

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT
AMENDMENT – FINAL ACTION

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, a call for information, 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, and in June 2022, the Council adopted the Phase 2 Action Plan for CPS EFH ([Agenda Item D.3.a, CPSMT Report 1, June 2022](#)).

The CPS Management Team (CPSMT), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Region, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, and Council staff developed an alternatives document with a Range of Alternatives (ROAs), and a draft EFH appendix that consolidates CPS EFH information into a single document. The Council considered the draft products at its April 2023 meeting and adopted a ROA and a Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA). The ROA includes required EFH elements, which are contained in the draft EFH Appendix (G.3, Attachment 2). The Council considered but did not include Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs) for market squid in the ROA. Thus, there are no CPS HAPCs under consideration for final action under this agenda item.

The bulk of the EFH information, including identification and description, fishing and nonfishing effects, maps, research and information needs, and life history summaries, is included in the new EFH Appendix. A brief section in the main CPS Fishery Management Plan (FMP) provides general information on CPS EFH and the definitions of EFH for each of the species or groupings of species. Draft FMP Amendatory text (G.3, Attachment 3) is included for Council consideration. These materials together constitute Alternative 1b. The No Action Alternative is Alternative 1a.

At this meeting, the Council should consider the information provided in the EFH Alternatives document (G.3, Attachment 1), the EFH Appendix (G.3, Attachment 2) and the proposed FMP amendment text (G.3, Attachment 3), and adopt a final preferred alternative (1a or 1b). If the Council adopts Alternative 1b, the FMP amendment package, including modified EFH elements, will be transmitted to NMFS for Secretarial approval.

Council Action:

- 1. Consider the Alternatives document, draft EFH Appendix, and draft FMP amendatory text.**
- 2. Adopt a final preferred alternative.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.3, Attachment 1: CPS EFH Alternatives Document.
2. Agenda Item G.3, Attachment 2: CPS EFH Appendix (**Electronic Only**).

3. Agenda Item G.3, Attachment 3: Draft FMP Amendatory text.
4. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

G.3 Essential Fish Habitat Amendment – Final Action

Kerry Griffin

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Adopt a Final Preferred Alternative, as Appropriate

PFMC
05/31/23