



C5 Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)

December 2023

Action Memo

Council Staff: Sarah Rheinsmith

Action Required:

1. Review analysis of proposed FMP amendments to the BSAI Groundfish, GOA Groundfish, BSAI crab, Arctic and Salmon FMPs based on the information provided in the 2023 EFH 5-year review.
2. Final recommendation on proposed amendments

BACKGROUND

The Council will receive an analysis of proposed FMP amendments to the BSAI Groundfish, GOA Groundfish, BSAI crab, Arctic, and Salmon FMPs, which was initiated following the Council's review of the 2023 EFH 5-year review summary report.

In February 2023, the Council received a presentation summarizing the 2023 EFH 5-year review process, and subsequently initiated an analysis to incorporate the advancements in description of EFH from the 2023 EFH 5-year review ([motion](#)) into the respective FMPs. The 2023 EFH 5-year summary report highlighted 7 components in which new information and emerging research were developed:

- 1) EFH descriptions and identification (maps),
- 2) impacts of fishing activities on EFH,
- 3) impacts of non-fishing activities on EFH,
- 4) EFH conservation and enhancement recommendations,
- 5) prey species list and habitat locations,
- 6) HAPC identification, and
- 7) research and informational needs.

A summary of changes is provided in the analysis, and proposed FMP amendment text for each FMP is contained within Appendices A-E, posted on the eAgenda.