


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC, and AP Members

FROM: Chris Oliver   
Executive Director

DATE: January 8, 2013

SUBJECT: Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC) – Areas  
of Skate Egg Concentration

ESTIMATED TIME 6 HOURS Al C-1 items
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**ACTION REQUIRED:**

Final Action on skate egg concentration sites as HAPC.

**BACKGROUND:**

Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC) are geographic sites of special importance within the distribution of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for the Council's managed species that may require additional protection from fishing activity and adverse fishing effects. HAPCs must be rare and may be ecologically important, sensitive to human disturbance, or stressed by development activities. The Council has a formalized process within its Fishery Management Plans for selecting HAPCs, and periodically selects habitat priority types and issues a request for proposals (RFP).

In 2010, the Council issued an RFP for skate nursery sites (areas of skate egg concentrations) in conjunction with completion of its EFH five-year review. The Council selected a HAPC proposal from the Alaska Fisheries Science Center for further analysis. At its February, April, and June 2012 meetings, the Council made initial reviews of an analysis of alternatives and options to identify and conserve six areas of skate egg concentration as HAPCs in the eastern Bering Sea. The Council refined its alternatives based on the recommendations of the Enforcement Committee, AP, SSC and public comment. In June, the Council identified Alternative 2 (with options a, d, and e) its preliminary preferred alternative.

At this meeting, the Council will take final action on skate egg concentration sites. The analysis for public review was posted on the web and mailed out to you on January 8. An errata sheet for that analysis is attached as Item C-1(a)(1). The Executive Summary (with corrected lat/long tables) is attached as Item C-1(a)(2).