

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT AND REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) heard a presentation from Dr. Michelle McClure, Dr. Waldo Wakefield and Dr. Ole Shelton on the Essential Fish Habitat and Synthesis and completion of Phase I. The GAP appreciates their significant work, as well as that of the Essential Fish Habitat Review Committee (EFHRC), and National Marine Fisheries Service, to develop information for the Council to consider possible changes to current EFH designations. Of particular interest to the GAP was the EFH website developed by Mr. Chris Romsos [<http://efh-catalog.coas.oregonstate.edu/overview/>].

In the event the Council decides to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP), it is the intention of the GAP to actively participate in the evaluation of any proposals submitted regarding EFH.

It is the GAP's understanding that this matter is currently scheduled for the November 2013 Council meeting, with possible subsequent action in March 2014.

In order to have ample opportunity to examine proposals for their technical sufficiency, as well as their biological, ecological and social implications, the GAP strongly recommends that all submissions received by the Council in response to the RFP be made available publically prior to the September 2013 Council meeting.

The GAP wants to begin its review of the proposals at the September Council meeting and continue its review in November, for what we hope will be sufficient opportunity to provide comment in advance of any action the Council may take.

PFMC
04/08/13