

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT (EFH)
AMENDMENT – PRELIMINARY

In 2020, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) began Phase One of its Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) review. As outlined in Council Operating Procedure (COP) 22, Phase One consists of a literature review, a call for data and information, and culminates with a report which summarizes initial findings. If new information warrants consideration of EFH modifications, Phase Two is initiated. The Council recommended in September 2020 to move forward with Phase Two to consider changes to HMS EFH, and in March 2021 the Council adopted the Phase 2 [Action Plan](#) for HMS EFH (Agenda Item H.2 Attachment 1, March 2021).

The HMS Management Team (HMSMT), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Region, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, and Council staff developed a document summarizing proposed modifications for HMS EFH (Attachment 1). Attachment 2 is an updated HMS FMP Appendix F, which includes life history summaries and EFH descriptions. The EFH information is split between the HMS FMP itself and Appendix F, although much of the required components (fishing and non-fishing effects, conservation measures, and research and information needs) are in the FMP itself.

At this meeting, the Council should consider the information provided in Attachments 1 and 2 and adopt the package for public review. Final action is tentatively scheduled for November 2023.

Council Action:

- 1. Consider the EFH document and revised Appendix F.**
- 2. Adopt the proposed EFH modifications for public review.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item I.5, Attachment 1: HMS EFH proposed modifications.
2. Agenda Item I.5, Attachment 2: HMS EFH Appendix F (***Electronic Only***).
3. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

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| I.5 Highly Migratory Species Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)
Amendment - Preliminary | Kerry Griffin |
| a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies | |
| b. Public Comment | |
| c. Council Action: Adopt Preliminary Proposed EFH Revisions for Public Review | |