

SCOPING OF SALMON AMENDMENT 17 TO CONSIDER ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT (EFH) UPDATES AND OTHER APPROPRIATE ISSUES

At its April, 2011 meeting, the Council considered a report by the Pacific Salmon Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Oversight Panel (OP), which included a summary of new information and recommendations relevant to Pacific Coast salmon EFH. The Council recommended moving forward with updating salmon EFH, and tasked Council staff with initiating a fishery management plan (FMP) amendment process. Subsequent to that meeting, other non-EFH issues have emerged, related to Pacific Coast Salmon Amendment 16. The Council is being asked to consider these non-EFH issues for inclusion in the scope of Amendment 17, in addition to the EFH-related subjects. These are described in the scoping documents (Agenda Item G.6.a, Attachment 1).

The major subject areas for consideration are:

- EFH description and identification
- Freshwater EFH
- Impassable barriers designated as the upstream extent of EFH
- Marine EFH
- Descriptions of EFH components
- Habitat Areas of Particular Concern
- Fishing activities that may adversely affect EFH
- Non-fishing activities that may adversely affect EFH
- Information and research needs
- Changes to EFH outside of the FMP amendment process
- Non-EFH related FMP issues (e.g., stock complex definitions, new stock conservation objectives, disapproved elements of Amendment 16, impact equivalent language, and process issues)

At this meeting, the Council is being asked to establish the overall scope of Amendment 17. The Council may wish to identify preliminary preferred alternatives at this meeting, but it is not required. The scoping document (Agenda Item G.6.a, Attachment 1) describes “options” that are intended to frame the action and to indicate the likely Alternatives. At the next meeting where this is considered, the Council will be tasked with identifying preferred Alternatives.

Pacific Coast salmon EFH was established in 1999, as Appendix A to Amendment 14 to the Pacific Coast Salmon FMP. Periodic review of EFH is required under the NMFS Regulatory Guidance (50 CFR §600.815). Reviews should be conducted at least every five years, and should include evaluation of published and unpublished scientific literature and reports, information from interested parties, and previously unavailable or inaccessible data.

Council Action:

1. Recommend issues for inclusion in the scope of Amendment 17.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.6.a, Attachment 1: *Pacific Coast Salmon Scoping Document: Amendment 17 to the Pacific Coast Salmon Plan, including Essential Fish Habitat and Other Considerations.*

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview Kerry Griffin
- b. Summary of the Pacific Coast Salmon Scoping Document Kerry Griffin
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Provide Guidance on Development and Scheduling of Preliminary Alternatives for Changes to Salmon EFH and Other Issues as Appropriate

PFMC
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