

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON REVIEW OF  
ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT - SCOPING

The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) was briefed on the plan proposed by Council staff ([I.2, Attachment 1](#)) for reviewing essential fish habitat (EFH) in the Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan (HMS FMP). The HMSMT agrees with the plan outlined, which includes Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) staff leading the literature review, and the HMSMT providing review and subject matter expertise during the initial scoping phase. The HMSMT will need time to consider this topic during their in-person meetings and webinars prior to the September 2020 Council meeting. Notably, the June Council meeting will be held in San Diego, California, which could provide a convenient opportunity for the HMSMT to meet with SWFSC leads conducting the literature review. The HMSMT discussed the challenge of completing the EFH assignment as scheduled by September 2020, given that EFH has not been reviewed or updated since implementation of the HMS FMP in 2003. The HMSMT suggests the Council revisit the timeline to complete the EFH review.

PFMC  
03/07/20