

**ADVISORY PANEL**  
**Motions and Rationale**  
**December 5-8, 2023 - Anchorage, AK**

**C5 EFH FMP Amendments- Final Action**

The Advisory Panel recommends Alternative 2 for final action as indicated below. Changes from the Council's February 2023 motion based on staff recommendation are indicated in strikethrough and underline.

**Alternatives 2 (Preferred)**

Amend the Council's FMPs to incorporate the updated EFH information based on the new and best available science information identified in the 2023 EFH 5-year Review.

- **EFH component 1 (descriptions and identification)**, Amend 4 FMPs to update EFH descriptions and maps, including up to EFH Level 3 information on habitat-related vital rates. Add or revise the EFH text descriptions and add or replace the maps for—
  - 41 species or complexes in the BSAI FMP,
  - 46 species or complexes in the GOA FMP,
  - all five species in the Crab FMP, and
  - all three species in the Arctic FMP.

For all five species in the Salmon FMP, amend the Salmon FMP by replacing the distribution maps with the EFH maps.

- **EFH component 2 (fishing effects)**. Update the fishing effects (FE) information in the BSAI, GOA, and Crab FMPs to reflect updates to the FE model, analysis, and evaluation for the 2023 EFH 5-year Review.
- **EFH component 4 (non-fishing effects)**. Revise the EFH appendices in the BSAI, GOA, Crab, and Arctic, ~~and Salmon~~ FMPs where conservation recommendations for non-fishing activities are described.
- **EFH component 7 (prey of EFH species)**. Revise text or habitat description table information for two species of BSAI sharks, BSAI pollock, GOA Pacific cod, and BSAI red king crab in the BSAI, GOA, and Crab FMPs.
- **EFH component 9 (research and information needs)**. Revise the EFH appendices with updated research and information needs in the BSAI, GOA, Crab, and Arctic, ~~and Salmon~~ FMPs.

***Motion passed 14/0 (1 abstained)***

**Rationale in Favor of Motion:**

- *Based on the EFH 5-year Review, the Council determined that new habitat and life history information is available to revise many of the EFH descriptions and maps in the FMPs. The proposed amendments to the EFH provisions in the Council's FMPs would not substantively change the impacts of EFH as analyzed in the 2005 EFH environmental impact statement. The 2023 EFH 5-year Review concluded that no change to the conclusions of the evaluation of fishing effects on EFH is currently warranted. Amending the FMPs to reflect the new updates from the EFH 5-year Review help provide the Council with the best available science when making future management decisions.*
- *Non-fishing impacts and research needs for the salmon FMP were not analyzed during this review as recommended by the EFH team and supported by the SSC, AP, and Council. These issues are prioritized for review at the next 5-year review.*
- *As detailed in the analysis beginning on page 11, multiple review documents helped to inform the current proposal. This analysis is the culmination of years of work, beginning in 2019 and with at least 7 or 8 meetings since, with multiple opportunities for input and discussion.*
- *At the February 2023 Council meeting there was an extensive discussion on EFH, including on the fishing effects analysis. None of the Fishing Effects evaluations concluded that fishing effects were more than minimal and temporary and HAPCs were not recommended for elevation to the Council for possible mitigation to reduce fishing effects to EFH. The SSC agreed as did the individual stock assessment authors.*