

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Habitat Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Based Management Advisory Panel EFH 5-Year Review

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Essential Fish Habitat

Magnuson-Stevens Act & Implementing Regulations

1996 Amendments to Magnuson-Stevens Act

- § 3(10) The term "essential fish habitat" means those means those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity.
- § 303(a)(7): FMP's shall...describe and identify essential fish habitat...minimize adverse effects caused by fishing...identify actions to encourage conservation and enhancement
- § 305(b): NMFS & Councils identify EFH and Federal agencies consult on projects affecting EFH

1998 Interim Final Rule & 2002 Final Rule

50 CFR Part 600

- Subpart J: Guidelines for identifying and describing EFH
- Subpart K: Consultation Procedures and Requirements



Essential Fish Habitat

Magnuson-Stevens Act & Implementing Regulations

50 CFR Part 600 Subpart J

- § 600.815(a) Mandatory Contents of Fishery Management Plans
- (1) Description and identification of EFH
 - i. Overview
 - ii. Habitat Information by Life Stage
 - iii. Analysis of Habitat Information
 - iv. EFH Determination
 - v. Mapping Requirements
- (2) Fishing activities that may adversely impact EFH
- (3) Non-Magnuson-Stevens Act fishing activities that may adversely affect EFH
- (4) Non-Fishing related activities that may adversely affect EFH
- (5) Cumulative impacts analysis
- (6) Conservation and Enhancement
- (7) Prey Species
- (8) Identification of habitat areas of particular concern
- (9) Research information needs
- (10) Review and revision of EFH components of FMPs

