

AMENDMENT 28 - ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT AND ROCKFISH CONSERVATION AREA IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

In April 2018, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) took final action on groundfish FMP Amendment 28, for proposed changes to Pacific Coast groundfish essential fish habitat (EFH), trawl rockfish conservation areas (RCAs), deepwater bottom contact gear closures, and other elements related to the groundfish fishery and habitat protections. The Amendment 28 Project Team is developing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and a suite of other products that will support and inform the Council's regulatory deeming, final fishery management plan (FMP) language approval, and other items necessary to fully implement Amendment 28.

At this meeting the Council will consider three items: draft proposed FMP language, issues related to EFH Conservation Area (EFHCA) regulatory boundaries, and a preliminary map depicting closed areas included in the Council's final preferred alternative. The Council has tentatively scheduled final approval of the amendatory language and deeming of the implementing regulations for the November 2018 meeting.

Draft Proposed FMP Language

Agenda Item I.2, Attachment 1 is draft proposed FMP amendatory language, in underline/strikethrough, reflecting the changes adopted by the Council in April 2018. Review at the September meeting is intended to identify any major areas of concern or errors, allow sufficient time to resolve issues prior to final FMP language approval, and to maximize the opportunity for Advisory Body and public review. The Council is scheduled to adopt the FMP text for public review at this meeting and final FMP changes at the November 2018 Council meeting.

Preliminary Map

The Project Team received several inquiries about the new configuration of open and closed areas and it is important to convey the information to stakeholders and the public. The fishing community needs to understand the area management revisions associated with Amendment 28 and the tentative timeline for their implementation in order to make future fishing plans and to ensure compliance. The final configuration of open and closed areas won't go into effect until the FMP Amendment is approved and the regulations are final. Further, the full suite of spatial coordinates and preliminary map are not yet available, but are expected to be available in the supplemental briefing book item materials.

Spatial Boundaries and Naming Conventions

In some cases, the Project Team had to make judgment calls, including adjustments to regulatory boundaries contained in the April 2018 final action. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has provided an update on the development of regulations (Agenda Item I.2.a, NMFS Report 1) and will brief the Council on how the Project Team addressed these issues.

At this meeting, the Council may adopt draft proposed FMP language for public review, and may provide further guidance as needed.

Council Action:

1. **Adopt FMP Amendatory language for public review.**
2. **Provide additional guidance, as necessary.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item I.2, Attachment 1: Draft Proposed FMP Amendatory Language.
2. Agenda Item I.2.a, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Report 1.

Agenda Order:

- I.2 Amendment 28 - Essential Fish Habitat and Rockfish Conservation Area Kerry Griffin
Implementation Update
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Review Implementation Progress, Adopt Preliminary Fishery Management Plan Amendatory Language for Public Review, and Provide Guidance as Necessary.

PFMC
08/16/18