ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT/ROCKFISH CONSERVATION AREA PROJECT TEAM REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Essential Fish Habitat/Rockfish Conservation Area (EFH/RCA) Project Team is developing an analytical document in advance of the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) selection of preliminary preferred alternatives (PPAs), for Amendment 28 to the Groundfish fishery management plan. The Project Team has outlined a process, schedule, and section leads that will ensure that the analytical document will be sufficiently detailed to allow for selection of PPAs. (See Table 1 on following page).

Given the magnitude and complexity of the analytical needs, the document will not be available in time for the September 2016 Council meeting. The Project Team therefore recommends moving PPA selection from September to November 2016.

Table 1: EFH/RCA Project Team Tasks and Timeline

| Due Date | CA Project Team Tasks and Timeline Task/Event | Notes |
|--------------------|--|---|
| June 13 | Finalize metrics, including years, data source, etc. | Tiotes |
| June 13 | Obtain final Collaborative shapes | Complete |
| June 14 | Team call. Review data/metrics tables, data sources, | |
| | etc. | Complete |
| June 14-17 | Modify the metrics tables | Complete |
| June 17 | Write Team report recommending moving PPAs from Sept to November | In review |
| June 17 | Conservation values – determine feasibility, time, and cost | Discussed on 6/21. Small group to follow up |
| June 17 | Habitat recovery times | Discussion pending |
| June 21 | Write up protected resources summary based on electronic monitoring document; discuss with NMFS PRD | Pending |
| Late June, TBD | Check in with Collaborative and Oceana/NRDC/OC proponents; confirm spatial boundaries | 1 complete; 1 pending |
| Early July | Develop mock-up for conservation values metric | |
| Early July | Identify port groups, consider using the same aggregations as used in the SAFE which are the IOPAC groups | In progress |
| July 15 | Confirm level of detail required for BAC analysis with NOAA GC. | In progress |
| July 15 (?) | PacFIN staff provides logbook data to Project Team | Note: logbook workflow is described in a Google Doc. |
| July 15 | All shape files for the OF'd species discrete area closures derived from fishery dependent and independent data (CPUE/hotspot analysis) delivered to GIS analyst | 1 st draft complete |
| July 22 | Summary metric tables; including hauls that intersect polygons, for catch comp and S-E analysis. | Provided to NMFS by GIS analyst |
| July 29 | Catch compositions and revenue tables, delivered to Project Team | |
| August 1 | All metrics/data available to section authors | |
| Sept 15-21 | Sept Council meeting | |
| Sept 15 | Final draft analytical document for internal review, includes GC/NEPA if available | Consider additional round of review. NOTE: date was moved from 9/27 to 9/15, to allow more review time. |
| October 11 | Review period concludes; discuss any unresolved issues | |
| Oct 18 | November BB deadline | Final analytical document submitted |
| Oct 18-Nov 10 | Develop PPT presentation and plan for Council and AB presentations | |
| Nov 16-21 | November council meeting – select PPA | |
| Dec 16-Jan 17 | Develop draft EIS; analyze integrated PPA | |
| Feb 2017 | March BB deadline – early February | |
| March 7-14 2017 | March Council meeting | Selection of Final Preferred Alternative |

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