

GROUND FISH ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT SYNTHESIS REPORT AND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Pacific Coast groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Review Committee (EFHRC) delivered the Phase 1 Report to the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council). The Phase 1 Report contains a summary of new and newly-available information compiled by members of the EFHRC, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and other contributors, and is intended to serve as the primary source of information for use in developing proposals for any changes to groundfish EFH that the Council may consider.

At the September meeting, NMFS suggested that a synthesis of the information contained in the Phase 1 Report could be helpful to any entities that are considering developing proposals for changes to current groundfish EFH. The Council agreed, and accepted NMFS' offer to develop the synthesis report (Agenda Item D.6.b, NMFS Synthesis Report). The Council will consider the Synthesis Report and may adopt it as a complement to the Phase 1 Report (September 2012 Agenda Item H.6.b, EFHRC Report 1).

Also at the September meeting, the Council considered a revised request for proposals (RFP) that will provide guidance to any entities planning to submit proposals for changes to groundfish EFH. The Council requested some minor changes to the RFP, which are included in Agenda Item D.6.a, Attachment 1. The Council should consider any suggested improvements, and consider issuing the RFP to initiate the proposal develop process.

Council Action:

- 1. Consider the NMFS Science Center Synthesis Report.**
- 2. Consider and approve the revised RFP.**
- 3. Initiate Phase 2 of the EFH Review.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.6.a, Attachment 1: Request for Proposals (RFP) to Modify Essential Fish Habitat for Pacific Coast Groundfish.
2. Agenda Item D.6.b, NMFS Synthesis Report: Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Synthesis Report. (*Available on Briefing Book Website and CD Only*)
3. Agenda Item D.6.d, Public Comment 1.
4. Agenda Item D.6.d, Public Comment 2.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview Kerry Griffin
- b. NMFS Synthesis Report Michelle McClure, Waldo Wakefield, Ole Shelton
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Discussion and Guidance on Groundfish EFH Review Synthesis Report and Initiate Phase 2 of the Review by Approving the Request for Proposals to Modify Groundfish EFH

PFMC
03/25/13