



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Alaska Region

Essential Fish Habitat - EFH

An Introduction to EFH: Regulatory Authority,
Descriptions, 5-Year Review, HAPC, and
Consultations

May 25, 2017

What is Essential Fish Habitat?

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) is defined as 'those waters and substrates necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding or growth to maturity.'

EFH provisions are within the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), as amended through January 17, 2007.

- Section 305(b) of the MSA requires federal fishery management plans (FMPs) to: 1) identify EFH; 2) identify adverse effects from fishing and non-fishing activities; and 3) ensure conservation and enhancement of EFH.
- Section 305(b) requires Federal action agencies to consult with NOAA fisheries on activities that may adversely effect EFH.
- NOAA Fisheries is required to recommend measures to conserve EFH, however measures are advisory.



EFH Regulations

The EFH Final Rule (EFH FR) offers specific definitions, coordination, and consultation procedures for actions that may adversely effect EFH. (*67 FR 2343, January 17, 2002*)

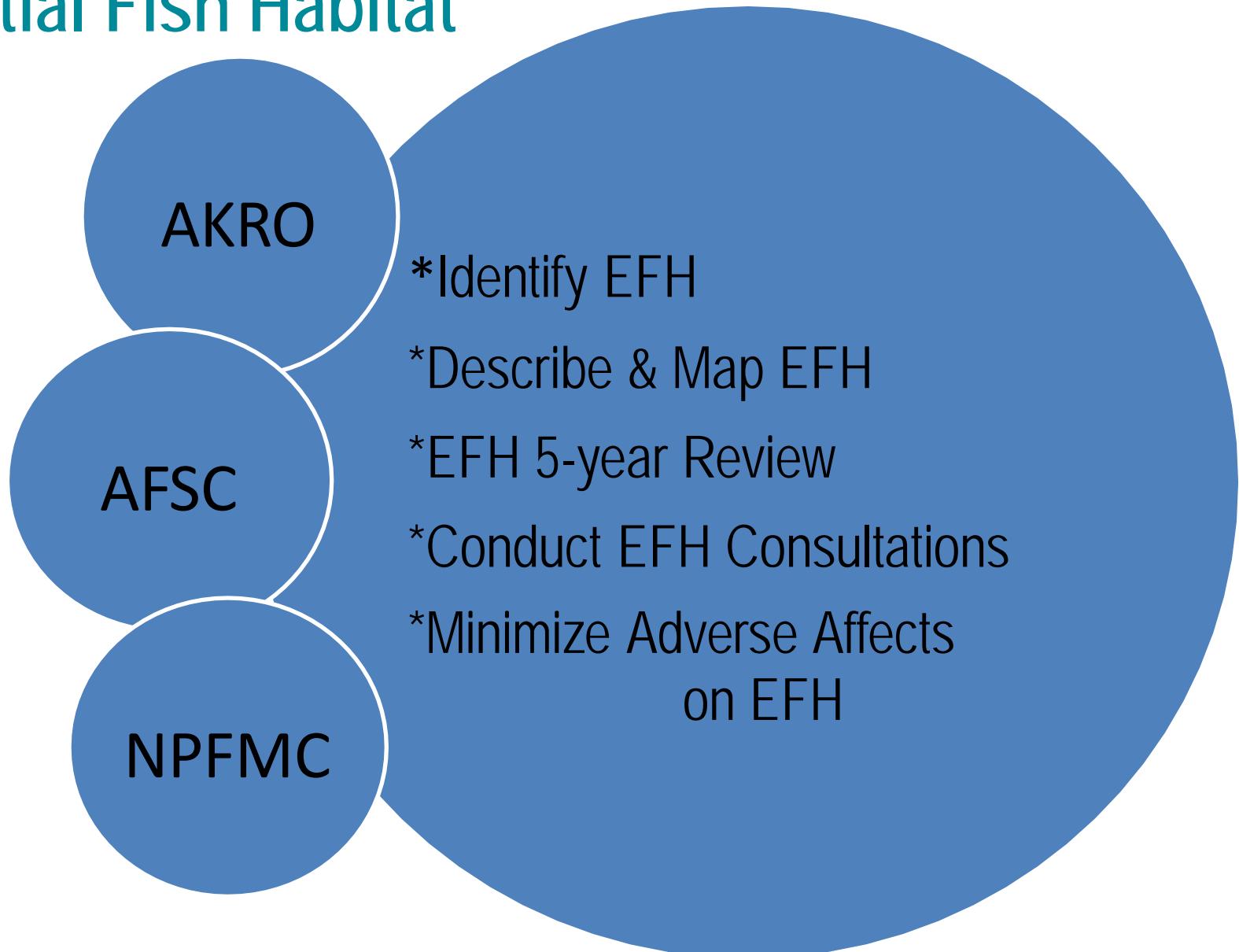
Importantly, the EFH FR established regulations that require the inclusion of 10 components in each Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

Ten Components:

1. EFH Descriptions
2. Fishing Activities
3. Non-Magnuson Act Fisheries Activities
4. Non-fishing Activities
5. Cumulative Impacts
6. EFH Conservation Recommendations
7. Prey Species
8. Habitat Areas of Particular Concern
9. Research Needs
10. A review EFH every five years.

(*50 CFR Part 600; pages 2343-2383*)

Essential Fish Habitat





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Alaska Region

EFH Information and Description

May 24, 2017

What are EFH Species?

- Each FMP must identify EFH for all fish species managed under a fishery management unit.
- In Alaska, six FMPs exist:
 1. Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands
 2. Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska
 3. Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crab
 4. Scallop Fishery off Alaska
 5. Salmon Fisheries in the EEZ Off Alaska
 6. Fish Resources of the Arctic

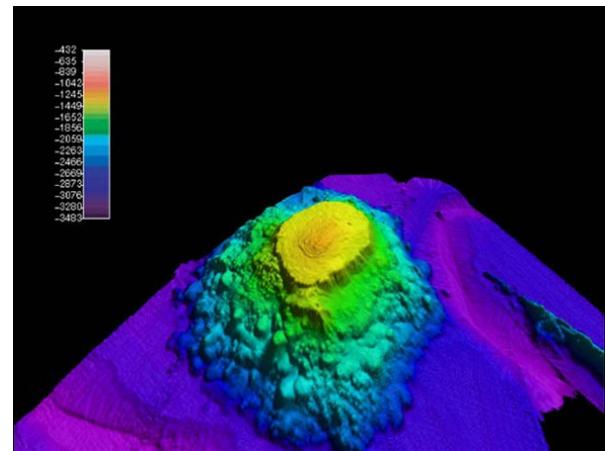


EFH Descriptions

- 60+ stocks in 6 FMPS
 - 24 BSAI Groundfish
 - 22 GOA Groundfish
 - 5 BSAI Crab
 - 1 Scallop
 - 5 Pacific Salmon
 - 2 Arctic fishes and one crab
- 120+ EFH Text Descriptions
 - 40+ BSAI Groundfish life stages
 - 40+ GOA Groundfish life stages
 - 10 BSAI crab life stages
 - 2 Scallop life stages
 - 30 salmon life stages



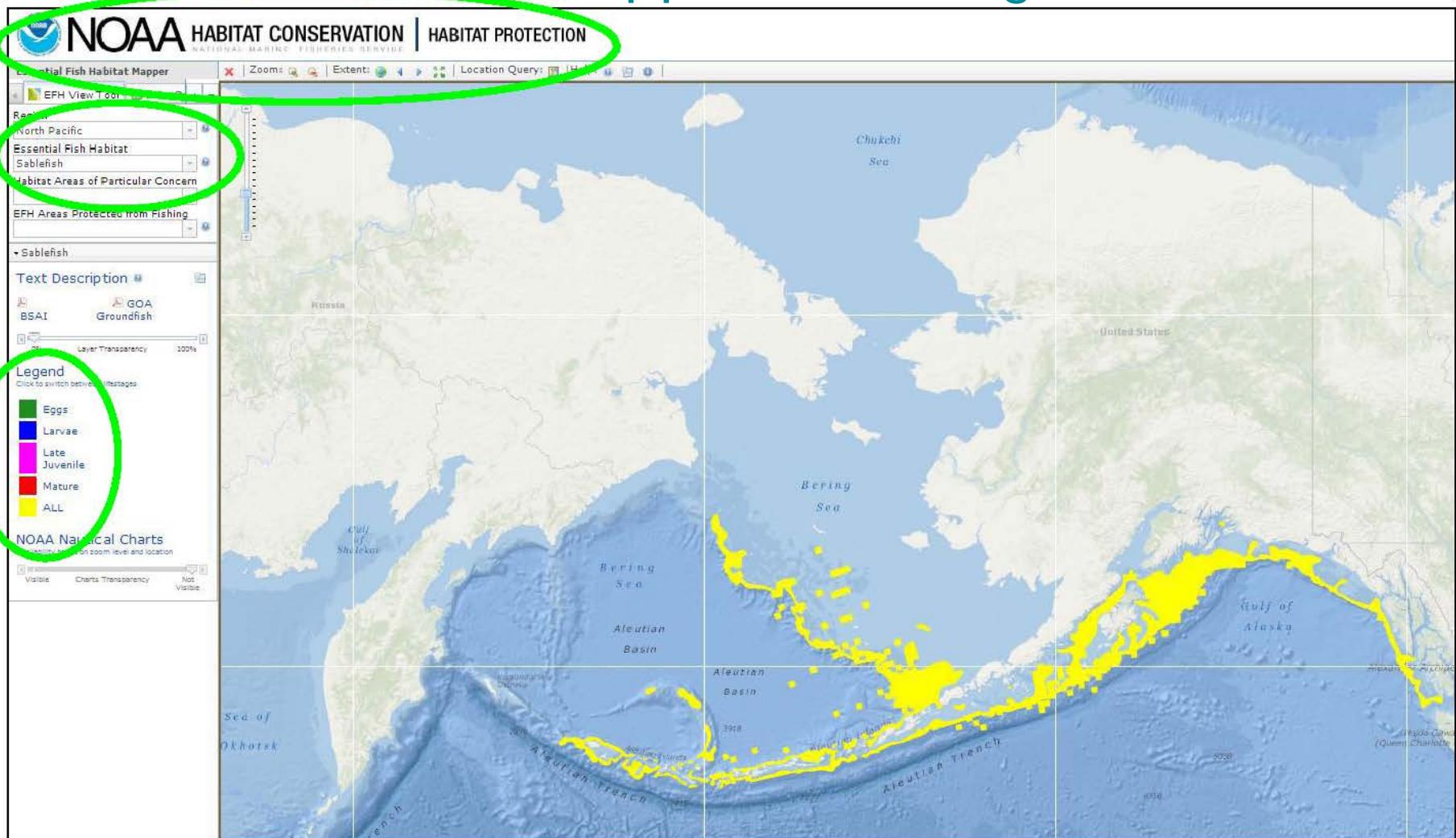
What Does EFH Look Like?



EFH Descriptions

- EFH is described by text and map descriptions using the most recent and best scientific information available for each stock.
- EFH Text: is the legal definition for EFH and serve as the 'basis' for effect determinations. EFH Text describes the physical & biological environment and the location of EFH for each species by life history stage, if known.
- EFH Maps: compliment EFH Text Descriptions, are developed by an analytical method, and spatially represent the area of EFH (EFH Mapper).
- Importantly, each EFH Description undergoes stock assessment author review to ensure accuracy; this includes the deletion of data outliers and the inclusion of any missed information.

EFH Mapper Main Page



<http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/protection/efh/efhmapper/>

How to Use EFH Mapper

- Select '*Activate Location Query*' for a section of the Map
- Generates species list for the location coordinates selected (left)

The screenshot shows the NOAA EFH Mapper application. On the left, there is a smaller inset map of the region around Kupreanof Island, Baranof Island, and Kruzof Island. A red dot marks the location for the query. Below this inset is a 'Query Results' section with the following details:

Map Scale = 1:2,311,162
Degrees, Minutes, Seconds: Latitude = 57°9'30" N, Longitude = 134°9'24" W
Decimal Degrees: Latitude = 57.16, Longitude = -133.79

The query location intersects with spatial data representing EFH and/or HAPCs for the following species/management units.

EFH

| Show | Link | Data Caveats | Species/Management Unit | Lifestage(s) Found at Location | Management Council | FMP |
|--------|--------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------|
| [Icon] | [Icon] | [Icon] | Chum Salmon | Marine Juvenile Marine IMMA ALL | North Pacific | Salmon |
| [Icon] | [Icon] | [Icon] | Pink Salmon | Marine IMMA Marine Juvenile ALL | North Pacific | Salmon |
| [Icon] | [Icon] | [Icon] | Coho Salmon | Marine Juvenile Marine IMMA ALL | North Pacific | Salmon |
| [Icon] | [Icon] | [Icon] | Sockeye Salmon | Marine IMMA Marine Juvenile ALL | North Pacific | Salmon |
| [Icon] | [Icon] | [Icon] | Chinook Salmon | Marine IMMA Marine Juvenile | North Pacific | Salmon |

The main map displays the Alexander Archipelago, Juneau, Admiralty Island, and Etolin Island. A location query has been activated near Baranof Island, indicated by a red dot and a callout line. The map also shows the international boundary between Canada and the United States.

ADF&G Freshwater Salmon EFH

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Sport Fish
Division - ADFG

Overview Introduction Maps Data Nominations Reference
Download Maps Interactive Mapping

AWC - INTERACTIVE MAPPING

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This page contains the latest version of ADFG's Waters Catalog data. The application of NAD 1983 Datum on this website has been discontinued and NAD 1983 Datum, which is utilized to create each of the regional catalogs of water important for the spawning, rearing or migration of Anadromous Fishes and its associated fish maps, has been deployed. The base layer used to represent NAD 1983 Datum has been replaced as well.

Anadromous Fish Stream Miles are live maps. The maps depict the miles, streams, and lakes known to contain anadromous fish species within Alaska from the mouth to the headwaters (interstate stage). Data for the Anadromous Fish Stream Miles are taken from the ADFG's GIS coverage. These datasets (NAD 27) are utilized for the 2008 Registry update and are provided for general reference and to aid decision making during various natural resource analyses and products. Please [read the Liability Statement before beginning.](#)

The maps also incorporate hydrology and species distribution and area data from a variety of sources in addition to other basic map data such as towns, highways, section grids and USGS base maps, etc. Interactive mapping gives the user the ability to create individualized maps by zooming in and out, selecting and displaying specific layers or features. The user would like to display a map, searching for specific water bodies, and print the customized map.

Added Features: Aside from the anadromous fish distribution areas and point data the AWC (Anadromous additional Anadromous Water Catalog) and Race Lanes, along with the AWC layer are also layered to highlight key point data and/or stream miles that have been selected as the best route.

Also added to the Race Lanes are arrows that represent the direction of travel for each ADFG activity layer (e.g. ADFG activity, User-defined activity, and Game Management activities). When either of these are active, the user can click on any one of the areas of the state to within the boundaries of the specific Game Management Area to either click on or off the layer to allow the user to display the boundaries of specific Areas (e.g. Statewide, Designated ADFG) and Game Management areas.

Anadromous data related to the Race Lanes is updated quarterly. Interplay between the location of streams and available areas is controlled by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. When a location is updated, it will automatically update the location on the map, if no coordinates or a specific location is entered, the location is updated to track the symbol. To display the most recent changes to the map after each the first the ADFG activity layer active by clicking on the circle with the ADFG activities, except on the mapping portion of the top page, we click on a specific area to display the contents, new areas will be added to the map as activity locations are verified with local departments and totals for reportable areas online.

The River to Sea map has been expanded to allow zooming in a specific water body (by name), SDA, Hierarchy, ADFG activity type, or Resource Management Region.

The AWC button (top right) provides allows the user to display anadromous fish data for the information by fish species and/or the state.

The AWC Nomination Reporting tool (button located to the left of the AWC button) makes it possible for the user to display water body specific nomination information for selected area or point. Hyperlinks to PDF versions of each nomination item allow the user to view and download a copy of the nomination form.

Getting Started: The initial loading of the mapping page takes approximately one minute over a 56K modem. You must wait until the page has finished loading before you begin.

START MAPPING

Tools for getting started:

- The "BACK", "FORWARD" and "REFRESH" buttons on your web browser may not function properly while dealing with maps or tools. These buttons also do not always let the map show, please use the "Back to Last Button" tool to navigate back to a previous map page.
- Use the "Refresh Map" button to redraw the map.
- The "STOP" button on your browser will kill a request for a map allowing you to manually control the tool buttons once again.
- If you are having trouble viewing the map page or are receiving errors, empty your temporary internet files also referred to as your browser's cache. Now try and revisit the page.
- Additional help in using the tool buttons.

[State of Alaska](#) | [ADF&G](#) | [Sport Fish](#) | [WML](#) | [Crimes Involving Fish](#) | [Fish Injuries](#) | [Records](#) | [Adult Whelk](#) | [CEO Statement](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy](#) | Copyright © 2008

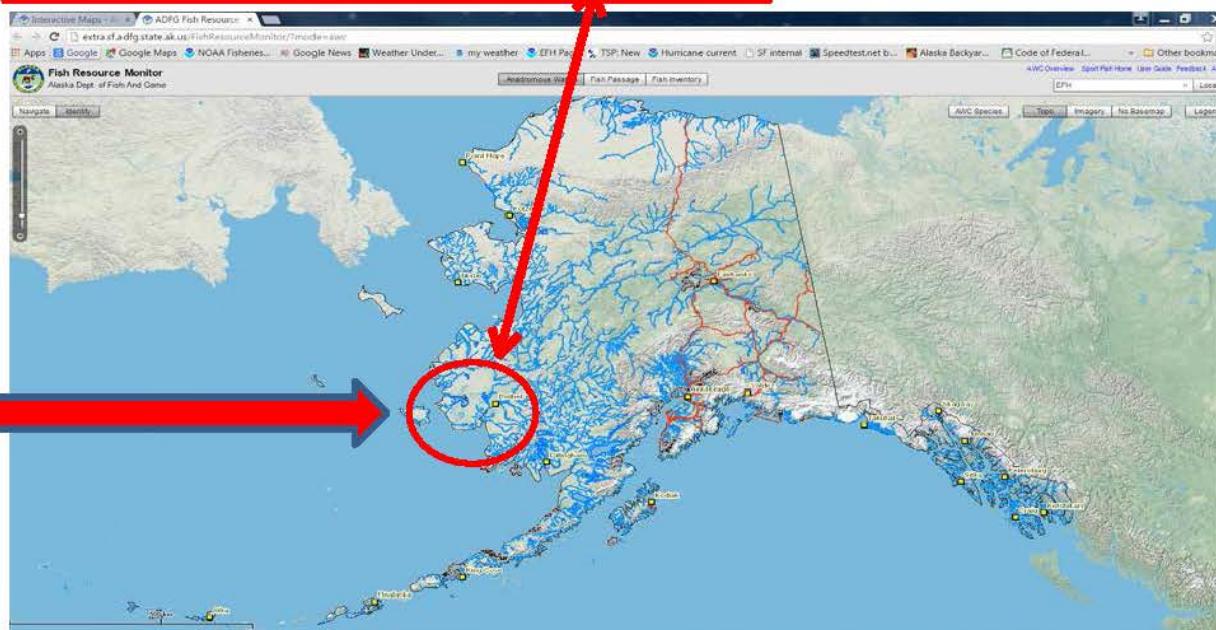
| AWC Pts | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|-----------|--|
| Rec# | Pt Type | FDR Code | FDR Stream Name | Species String | Longitude | Latitude | |
| 1 | UPPER | 112-13-10080 | Iowakuk Creek | C.OI | -135.06637 | 58.01327 | |
| 2 | LOWER | 112-13-10080 2001 | | W.Hp,FR | -134.06811 | 57.01256 | |
| 3 | UPPER | 112-13-100nn-2004 | | C.Ms,Fr | -134.97788 | 57 ARRA00 | |
| 4 | UPPER | 112-13-10060-2004-3004 | | C.Hp,Fr | -134.90347 | 57.08041 | |
| 5 | LOWER | 112-13-10080-2004-3004 | | C.Ul,Fr | -134.87174 | 57.08017 | |
| 6 | LOWER | 112-13-10000 | Iowakuk Creek | C.Hm,C.OI,Fr | -134.94947 | 57.08082 | |
| 7 | LOWER | 112-13-10060-2015-3010 | | C.OI | -135.05545 | 57.09171 | |
| 8 | LOWER | 112-13-10080 2016 3019 | | W.Ur | -136.01089 | 57.08189 | |
| 9 | UPPER | 112-13-100nn-2015 | | C.OI | -135.07481 | 57.07488 | |
| 10 | UPPER | 112-13-10060-2015-3004 | | S.SI | -135.05567 | 57.08077 | |
| 11 | UPPER | 112-13-10080-2015-3006 | | C.OI | -135.08015 | 57.09977 | |
| 12 | UPPER | 112-13-100nn-2015-3010 | | C.OI | -135.07443 | 57.08070 | |
| 13 | UPPER | 112-13-10080 2016 3019 | | W.Ur | -136.05626 | 57.08141 | |
| 14 | LOWER | 112-13-10080 2016 | | C.OI | -136.01224 | 57.00067 | |
| 15 | LOWER | 112-13-100nn-2017-30104 | | C.OI | -136.01049 | 57.08007 | |
| 16 | LOWER | 112-13-10060-2015-3006 | | C.OI | -135.04547 | 57.09901 | |
| 17 | MIDE | 112-13-10080 | Iowakuk Creek | C.Ul,Fr | -134.96041 | 57.07265 | |
| 18 | MIDSP | 112-13-10nnn | Iowakuk Creek | C.OI | -135.01987 | 57.08348 | |

The screenshot shows a Firefox browser window with the following details:

- Title Bar:** AWC Species Codes - Mozilla Firefox
- Address Bar:** http://gs.usgs.gov/awc/status/awc_DWSpecies.htm
- Page Content:**
 - AWC Species Logo:** A circular logo featuring a red and blue design with the letters "AWC".
 - Section Headers:**
 - Species and Life Stage Codes for the ADFG/NR Anadromous Fish Dictionaries Database Projects
 - Use: Open Gen Labeled Water, Species and Larvae Taxon Labels
 - Species Codes:**

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| S = Sockeye Salmon | SP = Sockeye Salmon |
| H = King Salmon | W = Whitefish |
| CO = Coho Salmon | HBW = Humpback Whitefish |
| P = Pink Salmon | BW = Borealis Whitefish |
| CH = Chum Salmon | RWD = Rainbow Trout |
| BT = Brook Trout | L = Lamprey |
| DV = Dolly Varden | PC = Pacific Lamprey |
| AT = Arctic Char | RV = River Lamprey |
| CT = Chinook Trout | WL = Western Lamprey |
| LC = Lake Trout | AL = Arctic Lamprey |
| SC = Steelhead | GU = Gatahnik |
| BC = Bull Trout | ST = Sturgeon |
 - Life Stage Codes:**

\downarrow = Spawning \rightarrow = Rearing μ = present m = migration
 - Bottom Buttons:**
 - Close



<http://extra.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/FishResourceMonitor/?mode=awc>



NOAA FISHERIES

May 25, 2017

HAPCs in Alaska Region

HAPCs are smaller habitat areas within EFH that meet at least two of the four considerations below:

- (i) The importance of the ecological function provided by the habitat;
- (ii) The extent to which the habitat is sensitive to human-induced environmental degradation;
- (iii) Whether, and to what extent, development activities are, or will be, stressing the habitat type;
- (iv) The rarity of the habitat type

***Rarity is a mandatory criterion of all Council HAPC proposals.

HAPCs in Alaska Region

Within Alaska, HAPCs must meet the rarity consideration and address a management need or priority, as established by our regional fishery management council.

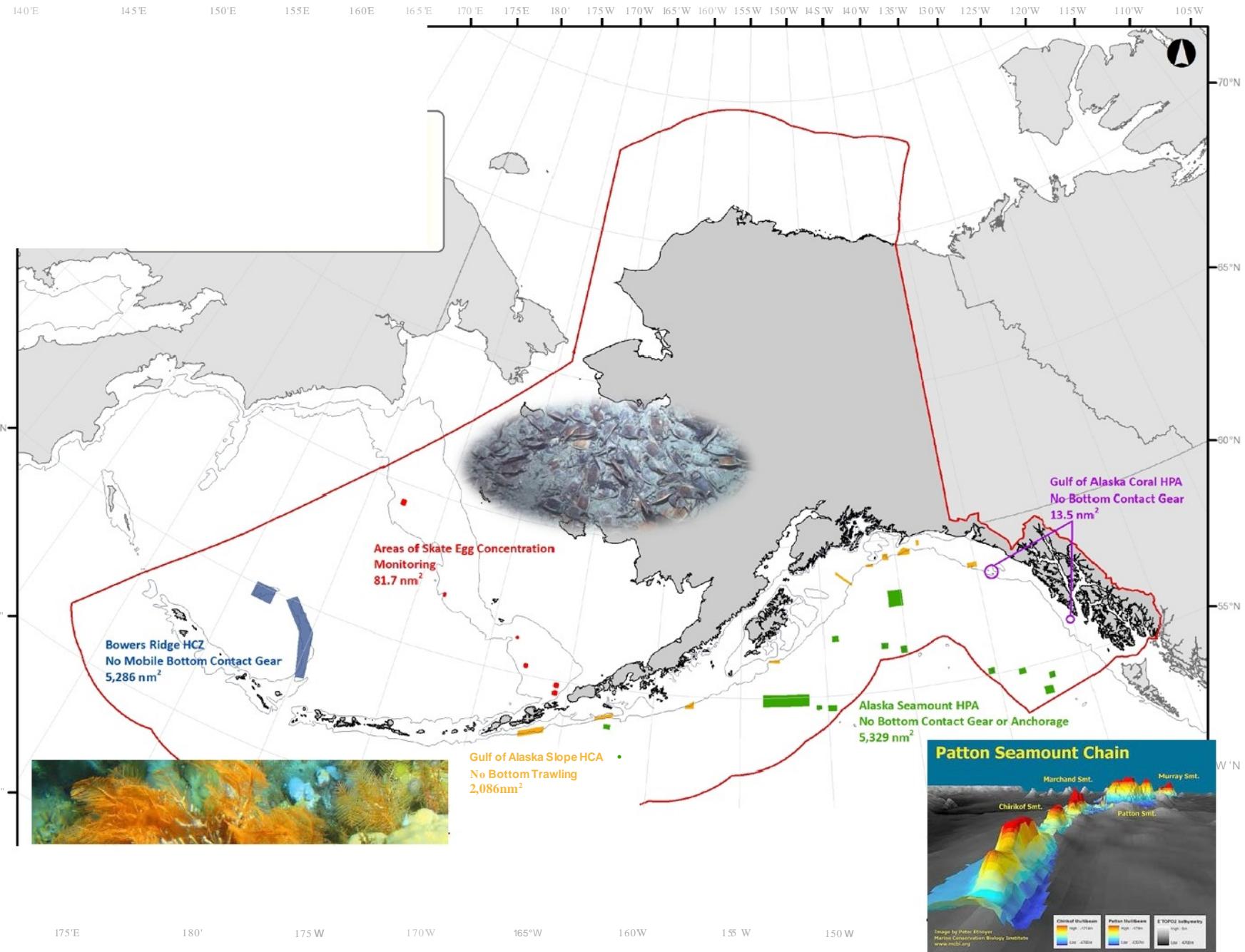
HAPCs in Alaskan waters:

- Areas where rockfish associate with high-relief long-lived habitat structure (corals and sponges), such as Bower's Ridge (2006)
- Named Seamounts (2006)
- Skate Nursery Areas in the Bering Sea (2015)

HAPC sites are nominated through a Public Call for Nominations. The proposal based process coincides with the EFH 5-Year Review.

HAPCs in Alaska

| HAPC | Individual HAPC's | Total Area Size | Fishery Management Application | Specific Regulation |
|--|---|-----------------------|--|---|
| <u>Alaska Seamount Habitat Protection Areas</u> | Dickens Seamount _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ | 5,300 nm ² | <u>No federally permitted vessel may fish with bottom contact gear [i].</u> <u>50 CFR 679.22(a)(12)</u> | Federal Register 50 CFR Part 679 Volume 71, No.124 Wednesday, June 28,2006 http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/frules/71fr36694.pdf |
| <u>Bowers Ridge Habitat Conservation Zone</u> | Bowers Ridge Ulm Plateau | 5,330 nm ² | <u>No federally permitted vessel may fish with mobile bottom contact gear [ii].</u> <u>50 CFR 679.22(a)(15)</u> | Same as above |
| <u>Gulf of Alaska Coral Habitat Protection Areas</u> | Cape Ommaney 1 _____ _____ _____ | 14 nm ² | <u>No federally permitted vessel may fish with bottom contact gear [iii].</u> <u>50 CFR 679.22(b)(9)</u> | Same as above |
| <u>Gulf of Alaska Slope Habitat Conservation Areas</u> | Yakutat _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ | 1,892 nm ² | <u>No federally permitted vessel may fish with nonpelagic trawl gear [iv].</u> <u>50 CFR 679.22(b)(10)</u> | Same as above |
| <u>Skate Nursery Areas</u> | Bering 1 _____ _____ _____ _____ | 81.7 nm ² | Monitoring Priority | Federal Register Vol. 80, No.6 Friday, January 09, 2015 http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/frules/80fr1378.pdf |



No HAPC Consideration in 2015-2017

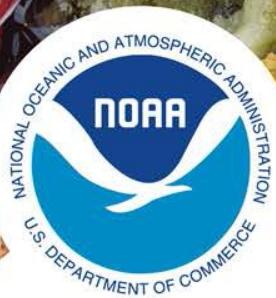
In April 2017, the Council considered initiating a HAPC process to coincide with the EFH review. The Council:

- Chose not to initiate the HAPC process and to maintain status quo as part of the 2015 EFH Review.
- Noted they had no information about any specific species or sites to warrant initiation a HAPC process.
- Noted that should information arise the Council could initiate a HAPC process at any time in the future.



NOAA FISHERIES

May 25, 2017



EFH 5-Year Review

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The EFH Five Year Review is the mechanism (or roadmap) to ensure NOAA Fisheries and Fishery Management Councils incorporate the most recent and best science available into fishery management for EFH.

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)

5-year Review for 2010

Summary Report

FINAL

April 2010



**A review of EFH occurs every 5-years for each FMP
(2000, 2005, 2010, 2015,.....)**

The 2015 EFH 5-Year Review evaluated recent scientific information, assessed information gaps and research needs, and identified specific revisions.

For example the 2015-17 EFH 5-year review resulted in:

- New information and methods to refine EFH descriptions and maps.
- New Fishing Effects (FE) model that utilizes the best available science.
- New non-fishing impacts analysis, including advisory EFH Conservation Recommendations including sections on ocean acidification, climate change, and ecosystem processes.



NOAA FISHERIES

May 25, 2017

EFH Consultation – Why?

- ✓ Legal: Satisfies the legal requirement for Federal action agencies to comply with the MSA.
- ✓ Mechanism: Creates a transparent discussion of the effects that Federal actions may have on marine resources that are necessary to sustain habitats that support federally-managed fish stocks.
- ✓ Desired Result: Decisions support the continued productivity of sustainable fishery resources.

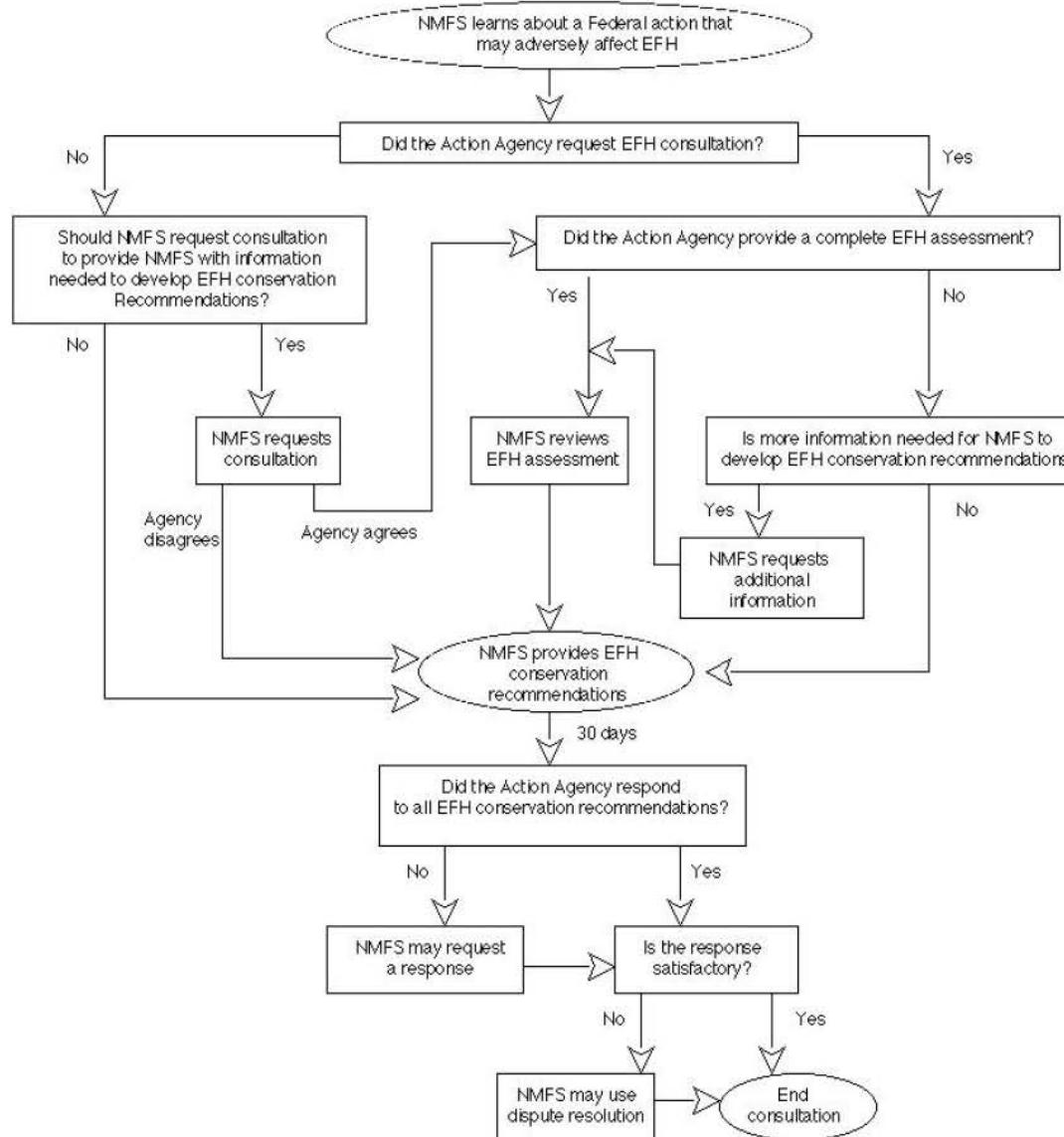
EFH Consultation Basics

- ✓ Regulatory process with specific steps and languages.
- ✓ Creates a coordinated dialogue between Federal agencies.
- ✓ Allows Action agencies to make an informed decision.
- ✓ Strives to address any inconsistencies at the staff level.
- ✓ Consultations result in science-based EFH recommendations.

EFH Consultation – Process Overview

- ✓ Federal action agency determines whether or not their actions may adversely affect EFH.
- ✓ An EFH Assessment is required if an action may adversely affect EFH
- ✓ NOAA Fisheries reviews any EFH Assessment and provides conservation recommendations, if required.
- ✓ Federal agency responds to NOAA Fisheries as to whether or not they accept the Conservation Recommendations.
- ✓ NOAA Fisheries may ask for an expanded consultation, if needed.

NMFS Decision Tree for EFH Consultations



EFH Consultation- Initiation

What triggers an EFH Consultation?

- An EFH Consultation is triggered when a Federal agency or its designee, determines that an action authorized, funded, or undertaken by the agency may adversely affect EFH.

What is the definition of 'adverse affect'?

- An 'adverse effect' is any impact that reduces the quality and/or quantity of EFH [50 CFR 600.810(a)].

EFH Consultation - Action

What types of activities may adversely affect EFH?

- **Fishing activities**, such as certain gears use or fishing in sensitive areas.
- **Non-fishing activities**, such as development projects (roads, airports), marine resource extraction (oil and gas, seafloor mining), discharges (hazardous spills, seafood, sewage), etc... that may adversely affect EFH.

Can EFH Assessments be combined with other Federal consultations or environmental review processes?

- **Yes.** NOAA Fisheries strongly encourages such efforts to streamline the consultation process. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Clean Water Act (Corps 10/404 Permits), Endangered Species Act (ESA), and Federal Power Act (FPA).

EFH Consultation Determination

- The Federal agency, or its official designee, determines whether its actions may adversely affect EFH.
 - If an action will not adversely affect EFH, then the agency should document a determination in its record. There is no requirement to contact NOAA Fisheries for no affect determinations.
 - If the agency determines that an action may adversely affect EFH, the action agency must prepare an EFH Assessment and submit to NOAA Fisheries at least 60 days prior to any final decision.
 - If actions are similar in type, the Federal action agency and NOAA Fisheries may issue a programmatic 'finding' that includes conservation recommendations for that action instead of conducting multiple individual consultations.

EFH Assessment

- An EFH Assessment is required for actions that may adversely affect EFH.
 - EFH Assessment is an objective review of the potential impacts of the action on EFH and the level of detail is to be commensurate with the level of potential effect.
- An EFH Assessment must include:
 - a description of the action;
 - an analysis of the potential adverse effects of the action on EFH and the managed species;
 - the agency's conclusions regarding the effects of the action on EFH proposed; and,
 - proposed mitigation, if applicable.

NOAA Fisheries' Response

- NOAA Fisheries will review the EFH Assessment and provide EFH Conservation Recommendations, if necessary, to the action agency.
- Should NOAA Fisheries determine the action will not adversely affect EFH, NOAA Fisheries will notify the Federal agency either informally* or in writing.

* Informal communication is not specified and may include notification by phone or email.

EFH Conservation Recommendations

- The Federal action agency is required to reply as to whether or not the agency agrees or disagrees with any offered EFH Conservation Recommendations within 30 days.
- For any disagreements, the Federal action agency must provide NOAA fisheries with specific explanation, including scientific justification, for not following the EFH Conservation Recommendations.

How are disagreements settled?

First, discrepancies should be discussed at staff levels. Should concerns still exist, NOAA Fisheries may request the head of each Federal Agency meet to resolve any disagreement(s).

EFH Consultation – Complete

Are Federal action agencies required to accept NOAA Fisheries' EFH Conservation Recommendation(s)?

- No. EFH recommendations are advisory and non-binding to the Federal action agency. However, the process must be followed.

When is EFH Consultation complete or satisfied?

- NOAA Fisheries may ask for an expanded consultation, if needed.
- EFH consultation is complete when the Federal action agency and NOAA Fisheries agree on EFH Conservation Recommendations.



EFH Consultation Guidance

NOAA HOME WEATHER OCEANS FISHERIES CHARTING SATELLITES CLIMATE RESEARCH COASTS CAREERS

 NOAA HABITAT CONSERVATION | HABITAT PROTECTION
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

search this site all of NMFS

Coastal Wetlands Corals Essential Fish Habitat Rivers: Hydropower & Fish Passage Cape Fear River Partnership

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Habitat Protection Restoration Center Chesapeake Bay





STAY CONNECTED 

Essential Fish Habitat Consultations

Through EFH consultations, NOAA works with federal agencies to conserve and enhance essential fish habitat (EFH). Consultation is required when a federal agency authorizes, funds, or undertakes an action that may adversely affect EFH. The federal agency must provide NOAA Fisheries with an assessment of the action's impacts to EFH, and NOAA Fisheries provides the federal agency with EFH Conservation Recommendations to avoid, minimize, mitigate, or otherwise offset those adverse effects. Federal agencies must provide a detailed written explanation to NOAA Fisheries describing which recommendations, if any, it has not adopted.

Who Needs a Consultation?

Private landowners and state agencies are not required to consult with NOAA Fisheries Service. A consultation is required if each of the following factors are satisfied:

1. The federal government has authorized, funded, or undertaken part or all of a proposed activity. For example, if a project proposed by a federal or state agency or an individual requires a federal permit, then the federal agency authorizing the project through the issuance of a permit must consult with NOAA Fisheries Service.
2. The action will "adversely" affect EFH. An adverse effect is defined as any impact that reduces quality and/or quantity of EFH. This includes direct or indirect physical, chemical, or biological alterations of the waters or substrate and loss of, or injury to species and their habitat, and other ecosystem components, or reduction of the quality and/or quantity of EFH. Adverse effects may result from actions occurring within EFH or outside of EFH. Use NOAA's [EFH Mapper tool](#) to determine if the proposed action is located within or adjacent to EFH.

Useful Links

[EFH Consultation Guidance \(pdf - 1.1mb\)](#)
[Preparing EFH Assessments \(pdf - 2.1mb\)](#)

Regional Contacts
Public Consultation Tracking System



http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/pdf/efhconsultationguidancev1_1.pdf



NOAA FISHERIES

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NEWS

U.S. fishing generated more than \$300 billion in sales in 2016. New stocks rebuilt in 2016. U.S. commercial and recreational fishing generated \$20 billion in sales, contributed \$1 billion to the gross domestic product and supported 1.1 million full- and part-time jobs in 2016 – above the five-year average – according to NOAA's Fisheries Economics of the United States report released today.

HOT TOPICS

Habitat Annual Management Measures for 2017 available

NMFS has published annual management measures concerning the Pacific habitat fishery recommended by the International Pacific Halibut Commission and accepted by the State of Alaska. These are pursuant to the Pacific Halibut Act of 1971.

NOAA Fisheries is an agency within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NOAA FISHERIES NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

ALASKA REGIONAL OFFICE

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Habitat Conservation

NOAA Fisheries' Habitat Conservation Division (HCD) works in coordination with localities, stakeholder groups, government agencies, and private entities to avoid, minimize, or offset the adverse effects of human activities on Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) while taking resources in Alaska. This work includes conducting peer-reviewed environmental analyses for a large variety of activities ranging from commercial fishing to coastal development to large transportation and energy projects. HCD identifies technically feasible alternatives and offers realistic recommendations for the conservation of valuable living marine resources. HCD focuses on activities in habitats used by federally managed fish species located offshore, nearshore, in estuaries, and in freshwater areas important to anadromous salmon.

- Essential Fish Habitat Information and Research
- Habitat Assessment Improvement Plan, 2010
- Habitat Assessment Prioritization Report, 2011
- Habitat Protection Review
- Sedimentological Imagery and Mapping
- Nearshore Fish Atlas
- NOAA Habitat Blueprint and Kachemak Bay, AK, Habitat Focus Area
- University
- Anchorage
- Habitat Review
- Analysing
- Marine Protected Areas
- Conservation
- Tribal Consult
- Habitat Conservation

NOAA FISHERIES NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

ALASKA REGIONAL OFFICE



Essential Fish Habitat

In 1996 Congress added new habitat provisions to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the federal law that governs U.S. marine fisheries management. Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, each fishery management plan must describe and identify Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for the fishery, minimize to the extent practicable the adverse effects of fishing on EFH, and identify other actions to encourage the conservation and enhancement of EFH. Federal agencies must consult with NMFS regarding any action they authorize, fund, or undertake that may adversely affect EFH, and NMFS must provide conservation recommendations to federal and state agencies regarding any action that would adversely affect EFH.

As Congress noted in section 2(a)(3) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, "One of the greatest long-term threats to the viability of commercial and recreational fisheries is the continuing loss of marine, estuarine, and other aquatic habitats. Habitat considerations should receive increased attention for the conservation and management of fishery resources of the United States."

Resources

- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- An Introduction to EFH: Regulatory Authority, Descriptions, 5-Year Review, HAPC, and Consultations, 2015
- EFH Descriptions and Identification, 2017 "Under construction"



NOAA Fisheries Alaska Regional Website

<https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/habitat/>
Habitat Conservation Tab

Essential Fish Habitat Tab

Frequently Asked Questions

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Frequently Asked Questions about Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)

Last updated October 18, 2016

General EFH Questions:

1. [How is Essential Fish Habitat authorized?](#)
2. [What is the definition of Essential Fish Habitat?](#)
3. [How is EFH described?](#)
4. [What species in Alaska have EFH identified?](#)
5. [What is a Habitat Area of Particular Concern \(HAPC\)?](#)
6. [How often is Essential Fishing Habitat information updated?](#)
7. [Has EFH information changed?](#)
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What about EFH Consultations?

1. [What triggers an EFH Consultation?](#)
2. [What is the definition of an EFH 'adverse effect'?](#)
3. [What are a few examples of actions that affect EFH?](#)
4. [What do federal agencies need to do?](#)
5. [What is in an EFH Assessment?](#)
6. [Is the State of Alaska required to consult on EFH?](#)
7. [Are private landowners required to consult for projects on their land?](#)

<http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/habitat/efh/faq.htm>

Impacts to EFH from Non-Fishing Activities

- In 2017, staff from the Habitat Conservation Division prepared the reference document:

Impacts to Essential Fish Habitat from Non-fishing Activities in Alaska (May 2017).

- The document:
 - describes numerous non-fishing activities in Alaska.
 - provides specific EFH Conservation Recommendations; ones that NOAA Fisheries may offer during EFH consultation for any adverse effects on EFH.

Impacts to Essential Fish Habitat from Non-fishing Activities in Alaska

May 2017

Final

Prepared by
National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Region
Habitat Conservation Division



National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Region

On-line information sources are available:

HCD Information and Staff

<http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/habitat>

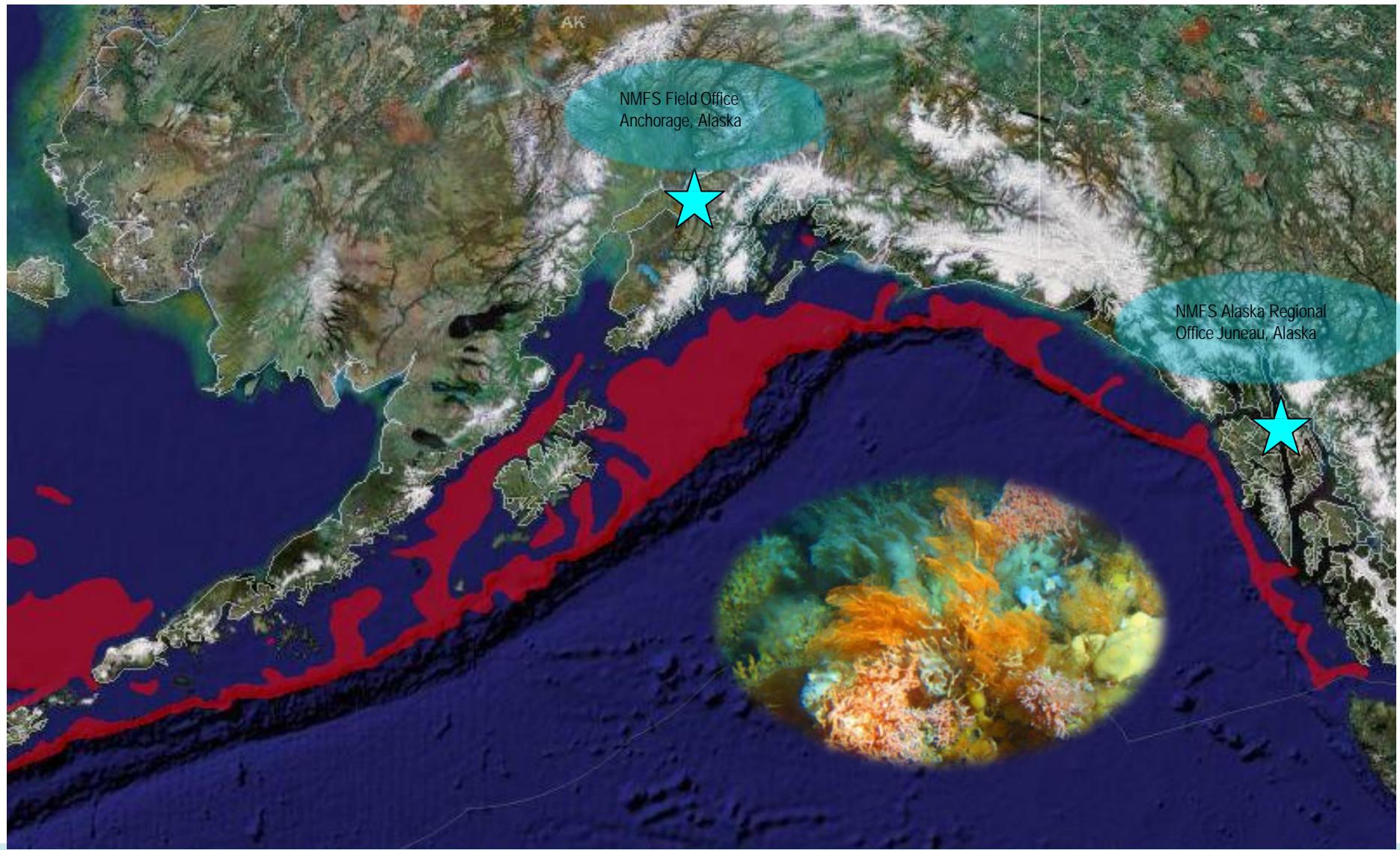
EFH Web-based Mapping

<http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/protection/efh/efhmapper>

Other statutes and authorities NOAA Fisheries uses to conserve, protect, and restore marine habitats.

<http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/aboutus/statutoryauthorities.html>

Essential Fish Habitat Offices, AK





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FISHERIES**

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