



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

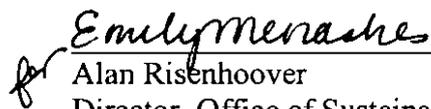
**NMFS ANNOUNCES THE AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT AMENDMENT 1 to the
CONSOLIDATED HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES FISHERY
MANAGEMENT PLAN for ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) that proposes to update and revise existing Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) descriptions, identifications, and boundaries; designate a new Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC) for bluefin tuna spawning areas in the Gulf of Mexico; and analyzes fishing and non-fishing impacts on EFH.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act EFH regulations call for a complete review of all EFH information at least once every five years, and this amendment constitutes the review and update of EFH for all HMS that began with the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP. NMFS has proposed changes to existing EFH boundaries that may be viewed in the DEIS as well as on the internet using an interactive HMS EFH Data Evaluation Tool at: http://sharpfin.nmfs.noaa.gov/website/EFH_Mapper/HMS/map.aspx. Username: EFH password: Reviewer!

Comments on any proposed changes to the EFH boundaries, new HAPCs, and fishing and non-fishing impacts should be submitted in writing to Chris Rilling, NMFS Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 or online at the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Include in the subject line the following identifier: I.D. HMS EFH. Comments must be received by November 18, 2008.

This notice is a courtesy to Atlantic HMS fishery interests to keep you informed about your fishery. Official notice of Federal fishery actions is made through filing such 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

SEP 18 2008

Date

SIGN UP FOR ATLANTIC HMS NEWS
-- An electronic newsletter informing you of the latest HMS-related actions --

