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Essential Fish Habitat

"Marine fish depend on healthy habitats to survive. Throughout their lives fish use many types of habitats including seagrass, salt marsh, coral reefs, kelp forests and rocky intertidal areas. Various activities on land and in the water constantly threaten to alter, damage, or destroy these habitats. NOAA Fisheries, regional Fishery Management Councils, and Federal and state agencies work together to address these threats by identifying Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for each federally managed fish species and developing conservation measures to protect and enhance these habitats.

One of the greatest long-term threats to the viability of commercial and recreational fisheries is the continuing loss of marine, estuarine, and other aquatic habitats. Habitat considerations should receive increased attention for the conservation and management of fishery resources of the United States."

-- United States Congress, as noted in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 1996.

- [What is EFH?](#)
- [What are Habitat Areas of Particular Concern \(HAPC\)?](#)
- [Where is Essential Fish Habitat?](#)
- [Why should we protect habitats essential to fish?](#)
- [How does it work?](#)

For more information contact: West Coast EFH Coordinator, John Stadler, at john.stadler@noaa.gov or (360) 534-9328.

Essential Fish Habitat

Pacific Coast Salmon EFH

- [Final EA for Pacific Coast Salmon Plan Amendment 18: Incorporating Revisions to Pacific Salmon Essential Fish Habitat](#) 6,208kb
- [EFH Designations for Pacific Coast Salmon-Final Rule](#) 246kb
- [Identification & Description of EFH for Salmon- Appendix A to the Fishery Management Plan](#) 4.2kb
- [Salmon EFH Maps](#)
- [5-year Review of Salmon EFH](#) 8.8MB

Pacific Coast Groundfish EFH

- [Description of EFH for Pacific Coast Groundfish - Amendment 19 & Appendices to the Fishery Management Plan](#)
- [Groundfish EFH Maps](#)
- [5-year Review of Groundfish EFH](#)
- [Additional Information & Reference Materials](#)

Coastal Pelagic Species EFH

- [Description & Identification of EFH for Coastal Pelagic Species- Appendix D to the Fishery Management Plan](#) 2MB

References

[EFH Mapper & GIS Data](#)

[EFH Regulatory Guidelines](#) 97kb

[Effects of Non-fishing Activities on EFH](#) 456kb

[EFH Consultation Guide](#) 1.1MB

[EFH Assessment Guidance](#) 282kb

[EFH Assessment Template](#) 31kb

[Comparison of EFH & Critical Habitat](#) 5.2MB

[Pacific Fishery Management Council](#)

[Pacific Coastal Ocean Observing System](#)

- [Description & Identification of EFH for Coastal Pelagic Species-Appendix 12 to the Fishery Management Plan](#)  1.6MB



Highly Migratory Species EFH

- [EFH Descriptions for Highly Migratory Species-Appendix F to the Fishery Management Plan](#)  229kb

Programmatic consultations and general concurrence agreements

These simplify the consultation process for multiple project types with similar degree or method of disturbance. The resulting agreement increases the speed that projects move through the permitting process, decreases the consultation burden on consulting agencies and promotes improved habitat conservation. They also enable consistent response on similar project types. Listed below are the programmatic consultations and general concurrence between NOAA Fisheries & the U.S.Army Corps of Engineers

Los Angeles District

- [EFH Programmatic Consultation](#)  919kb
- [EFH USACE General Concurrence](#)  316kb

Los Angeles District-South Coast Branch

- [EFH Programmatic Consultation for Overwater Structures](#)  842kb

San Francisco, Sacramento, & Los Angeles District

- [EFH Consultation for Activities covered under NLAA ESA Programmatic](#)  2.6MB

San Francisco District

- [EFH Consultation For Construction & Maintenance of Overwater Structures](#)  748kb
- [EFH Consultation for Operations & Maintenance Dredging in the San Francisco Area & associated dredged material placement \(In cooperation with USEPA Region IX\)](#)  1.4MB
 - [Eelgrass July 2010 \(mapped eelgrass beds in San Francisco Bay, 2003 & 2009 combined\)*](#)
 - [Eelgrass Bed Buffer \(45 m\) July 2010*](#)
 - [Federal Dredge Project*](#)
 - [Federal Dredge Project Buffer \(250 m\)*](#)
 - [Non-Federal dredge Projects July 2010*](#)
 - [Non-Federal Dredge Project Buffer \(250 m\)*](#)
- [2011 Long Term Management Strategy Final Agreement](#)  465kb

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