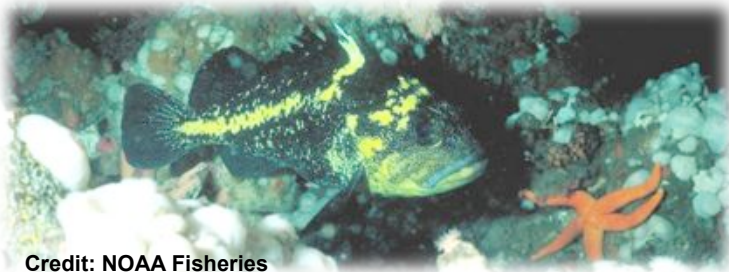




Pacific Fishery Management Council EFH Review Process

John Stadler – NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region

**National Essential Fish Habitat Summit
May 17-19, 2016
Annapolis, MD**



Credit: NOAA Fisheries

PFMC FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

Coastal Pelagic Species – 6 species

- **Reviewed 2010**

Highly Migratory Species – 11 species

- **Reviewed 2004**

Pacific Coast Salmon – 3 species

- **Reviewed 2011, revised 2015 (Final Rule)**

Pacific Coast Groundfish – 90+ species

- **Reviewed 2014, Undergoing revision by Amendment 28**

PACIFIC COAST SALMON EFH

3 Species

- Chinook salmon
- Coho salmon
- Puget Sound pink salmon

- Freshwater: on 4th Field Hydrologic Units

- Marine/estuarine: EEZ North of Point Conception

- No management measures to minimize adverse effects
 - But many consultations on non-fishing actions



PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH EFH

90+ Species

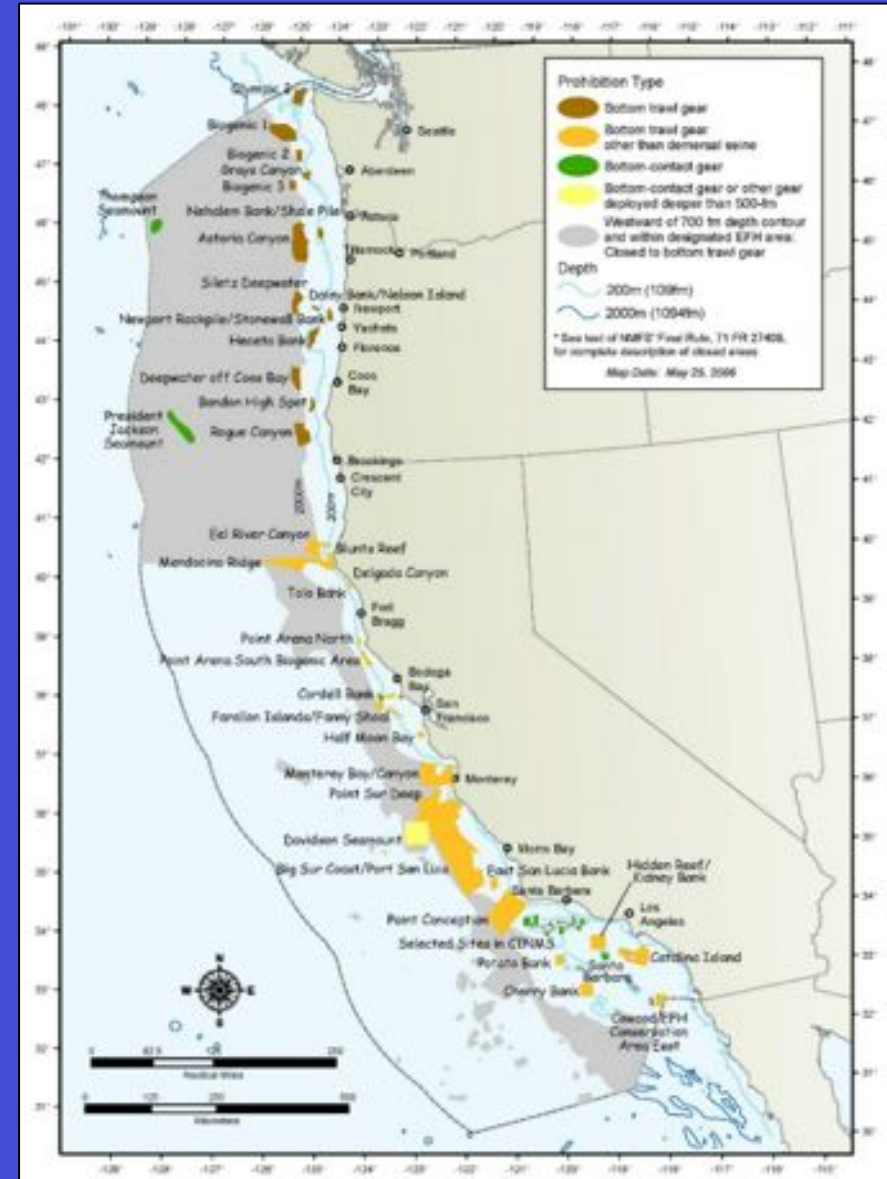
Marine/estuarine waters <3500m

52.9% of EEZ

EFH Conservation Areas (EFHCAs)

- Closed to certain types of bottom-contact gear

Being revised through Amendment 28



Amendment 28 to Pacific Coast Groundfish FMP

Fishery Management Actions

- Revise EFH Conservation Areas where bottom trawling is prohibited
- Adjustments to trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas
- Closing waters >3,500 m to bottom-contact gear

“Administrative” Actions

- Update FMP appendices
- Move Research and Information Needs to an appendix
- Update Review/Revise Process

Review Process – Salmon vs. Groundfish

SALMON

Review Committee (RC)

- NMFS Salmon Scientists
 - NWFSC and SWFSC
- NMFS Region
- PFMC

GROUND FISH

Review Committee

- NMFS Groundfish Scientists
 - NWFSC and SWFSC
- NMFS Region
- PFMC
- NOAA ONMS
- Academics
 - Oceanographers
 - Marine geologists
- Coastal Tribes
- NGOs
- Fishing Industry

Review Process – Salmon vs. Groundfish

SALMON

Review Committee (RC)



Review and Summarize New Information



Specific Recommendations on Changes to EFH

GROUND FISH

Review Committee



Review and Summarize New Information (Phase 1 Report)



NMFS Synthesis Report



Request for Proposals



RC Evaluates Proposals; High-Level Recommendations on Changes to EFH (Phase 2 Report)

Review Process – Salmon vs. Groundfish

SALMON

Review Committee (RC)



Review and Summarize New Information



Specific Recommendations on Changes to EFH



Draft NEPA with alternatives



Amendment 18

GROUND FISH

Review Committee



Review and Summarize New Information (Phase 1 Report)



NMFS Synthesis Report



Request for Proposals



RC Evaluates Proposals; High-Level Recommendations on Changes to EFH (Phase 2 Report)



Draft NEPA with alternatives



Amendment 28 (pending)

Revision Process – Salmon vs. Groundfish

SALMON

Draft NEPA with alternatives



Amendment 18

Changes to EFH components based primarily on RC recommendations

No management measures

= Smooth sailing

GROUND FISH

Draft NEPA with alternatives



Amendment 28 (pending)

Changes to EFH components based primarily on outside proposals

Areas closed to bottom-contact gear

= Rough seas

The Review and Revise Process

Lessons Learned and An Opportunity

- Establish clear goals or objectives, prior to review
 - Especially important when considering management actions
- Review should concentrate on the science
 - Review Committee should be Council and NMFS staff and outside scientists as needed
 - Existing process for public participation and advocacy
- Final changes should be based on recommendations from committee, with public input and participation
 - Existing process for public comment and recommendations
 - No need for separate RFP
- Groundfish EFH is more complex due to management measures to minimize impacts on EFH