

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON AMENDMENT 28 - ESSENTIAL  
FISH HABITAT AND ROCKFISH CONSERVATION AREA - IMPLEMENTATION  
UPDATE

Mr. Kerry Griffin and Ms. Gretchen Hanshew provided the groundfish advisory subpanel (GAP) with an overview of the draft proposed fishery management plan language, the progress of the updated map, and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) approach to describing enforceable regulatory definitions for essential fish habitat conservation areas (EFHCAs). The GAP appreciates the work of NMFS and the project team on this topic, and offers the following comments and recommendations.

The GAP supports the NMFS approach to defining regulatory boundaries. It appears straightforward and less labor intensive than having to describe thousands of additional coordinates along the state/exclusive economic zone boundary or along existing regulatory closures.

The GAP notes that the Supplemental NMFS Report describes a sliver of open area that would exist at Arago Reef if the shape is implemented as described in the motion. If the Council decides to make minor clean-up modifications to EFH descriptions, the GAP supports removing that sliver by extending the line to the state water boundary.

Finally, the GAP is eager to see the final map and coordinates. The GAP notes that several members of the collaborative working group have contracted with Oregon Fishermen's Cable Committee to input the updated coastwide coordinates into the common plotter software platforms used by the fleet once the coordinates are finalized. Once complete, those updated coordinates will be installed on thumb drives and sent to the fleet.

PFMC  
09/09/18