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

The Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)/Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) Project Team (Project Team) continues developing the analysis of Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan Amendment 28. This includes several alternatives for revising EFH Conservation Areas as well as changes to the trawl RCA coastwide. While the Project Team has made significant progress in developing analytical products to support the analysis of alternatives, we recommend moving final action to November 2017, to ensure opportunity for a thorough analysis and development of a preliminary draft environmental impact statement.

The Project Team has struggled with decisions on the analytical approach, but now has near-final economic and habitat data tables completed and available to inform the analysis. Competing priorities and the overall complexity of the analysis remain a challenge. However, the Project Team is committed to completing the analysis to support Council final action no later than the November 2017 meeting.

The Project Team adopted a revised schedule for developing the analysis, as well as opportunity for review and comment.

6/2-7/17	Lead authors work with analysts on data tables, data quality control, etc. write draft report
7/17	1st draft due, with two week review/comment period
7/31	Comments due on 1st draft report
8/21	2nd draft due, with two week review/comment period
9/1	Comments due on 2nd draft report
	(9/13-9/18 September Council meeting)
9/29	Final draft due, with final internal review, proofing and editing
10/17	November public comment deadline

Finally, the Project Team anticipates having draft products available prior to the September Council meeting. If time allows, and the Council is interested, the Project Team could provide draft analytical products and potentially an informational presentation at the September meeting.

PFMC
06/14/17