

## CPS ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT FIVE YEAR REVIEW

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduled to consider the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Review for Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS). The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) requires periodic reviews of EFH descriptions and potential impacts from fishing and non-fishing activities. EFH for CPS species was established in 1998, as Appendix D of Amendment 8 to the CPS FMP, and was reviewed in 2005. The Council determined that the new information considered did not warrant any changes to CPS EFH.

EFH reviews are effectively a two-stage process. First, the entity conducting the review (the CPSMT in this case) works with NMFS to search for and review relevant information that was not available previously. Relevant information can include published literature, unpublished data, public comment, and other information. The review team reports its findings to the Council, which then determines if the new information warrants a change to existing EFH. If the Council's decision is to make changes to existing EFH, the second stage commences. The second stage may involve an FMP amendment, depending on the magnitude and type of change chosen by the Council.

The CPSMT initiated a review of relevant literature and other information in January 2010, and presented a preliminary report at the June 2010 Council meeting. The Council directed the CPSMT to solicit information and comments from interested parties, and to continue developing a report. No comments were received during the open comment period that ended September 19, 2010. The CPSMT report on the CPS EFH five year review (Agenda Item I.4.a, Attachment 1) concludes the CPSMT's review, in accordance with the National Marine Fisheries Service's regulatory guidance.

### **Council Action:**

#### **1. Approve CPS Essential Fish Habitat review; provide direction for any further action.**

#### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item I.4.a, Attachment 1: *CPSMT Report on Review of Essential Fish Habitat for Coastal Pelagic Species.*
2. Agenda Item I.4.a, Attachment 2: *Appendix D to the CPS FMP (EFH descriptions).*
3. Agenda Item I.4.a, Attachment 3: *Excerpt from Amendment 12 to the CPS FMP (EFH description for krill species).*
4. Agenda Item I.4.b, Supplemental CPSMT Report.
5. Agenda Item I.4.b, Supplemental SSC Report.
6. Agenda Item I.4.b, Supplemental HC Report.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Approve Essential Fish Habitat Review

**Kerry Griffin**

PFMC  
10/18/10