

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES  
ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT AMENDMENT - FINAL

The Habitat Committee (HC) appreciates the consideration of the HC's input from September 2023 and endorses the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) revisions and amendment package, with a few suggested changes for additional context and clarity. These suggestions, and a few other minor edits, have been incorporated into F.2, Supplemental Attachment 3 REVISED:

- Section 7.4.1 (Impacts of Fishing Activities and Gear): added description of HMS prey switching; noted the lack of directed harvest on ecosystem component species, unmanaged species, and species not Federally managed.
- Section 7.4.2 (Mitigation Considerations for Fishing Effects): Clarified information on potential habitat impacts, existing limits or prohibitions on forage species, and additional research needed.
- Section 7.7 (Research and Information Needs): Clarified the second bullet regarding shark nursery and pupping grounds.
- Minor edits throughout.

The HC recommends adoption of the HMS EFH package as final.

PFMC  
10/30/23