

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT  
ON ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT AMENDMENT - PRELIMINARY

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) received an update from Mr. Kerry Griffin on the status Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) review for HMS stocks.

The HMSAS recommends the Pacific Fishery Management Council adopt the proposed modifications in Attachment 1 and Attachment 2 for public review once the recommendations in the HMS Management Team, Habitat Committee, and Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC) reports under this agenda item have been incorporated. The SSC specifically included a recommendation to include offshore wind projects in the HMS Fishery Management Plan as a non-fishing activity that would potentially adversely affect EFH. For clarity, we recommend that "offshore wind projects" be defined to include all infrastructure and activities affiliated with offshore wind energy projects.

We also recommend the following be added to Research and Information Needs:

- Importance of deep-water canyons, offshore banks and seamounts to the various life stages of HMS stocks; and
- Updated life history information with priority given to commercially and recreationally important fish stocks.

PFMC  
09/12/23