



D3 EFH model review (SSC only)

February 2022 Council Meeting

Action Memo

- Council Staff: Diana Evans, Sarah Rheinsmith
- Other Presenters: Jodi Pirtle, John Olson, Gretchen Harrington (NMFS AKR HCD); Dr. Ned Laman, Dr. Jim Thorson (AFSC)
- Action Required:
1. Review EFH distribution models for use in upcoming 5-year review
 2. Review fishing effects model for use in upcoming 5-year review

BACKGROUND

The Councils and NMFS are required to review the essential fish habitat (EFH) components of Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) and revise or amend these components based on available information at least every five years in what is referred to as an EFH 5-year Review. In preparation for the review, which is scheduled to come before the Council later in 2022, NMFS has been working to advance EFH descriptions and identification (maps) based on refinements to the habitat-based species distribution modeling (SDM) approach to mapping EFH that was established in the 2017 EFH 5-year Review. Preliminary results of the models and their outcome will be reviewed by the SSC at this meeting. Additionally, NMFS has prepared updated output from the Fishing Effects (FE) model developed to assess the effects of fishing activities on EFH which will also be reviewed by the SSC.