
2023 Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) 5- year Review Omnibus Amendments

Amendments to the:
BSAI Groundfish FMP
GOA Groundfish FMP
BSAI Crab FMP
Arctic FMP
Salmon FMP

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Outline

1. Introduction to EFH Council process and timeline
2. Review of the Environmental analysis and a summary of proposed FMP amendment text
3. Action: Provide final recommendations on the proposed amendments

Note: No new information is being brought forth to incorporate into the 2023 EFH 5-year review at this time

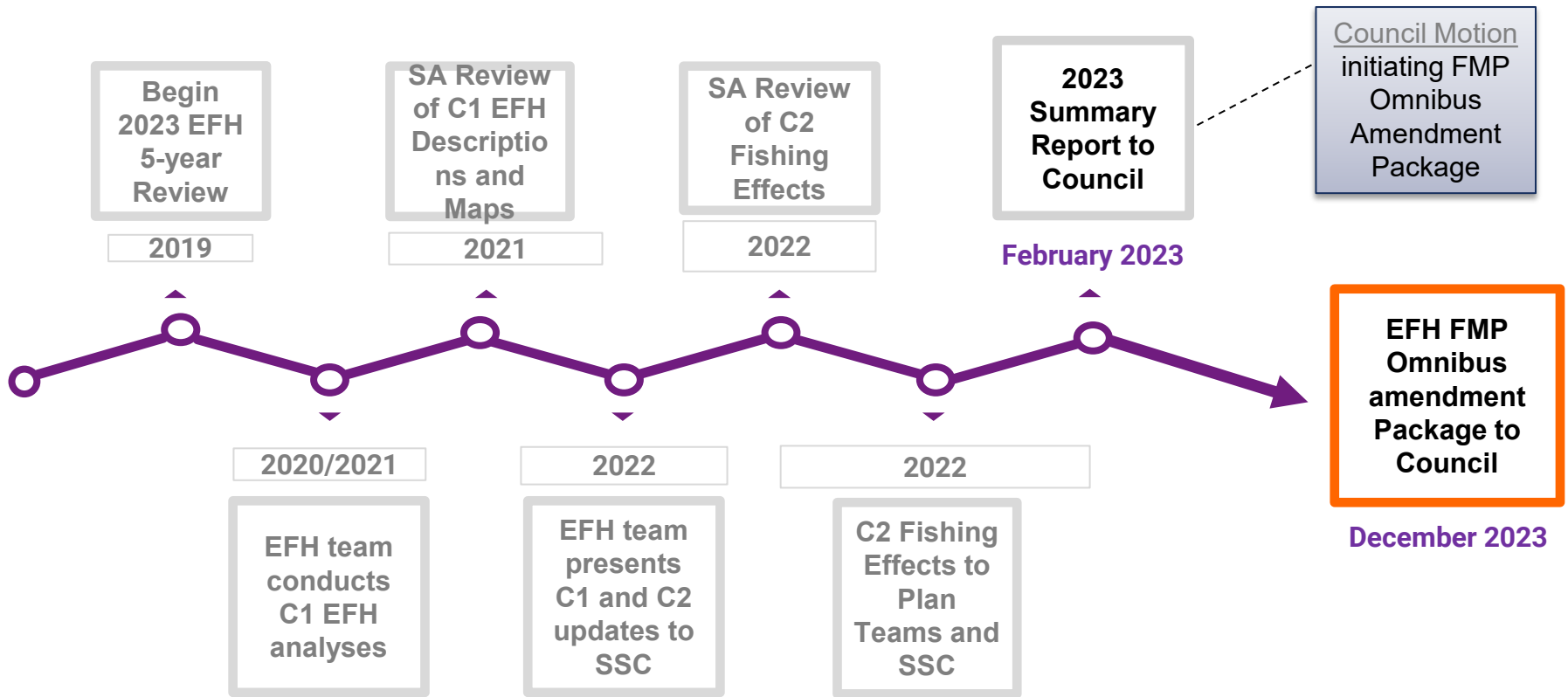


EFH 5-Year Review

- The objective of an EFH 5-year Review is to review the ten EFH components of FMPs and revise or amend the ten EFH components as warranted based on available information (50 CFR 600.815(a)(10)).
- The EFH 5-year Review is a mechanism to ensure NOAA Fisheries and Fishery Management Councils incorporate the most recent and best science available into fishery management for EFH.
- The 2023 EFH 5-year Review ([February 2023 summary report](#)) encapsulates the recent habitat related literature and research developed in the North Pacific.



2023 EFH 5-Year Review Timeline



SSC review and recommendations: February 2022, October 2022



EFH 5-Year Review

1. **EFH descriptions and identification (maps) (C1)**
2. **Fishing activities that may adversely affect EFH (C2)**
3. Non-MSA fishing activities that may adversely affect EFH (C3)
4. **Non-fishing activities that may adversely affect EFH (C4)**
5. Cumulative impacts analysis (C5)
6. EFH conservation and enhancement recommendations (C6)
7. **Prey species list and habitat locations (C7)**
8. Habitat areas of particular concern (HAPC) identification (C8)
9. **Research and Information needs (C9)**
10. Review EFH every 5 years (C10)



Council Motion

Purpose and Need:

“The purpose of the proposed action is to comply with the Final Rule implementing the EFH provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) (50 CFR Part 600, Subpart J). The EFH Final Rule states that a review of the EFH components of the Council’s FMPs should be completed at least every five years and the EFH provisions should be revised or amended, as warranted, based on the best available science contributing new information. Based on the 2023 EFH 5- year Review, substantial new information is available to revise many of the EFH components of five FMPs (BSAI Groundfish, GOA Groundfish, BSAI King and Tanner Crab, Arctic, and Salmon) to incorporate this new information”

Alternatives:

Alternative 1: No action/status quo. Do not amend the EFH sections of the FMPs with new EFH information identified in the 2023 5-year Review.

Alternative 2: 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.



Council Motion Cont.

- **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 description and add or replace the maps for—
 - 41 Species or complexes in the BSAI FMP,
 - 46 species or complexes in the GOA FMP,
 - all 5 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, Arctic, and Salmon FMPs where conservation recommendations for nonfishing 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, Arctic, and Salmon FMPs.



Council Motion Cont.

- **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 description and add or replace the maps for—
 - 41 Species or complexes in the BSAI FMP,
 - 46 species or complexes in the GOA FMP,
 - all 5 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, Arctic, and **Salmon** FMPs where conservation recommendations for nonfishing 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, Arctic, and **Salmon** FMPs.



Documents

1. **2023 EFH 5-year Review EA for FMP omnibus amendments**
 - A. **Appendix A: Proposed FMP amendment text for the BSAI Groundfish FMP**
 - B. **Appendix B: Proposed FMP amendment text for the GOA Groundfish FMP**
 - C. **Appendix C: Proposed FMP amendment text for the BSAI Crab FMP**
 - D. **Appendix D: Proposed FMP amendment text for the Arctic FMP**
 - E. **Appendix E: Proposed FMP amendment text for the Salmon FMP**



Environmental Analysis

Potentially affected resource component							
Groundfish	Prohibited Species	Ecosystem Component Species	Marine Mammals	Seabirds	Habitat	Ecosystem	Social and economic
N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N

- Findings of the 2023 EFH review are consistent with the 2005 EFH EIS
- Proposed FMP amendments are informational based on best scientific information available for habitat as a result of the 2023 EFH review
- Analysis was only conducted for the habitat resource, the only resource component in which the proposed action may impact



Effects of the Alternatives on Habitat

- **(C1):** Updated EFH information in the FMPS for BSAI Groundfish, GOA Groundfish, BSAI Crab, Arctic and Salmon
 - 41 Species or complexes in the BSAI FMP,
 - 46 species or complexes in the GOA FMP,
 - all 5 species in the Crab FMP, and
 - all three species in the Arctic FMP.
- *Note: Salmon FMP maps are updated based on Echave et al., (2012) and were not assessed in the 2023 5-year review, which was addressed in the 2017 5-year review*
- Any potential effects on habitat impacts as a result of the alternatives are minimal because no changes to fishery operations or fishing activity would occur based on the information provided in the EFH 2023 5-year review.
- **(C2):** The 2023 EFH 5-year Review concluded that no Council-managed fishing activities have more than minimal and temporary adverse effects on EFH for any FMP species, which is the regulatory standard requiring action to minimize adverse effects under the MSA



- **(C4): Non-Fishing Effects:** There are no changes to regulations that will result from this alternative. The proposed action contemplated under Alternative 2 differs very little from the status quo, which was comprehensively analyzed in the 2005 EFH EIS, the 2010 EFH 5-year Review, and the 2017 EFH 5-year.
 - *Non-fishing activities were not comprehensively reviewed in the Salmon FMP for this review. The Council may wish to amend the proposed alternatives under Action 7 to best reflect the work conducted in the 2023 EFH 5-year Review process.*

- **(C7): Prey Species:** Prey species tables were updated along with the proposed FMP amendment text. No expected effects.

- **(C9): EFH Research and information needs:** Research and information needs related to EFH in the Council's FMPs, except the Scallop FMP would be updated.
 - *Research priorities for the 5 salmon species in the Salmon FMP were not reviewed or addressed for this review. The Council may wish to amend their proposed alternatives under Action 8 to remove updating the Salmon FMP to best reflect the comprehensive work completed in the 2023 EFH 5-year Review.*



Cumulative Impacts

- **Direct Impacts:** Providing the most up-to-date EFH maps and text descriptions for species ensures the most accurate information is available. This is beneficial to species as EFH is considered in the management of those species
- **Indirect Impacts:** Potential for impacts arising from changes to the designation of EFH, as those text and map descriptions represent the legal description of EFH that are used by NMFS to provide EFH consultations for fishing and non-fishing effects on EFH as directed by the MSA.



Proposed FMP Text

Appendix A: Proposed FMP amendment text for the BSAI Groundfish FMP

Appendix B: Proposed FMP amendment text for the GOA Groundfish FMP

Appendix C: Proposed FMP amendment text for the BSAI Crab FMP

Appendix D: Proposed FMP amendment text for the Arctic FMP

Appendix E: Proposed FMP amendment text for the Salmon FMP



THANK YOU

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