



NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Action Memo

File Number:Cons 14-023

Agenda Date10/6/2014

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John Henderschedt, Acting Chairman
Chris Oliver, Executive Director

SUBJECT:
Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) 5-year Review Update (SSC only)

ESTIMATED TIME:
2 Hours

ACTION REQUIRED:
Review and comment on plans for EFH 5-year update

BACKGROUND

The National Marine Fisheries Service and NPFMC have initiated a 5-year review of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) in Alaska. The last 5-year review was completed in 2010. In April 2014, the Council was presented with a proposed schedule to undertake the 2015 EFH 5-year review, evaluate and synthesize new information on habitat, and determine whether changes to the FMPs are warranted. The review will focus on three areas: the EFH description methods, the fishing effects model, and non-fishing effects.

The EFH descriptions subgroup has developed new methods for EFH descriptions, which will incorporate a new model and new data. Utilization of a general additive model (GAM) would allow a more precise description of EFH for individual species or life stages. The Council's Ecosystem Committee and Groundfish Plan Teams have provided comments on the plan to complete the 5-year review. At this meeting, the SSC will review and comment on the utility of the GAM for describing EFH in Alaska.