

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON  
ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT (EFH) REVIEW PHASE 2 REPORT  
AND PROPOSALS TO MODIFY EFH

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed the draft Phase 2 report from the Essential Fish Habitat Review Committee (EFHRC) (Agenda Item H.7.b, Supplemental Attachment 1). Mr. Kerry Griffin briefed the SSC on the report and was available to answer questions.

The SSC notes that the EFHRC's Phase 1 report (presented to the Council in September 2012) and the subsequent Synthesis Report developed by NMFS (presented to the Council in April 2013) indicate the availability of extensive amounts of new information relevant to groundfish essential fish habitat (EFH). Should the Council decide to proceed with Phase 3, it would greatly facilitate the process, especially the analysis of alternatives, if the Council evaluated the effectiveness of the current EFH designations and conservation areas relative to meeting its objectives. Without such an evaluation it may be difficult to gauge whether proposed changes to EFH are likely to be improvements.

PFMC  
11/03/13