



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
West Coast Region
501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200
LONG BEACH, CA 90802

October 23, 2024

Mr. Brad Pettinger, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place
Portland, OR 97220

Dear Mr. Pettinger:

By this letter, I am approving Amendment 8 to the Fishery Management Plan for West Coast Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species (HMS FMP). This Amendment serves to update the essential fish habitat (EFH) provisions in the HMS FMP. This Amendment is intended to promote the goals and objectives of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) which mandates that each FMP describe and identify EFH for the fishery (16 U.S.C. 1853(7)) and requires periodic review and revision of EFH components of FMPs, as warranted based on available information.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) published a notice of availability for the Amendment on July 23, 2024, and requested public review and comment (89 FR 59888). The public comment period ended September 23, 2024. NMFS considered all comments submitted by that deadline in making its decision to approve the Amendment (0648-XD487).

NMFS appreciates the Pacific Fishery Management Council's ongoing efforts to ensure that fishery management plans are consistent with national guidance on compliance with the MSA.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Quan
Regional Administrator

