 2 options for the Council to consider on process and timelines that the Council can use to backcalculate when they need to take action - i.e., when would the Council need to take final action for the regulations to be implemented by NMFS in 2016 or 2017?		NA
Michelle Culver	Map of displaced or restored fixed gear effort that would result from proposals	GIS Layers and Maps that can be used in presentation to the Council	?
Michelle Culver	What % of fixed gear effort would be displaced/restored by proposals AND What percentage of the area would be displaced or restored by the proposals?	Table with summary of the % of fixed gear effort displaced or restored by proposal by province	?
Dan Wolford	Focus on objective of maintaining healthy fish populations rather than protecting habitat for habitat's sake.	NEPA purpose and needs statement	NA

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Council Member / Requester	Task	Products	Likely to be Available by Sept Council Meeting, Y/N
Dan Wolford	Cost/benefit of areas to protect habitat	See Culver tasks and NEPA	<b>NA</b>
Dan Wolford	Gather a team to conduct independent scientific review of status quo and proposals		<b>NA</b>
Dan Wolford	Develop criteria for analyzing proposals		<b>NA</b>
Rich Lincoln	Where do proposals intersect RCAs?	GIS Layers and Maps that can be used in the presentation to the Council	<b>Y</b>
Council Staff	List of areas (e.g., Potato Bank in So. Calif.), where inaccuracies exist in previous designations.		<b>Y</b>
Michelle Culver & David Sones	Summarize consultations, including acres protected	Table with narrative	<b>Y</b>