

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
C6 Essential Fish Habitat motion
April 8, 2017

The Council adopts the following purpose and need statement and recommends the following alternatives under Actions 1 through 8 as its preferred alternative. Changes to the purpose and need statement and the recommended alternatives are shown in ~~striketrough~~ and **bold and underlined text** where applicable.

Purpose and Need Statement

The purpose of the eight proposed actions is to comply with the Final Rule implementing the EFH provisions of the MSA (50 CFR Part 600, Subpart J). The EFH Final Rule and each of the Council's FMPs state that a review of EFH components should be completed every 5 years and the EFH provisions should be revised or amended, as warranted, based on the best available information. ~~To comply with the EFH Final Rule, the most recent 5-year review of EFH was completed in October 2016 and synthesized in a Final Summary Report (Summary Report, NPFMC 2016) presented to the Council.~~ Based on the review, the Council determined that new information is available to revise many of the EFH descriptions and maps in the Council FMPs. There are eight actions ~~considered~~ **included** in this omnibus EFH amendment package, all of which are intended to update the Council FMPs to incorporate the best new information available. ~~Descriptions of each action follow in the sections below.~~ The proposed actions are FMP amendments only; there are no regulations that will be changed as a result of these amendments.

Action 1 – BSAI Groundfish

Alternative 2 – Update EFH descriptions in the FMP consistent with the **EA Appendix 1** ~~stock assessment authors' recommendations in Sections 5.1 through 5.26 of the Summary Report, NPFMC 2016.~~ Replace the existing EFH maps in the FMP with **maps that represent** the 95th percentile ~~maps~~ by season (winter, spring, summer and fall) for each species and life stage, **as available** ~~as shown in Appendix 1.~~

Action 2 – GOA Groundfish

Alternative 2 – Update EFH descriptions in the FMP consistent with the ~~stock assessment authors' recommendations in Sections 6.1 through 6.26 of the Summary Report, NPFMC 2016~~ **EA Appendix 2**. Replace the existing EFH maps in the FMP with **maps that represent** the 95th percentile ~~maps~~ by season for each species and life stage, **as available** ~~as shown in Appendix 2.~~

Action 3 – BSAI King and Tanner Crab

Alternative 2 – Update EFH descriptions in the FMP consistent with the **EA Appendix 3** ~~stock assessment authors' bulleted recommendations in Section 7 of the Summary Report, NPFMC~~

~~2016.~~ Replace the existing EFH maps in the FMP with maps that represent the 95th percentile maps by season for each species and life stage, as available ~~as shown in Appendix 3.~~

Action 4 – Salmon

Alternative 2 – Update EFH descriptions in the FMP consistent with ~~the stock assessment authors' recommendations in Section 9 of the Summary Report, NPFMC 2016-~~EA Appendix 4. Replace the existing marine EFH maps in the FMP with the model-based maps for each species and life stage ~~as shown in the Appendix 4.~~

Action 5 – Arctic Management Area

Alternative 2 – Update EFH descriptions for all species in the FMP consistent with EA Appendix 5 ~~the stock assessment authors' recommendations in Section 10 of the Summary Report, NPFMC 2016.~~ Replace the existing map for snow crab in Appendix B of the FMP with the **snow crab** maps recommended by the Scientific and Statistical Committee, as noted in their April ~~2016 minutes~~ in EA Appendix 5.

Action 6 – Non-Fishing Activities

Alternative 2 – Update EFH conservation recommendations for non-fishing activities in all Council FMPs. Revise the appropriate FMP appendices where conservation recommendations for non-fishing activities are described.

Action 7 – HAPC

Alternative 1 – No Action; status quo

Action 8 – EFH Research Priorities

Alternative 1 – No Action; status quo