

REVIEW OF ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT – SCOPING

The Habitat Committee (HC) heard a presentation on scoping and a work plan for the upcoming review of Pacific salmon essential fish habitat (EFH) by Kerry Griffin (Pacific Fishery Management Council Staff), Eric Chavez (National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)), and Dr. Correigh Greene (NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center). The HC learned that members of the review team had conducted some preparatory work for the review's start in April 2025, including preliminary assessments of potential tools or approaches that could be applied.

The HC supports the scope, request for information, and work plan as presented and recommends that the salmon EFH Review Team, when fully staffed, work closely with the HC as the review moves forward. The HC discussed the current uncertainty within the federal government and the potential implications for this review. This may impact the review team's capacity to execute this review process, and there will likely need to be some flexibility with regard to scope and timeline as the EFH Review Team navigates these challenges. The HC notes that the literature review and summary are an integral part of the EFH review, and resources need to be identified to accomplish these tasks. The HC recognizes the importance of state and Tribal expertise and encourages their participation in the EFH Review Team, to inform the EFH review and its outcome.

PFMC
04/12/2025