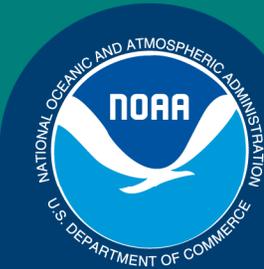


*Science, Service, Stewardship*



## **Essential Fish Habitat:**

What Do Council Members Need  
to Know?

Kara Meckley  
NMFS Office of Habitat Conservation  
October 28, 2009

**NOAA  
FISHERIES  
SERVICE**



## Magnuson-Stevens Act (1996)

**“...to promote the protection of essential fish habitat in the review of projects conducted under Federal permits, licenses, or other authorities that affect or have the potential to affect such habitat.”** -

- Magnuson-Stevens Act, 1996



## Essential Fish Habitat

*“Essential fish habitat* means those **waters and substrate necessary** to fish for **spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity.**” - -

Magnuson-Stevens Act, 1996



## **Role of Councils**

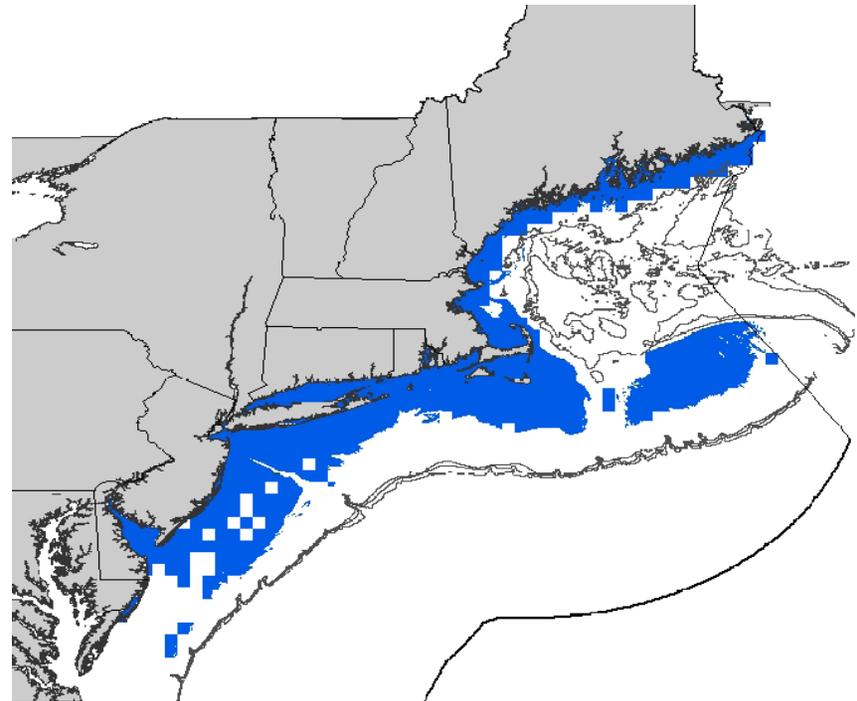
- Describe and identify EFH
- Designate HAPCs
- Minimize adverse effects of fishing on EFH
- Consultations on non-fishing activities



## Identify and Describe EFH

Councils required to identify EFH for each managed species and life-stage

- Text descriptions
- Maps
- Geographic extent

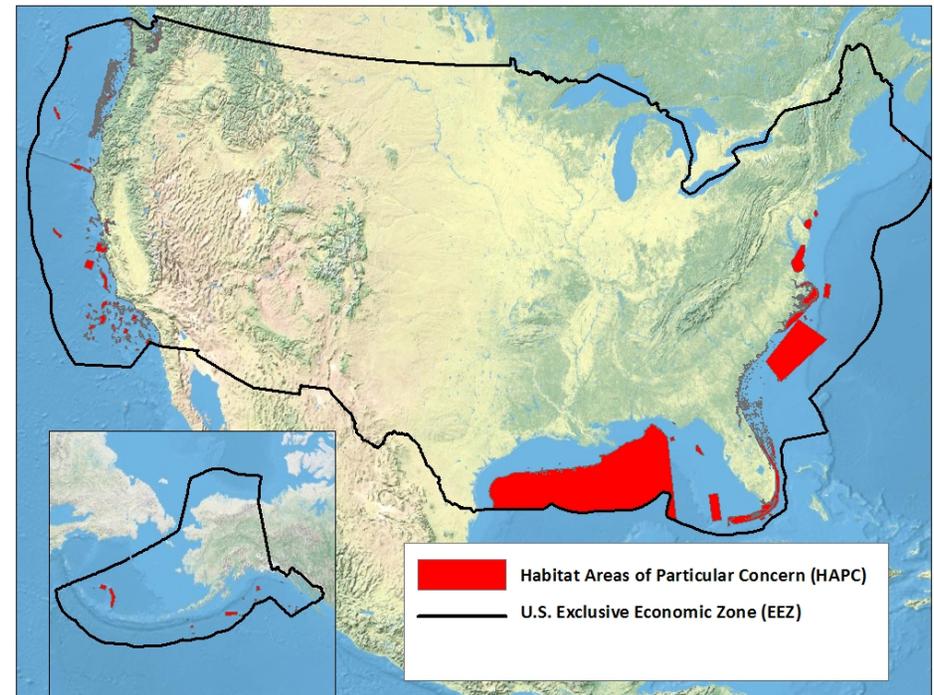


Winter Flounder- Adult (NEFMC Omnibus)



# Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs)

- HAPCs are subsets of EFH
- Purpose is to focus conservation efforts
- HAPC Criteria
  - Ecological functions provided
  - Sensitivity to human-induced degradation
  - Rarity of habitat type
  - Stress from development activities
- Encourage discrete areas with clearly defined geographic boundaries





## Minimize Fishing Effects on EFH

- Councils responsible for managing harvest, bycatch, AND habitat
- Must minimize the adverse effects of fishing to the extent practicable
- Adverse effect: any impact that reduces quality and/or quantity of EFH





## Non-Fishing Effects Consultation Role

- Councils may provide comments to Secretary and any Federal or state agency concerning any activity or proposed activity that may affect the habitat, including EFH, of a fishery resource under its authority.
- Councils shall provide such comments concerning any activity that is likely to substantially affect the habitat, including EFH, of an anadromous fishery resource under Council authority.



## **Future Efforts**

- Focus on 5-year reviews of EFH information in FMPs.
- Monitor and track impacts from growing renewable ocean energy development.
- Clarify intersection between EFH and discretionary authorities to protect deep-sea coral.
- Strengthen non-regulatory EFH protection projects.



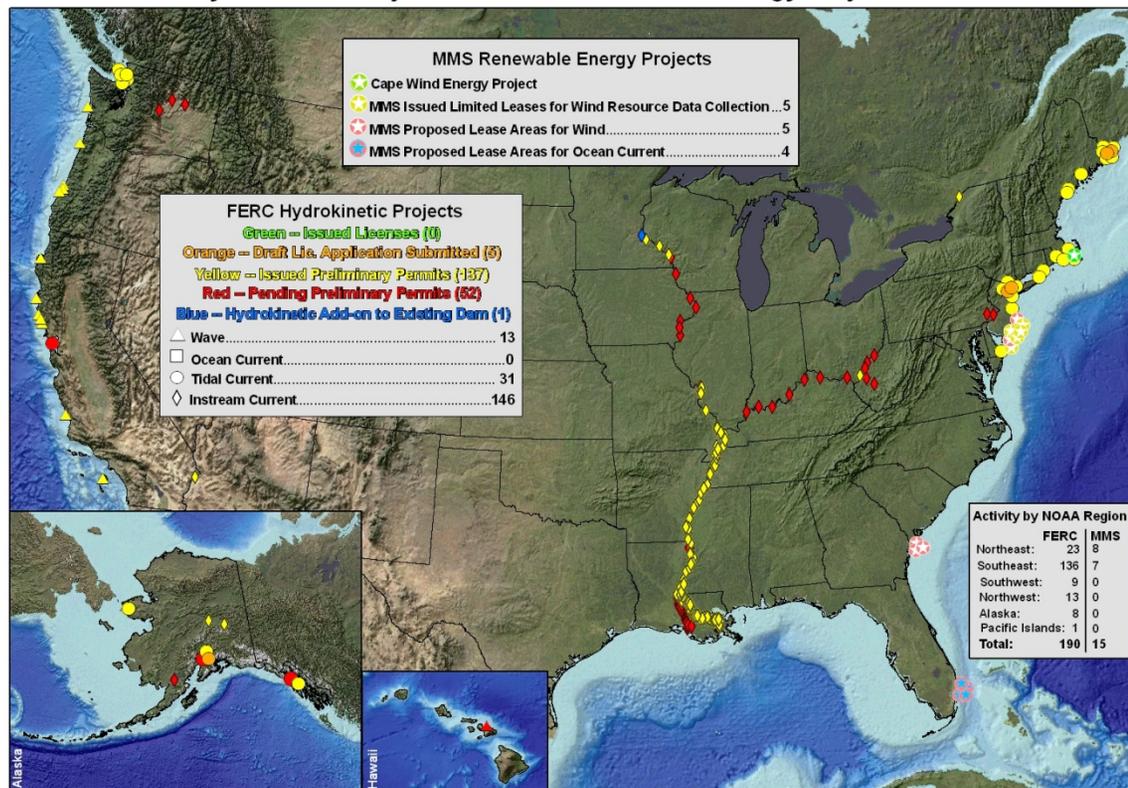
## **Five Year Review**

- Need to review EFH information and actions every 5 years and update if appropriate
- Review based on available information
- Reviews are due for Mid-Atlantic, South-Atlantic, Pacific (salmon), Western Pacific
- Reviews for New England, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean will be due in 2010.



# Renewable Ocean Energy Projects

FERC Hydrokinetic Projects and MMS Renewable Energy Projects in the U.S



Produced by NOAA Fisheries Office of Habitat Conservation. Information accurate as of October 5, 2009. For reference purposes only.



## Deep Sea Coral



- Deep sea coral habitats are biodiverse, fragile and a U.S. priority for protection
- MSRA provides the Councils and NOAA additional authority to designate zones to protect corals from fishing damage in addition to existing bycatch and EFH authorities.
- Deep Sea Coral Research and Management Strategic Plan - 2009
- Deep Sea Coral Report to Congress - 2010



# Tools and Resources

## Additional Resources

- Website <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/habitatprotection/efh/index.htm>
- EFH Mapper -  
[http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/habitatprotection/efh/GIS\\_mapper.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/habitatprotection/efh/GIS_mapper.htm)
- Regulations 50 CFR 600
- Handouts & Outreach Materials
  - NMFS Habitat 2008 Accomplishments Report



# NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE



# EFH Mapper

**Essential Fish Habitat Mapper**  
NOAA Fisheries

**EFH View Tool**

Northeast/Mid-Atlantic

zoom to selected region

Atlantic Cod

Select HAPC

zoom to extents -->

**Data Query Tool**

-- Location Query --

**Link to EFH Text Description**

Atlantic Cod

For links to all EFH text descriptions:  
Open Data Inventory -->

Home | Contact  
Google Maps Terms of Use

back clear map

basemap layers

Google

**Atlantic Cod Legend**

Click lifestage to display

- Adult
- Juvenile
- Larvae
- Eggs
- All

**EFH Report - Mozilla Firefox**

http://sharpfin.nmfs.noaa.gov/website/EFH\_Mapper/EFH\_ReportL.htm

**Query Results**  
(Latitude = 40.192979, Longitude = -69.499512)

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

Link to EFH Text	Data Caveats	Show on Map	Species/Management Unit	Lifestage(s) Found at Location	Management Council	FMP
			162	Bluefin Tuna	<a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/EFH/Final/FEIS_Amendment_1_Chapter5.pdf#page=">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/EFH/Final/FEIS_Amendment_1_Chapter5.pdf#page=</a>	HMS
			154	White Shark	<a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/EFH/Final/FEIS_Amendment_1_Chapter5.pdf#page=">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/EFH/Final/FEIS_Amendment_1_Chapter5.pdf#page=</a>	HMS