

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT PHASE 2 ACTION PLAN

The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires fishery management plans (FMPs) to describe, identify, and conserve essential fish habitat (EFH) for each species in the FMP's fishery management unit. Federal regulatory guidance at 50 CFR 600.805 provides further requirements to identify adverse impacts from fishing and non-fishing activities, to recommend conservation measures, to consider identifying habitat areas of particular concern (HAPC), and to address several other EFH elements. Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Operating [Procedure 22](#) provides guidance on developing the process, scope, personnel, and schedule to carry out EFH periodic reviews.

At its April 2021 meeting, the Council considered coastal pelagic species (CPS) EFH review materials including a literature review and summary, Advisory Body reports, and other materials. The Council agreed to move forward with Phase 2 of the CPS EFH review and directed the CPSMT to provide a Phase 2 process, scope, and schedule.

Members of the CPSMT, Council Staff, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Region (WCR) and the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) met virtually in 2022 to coordinate Phase 2 tasks for the CPS EFH review. This informal team, with the support of internal NMFS funding, will support the objectives of Phase 2 of the review. The CPSMT puts forward for Council review, the scope, staffing, and proposed schedule for Phase 2 of the CPS EFH review.

Objectives

The overarching objectives for all EFH reviews are to ensure that the EFH provisions in the Council's FMPs are consistent with the best scientific information available, and to ensure a transparent and efficient science-based process for review of new information and consideration of any potential changes to EFH provisions.

The specific objectives of Phase 2 of the CPS EFH review are to: 1) recommend EFH provisions that should be modified, in light of new and newly available scientific literature and reports identified during Phase 1; and 2) recommend a schedule and timeline for consideration by the Council.

Scope

The following items will be included in the scope for Phase 2:

- Update bibliography of literature, data, and other information sources.
- Develop updated maps depicting the range of species and life stages.
- Move relevant information (e.g., krill EFH information) into an FMP appendix.
- Update outdated fishery descriptions.
- Update descriptions of adverse impacts from non-fishing activities.
- Update descriptions of adverse impacts from fishing activities.
- Consider grouping species or assemblages in describing EFH.
- Develop a markup version of the FMP with proposed EFH revisions.
- Consider whether new information indicates HAPCs should be identified, and if so, provide recommendations for Council consideration.

Staffing

- Council and NMFS staff leads will provide overall coordination (Kerry Griffin, Eric Chavez).
- SWFSC staff will provide scientific support for the review of information (Brad Erisman, Emmanis Dorval).
- CPSMT will review and provide subject matter expertise.
- Council staff will coordinate FMP amendment language (Jessi Doerpinghaus, Kerry Griffin).

Schedule (tentative)

- June 2022 Council meeting: Council adopts Phase 2 Action Plan.
- April 2023 Council meeting: Council considers recommendations and may adopt a preliminary preferred alternative for proposed CPS EFH modifications.
- June 2023 Council meeting: Final action for proposed CPS EFH modifications, as needed.

PFMC
05/11/22