

EFH Subcommittee of the Joint BSAI and GOA Groundfish Plan Teams
Special Online Meeting

March 6, 2017

Background

At their December 2016 meeting, the NPFMC moved to adopt the methods proposed by their SSC to evaluate the effects of fishing on EFH for BSAI and GOA groundfish resources as part of the 5-year EFH review. Specifically, those methods provide tools to evaluate whether fishing activity adversely affects habitats that are necessary for spawning, breeding, feeding or growth to maturity in a manner that is more than minimal and not temporary in nature. This outcome would necessitate habitat mitigation.

As a next step, stock assessment authors would review the application of those methods for their respective species and provide expert opinions on whether the criteria for habitat mitigation are met. The Plan Teams will then receive the authors' expert opinions and will provide Plan Team recommendations to the SSC and Council for their review in April 2017.

The Joint BSAI and GOA Groundfish Plan Team recommended, at their November 2016 meeting that an EFH Subcommittee represent the Teams in providing recommendations. Additionally, it was decided that the Subcommittee meeting would be online, and would be noticed through the Federal Register to allow for public participation. If, during the Subcommittee review, there were any author-determinations that mitigation criteria had been met, or that the Subcommittee disagreed with (or both), the Subcommittee would recommend full Plan Team review in its report to the Council.

EFH Subcommittee

Sandra Lowe (GOA PT), Jon Heifetz (GOA PT), Grant Thompson (BSAI PT), Liz Chilton (BSAI PT)

NPFMC Staff

Steve MacLean (EFH Lead), Jim Armstrong (GOA Plan Coordinator)

Agenda

Online Meeting Link: https://npfmc.adobeconnect.com/EFH_JPT_2017-03-06

Audio (phone): 907-271-2896

1:00 p.m. Presentation on author recommendations

1:30 p.m. Discussion and recommendations

3:00 p.m. Adjourn