

## COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT AMENDMENT

In 2020, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) began Phase One of its Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) review. As outlined in Council Operating Procedure (COP) 22, Phase One consists of a literature review and a call for information and culminates with a report which summarizes findings and should include a recommendation whether the new information warrants consideration of EFH modifications. The Council recommended in April 2021 to move forward with Phase Two to consider changes to CPS EFH.

In June 2022, the Council adopted the Phase 2 Action Plan for CPS EFH ([Agenda Item D.3.a, CPSMT Report 1, June 2022](#)). Over the winter, the CPS Management Team (CPSMT), National Marine Fisheries Service West Coast Region and Southwest Fisheries Science Center, and Council staff developed an alternatives document and proposed EFH appendix for the Council to review and consider at this meeting. Attachment 1 describes the two main alternatives for the Council to consider: Alternative 1 is inclusive of the elements in the new EFH Appendix, such as updated identification and description, non-fishing impacts, etc. Alternative 2 is specific to market squid Habitat Areas of Particular Concern. Supplemental Attachment 2 will provide the draft proposed EFH appendix, including the descriptions of EFH, fishing and non-fishing impacts, and other elements required.

At this meeting, the Council should consider the information provided in Attachment 1 and Supplemental Attachment 2 and adopt a range of alternatives and a preliminary preferred alternative if appropriate.

### **Council Action:**

- 1. Adopt a range of alternatives.**
- 2. Adopt a preliminary preferred alternative, if appropriate.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 1: Draft Alternatives Document.
2. *Agenda Item H.5, Supplemental Attachment 2: Draft Proposed EFH Appendix.*
3. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

### **Agenda Order:**

- H.5 Coastal Pelagic Species Essential Fish Habitat Amendment Kerry Griffin
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Adopt a Range of Alternatives and Preliminary Preferred Alternative, as Appropriate.