

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Amendment Proposed Outline and Timeline

Background

- M-S Act requires scheduled review of the EFH portions of FMPs (Section 305 (b)(1))
 - 5 year review between GMFMC and NOAA
- Updates use the best scientific information available (National Standard 2)
 - Research, management analysis, ecological relationships between species and their habitats
- Last EFH review in 2016 and recommendations were provided by NOAA



NOAA EFH 5 year review recommendations

- Make habitat association tables more user-friendly
- Amend formatting to easily transition between text to internet resources
- Assign habitat designation information that can be georeferenced
- Develop abbreviated framework procedure for incorporating modifications to future EFH designations without FMP amendment



Proposed outline and timeline

- **Fall 2019:** Convene IPT
 - Purpose and need
 - Identify data needs
 - Draft actions
- **Jan 2020:** Bring draft document to Council for review and input
- **2020- 2021:** Develop document



Questions and discussion

