

REVIEW OF ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT - SCOPING

The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) are required to include detailed descriptions of essential fish habitat (EFH) for each species in the FMP's fishery management unit. These include identification and description of EFH, fishing and non-fishing impacts, recommended conservation measures, habitat areas of particular concern, and other components. These EFH components should be reviewed and updated periodically, and at least every five years, per Federal regulatory guidance and Council Operating Procedure 22. EFH for highly migratory species (HMS) was established in 2003 and has not yet been reviewed or revised. Council Operating Procedure 22 provides guidance on developing the process, scope, and personnel to carry out EFH periodic reviews.

At this meeting, the Council will consider a proposed action plan to accomplish the first phase of the EFH review for HMS species. The action plan includes the schedule, scope, objectives, and staff who would conduct the review. Should the Council choose to move to the second phase (consider revisions to EFH components), and new action plan would be presented for Council adoption.

Council Action:

Adopt the EFH review action plan.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item I.2, Attachment 1: Action Plan for Highly Migratory Species Essential Fish Habitat Review: Background, Process, and Schedule.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- I.2 Review of Essential Fish Habitat – Scoping Kerry Griffin
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Approve the scope, objectives, and schedule for the review of essential fish habitat