



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

## NMFS Announces Extension of the Comment Period for Draft Amendment 1 Essential Fish Habitat

On September 19, 2008, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) published a Notice of Availability (NOA) of Draft Amendment 1 Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) to the Consolidated HMS FMP. The Draft Amendment considers alternatives to update Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) EFH, designate a new Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC) for bluefin tuna spawning areas in the Gulf of Mexico, and analyzes fishing impacts on EFH. Based on the September 19, 2008 notice, the comment period was scheduled to end on November 18, 2008. NMFS is extending the comment period until December 12, 2008. Comments received by NMFS on the Draft EFH Amendment 1 will be used in the development of Final EFH Amendment 1 to the Consolidated HMS FMP.

Due to the timing of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (SAFMC) meeting at the beginning of December, NMFS is extending the comment period to provide additional opportunity for the SAFMC, and other interested parties to comment on Draft Amendment 1. These comments will assist NMFS in developing the Final Amendment, consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP.

The comment period for Draft EFH Amendment 1 has been extended to **5 p.m. on December 12, 2008**. Comments may be submitted to Chris Rilling, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Please mark the outside of the envelope "Comments on EFH Amendment to the Consolidated HMS FMP." Comments can also be submitted via e-mail at [HMSEFH@noaa.gov](mailto:HMSEFH@noaa.gov), or via FAX at (301) 713-1917.

This notice is a courtesy to Atlantic HMS fishery interests to keep you informed about the fishery. Official notice of Federal fishery actions is made through filing such a notice with the Office of the Federal Register. For further information, contact Chris Rilling or Sari Kiraly at (301) 713-2347.

  
Alan Risenhoover  
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

NOV 12 2008

Date

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