

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT REVIEW COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Ad Hoc Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Review Committee (EFHRC) met with Council Member Frank Warrens and Council Staff in December, 2008 to develop terms of reference for the proposals to modify groundfish Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). The terms of reference are intended to guide the process for submitting a complete proposal and the provide criteria for initial evaluation of proposals. Subsequent to a discussion of the groundfish EFH agenda item at the September Council meeting in Boise, Idaho, the EFHRC also developed a statement of intent to help clarify its role in the process.

Currently, the anticipated schedule includes solicitation for proposals after the March 2009 Council meeting, followed by a meeting of the EFHRC in May to evaluate proposals and develop initial recommendation for Council consideration at the June 2009 meeting. The Council would then take preliminary action in June to further consider proposals and request additional information as necessary. The Council would then take final action in November 2009 to approve proposals for subsequent analysis in the biennial management specifications process, or other process as appropriate.

Council Task:

- 1. Discussion of EFHRC Statement of Intent**
- 2. Approve Final Terms of Reference.**
- 3. Provide direction on process for solicitation and evaluation of proposals.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.8.b, EFHRC Report: Statement of Intent and Terms of Reference

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Agencies and Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Terms of Reference

Chuck Tracy

PFMC
02/13/09