

## GROUND FISH ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT (EFH) REVIEW PROCESS

At its June 2008 meeting, the Council appointed members to the Ad Hoc Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Review Committee (EFHRC) in preparation for reviewing proposed changes to groundfish EFH, including the five-year overall review, as outlined in Amendment 19 of the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan and in Council Operating Procedure (COP) 22 (Agenda Item I.2.a, Attachment 1).

The first meeting of the EFHRC is scheduled during the September Council meeting. At that time, the EFHRC will appoint a Chair and Vice Chair, and review and recommend a revised COP 22 as needed to clarify and establish:

- The EFHRC charge;
- A schedule and process for the five-year EFH review;
- An adjusted schedule, criteria, and process for submission and review of proposed EFH changes within the five-year period; and
- Any other recommendations deemed appropriate, including the EFHRC role in recommending additional or replacement members.

The Council should adopt a revised COP 22 at the September Council meeting, and consider the process to solicit proposals for potential EFH changes prior to the five-year review in accord with the approved schedule.

### **Council Action:**

#### **1. Adopt a final groundfish EFH review process.**

#### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item I.2.a, Attachment 1: Council Operating Procedure 22.

#### **Agenda Order:**

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Recommendations of the Essential Fish Habitat Review Committee (EFHRC)
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Adopt a Final Groundfish EFH Review Process

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PFMC  
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