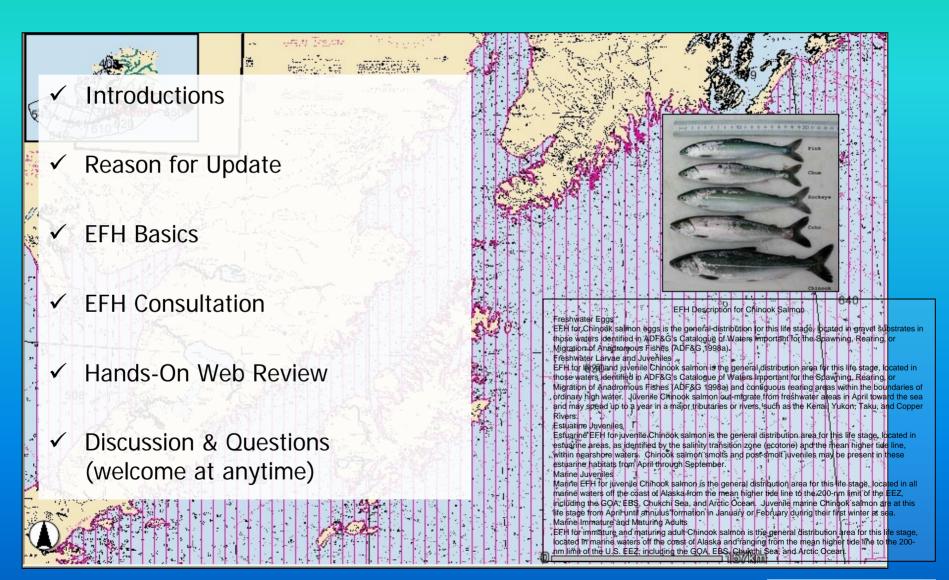
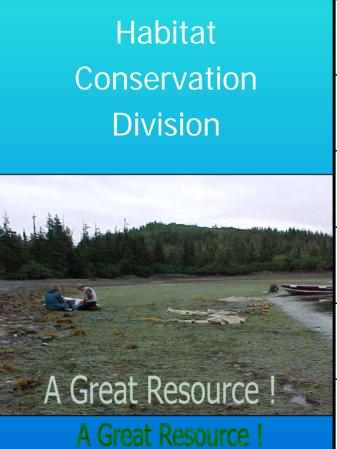
Essential Fish Habitat – EFH 101 & Updates



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EFH - Why Update?

Why was an update needed? A Requirement?

- American Oceans Campaign (AOC) vs Sec. of Commerce Daley (NOAA Fisheries) set in motion a national review of EFH information and re-evaluation of conservation measures to reduce adverse affects on EFH.
- NOAA Fisheries Alaska Region took a hard look at EFH and prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EFH EIS) to re-describe EFH and analyze impacts on EFH from both fishing and non-fishing activities.

Did EFH information change? Yes.

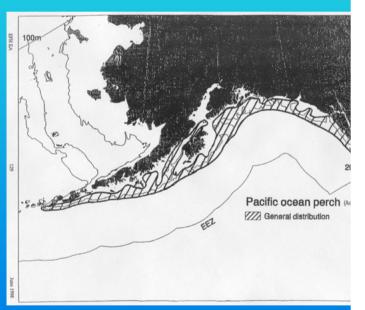
- EFH descriptions were refined.
- New HAPCs were identified through a new process to replace the original broad HAPCs.
- New measures were adopted to reduce the potential adverse effects of fishing on EFH.

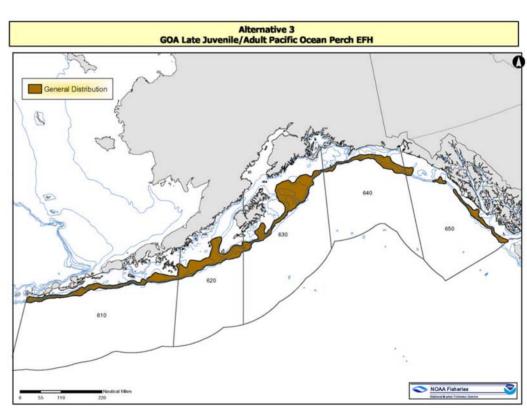
When was EFH information last updated?

On May 7, 2006, EFH descriptions and associated conservation measures are updated based on the April 2005 <u>Final Environmental Impact Statement for Essential Fish Habitat Identification</u> and Conservation in Alaska.

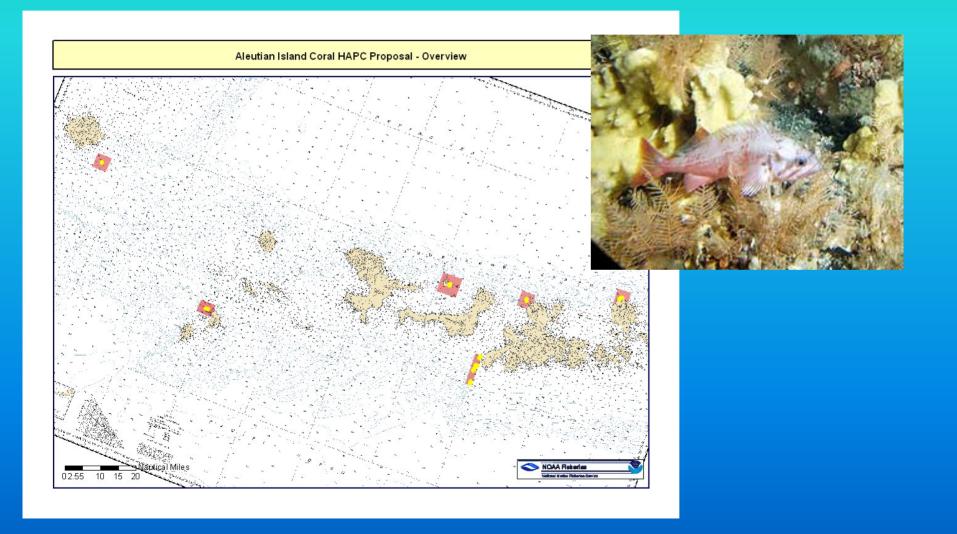


EFH Description Changes



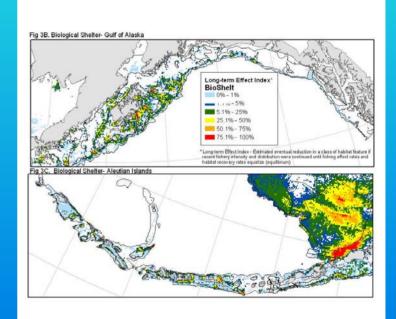


Habitat Area of Particular Concern - HAPC



Fishery Impact Analysis – Appendix B

- Fishery Impact Analysis on EFH assessed current fishing activities effects on EFH by each gear type and by each EFH species.
- Long term effects of fishing on habitat features. (LEI Index)
- Considerable uncertainty about the consequences for managed species.
- Effects on EFH are minimal because there is no indication that fishing alters the capacity of EFH to support healthy populations of managed species.
- Analysis has many limitations (new and developing model, limited quality of parameter estimates).



EFH Conservation Measures for Fishing Activities

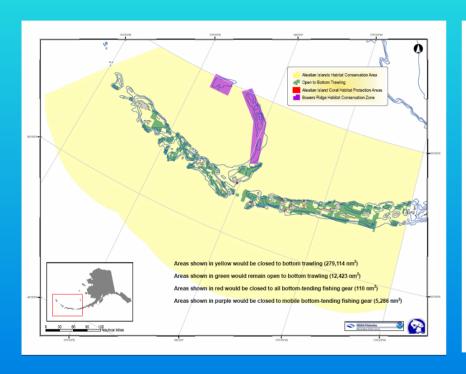
> EFH EIS concluded:

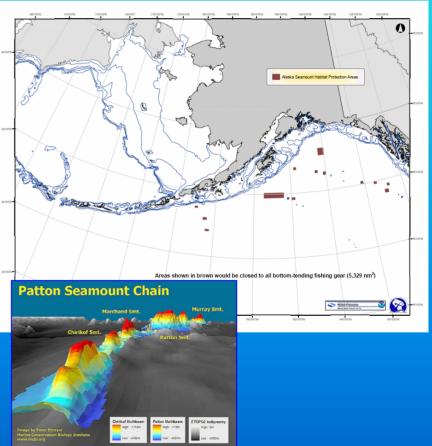
 No fishing activity is having more than a minimal effect on EFH and effects are not temporary in nature.

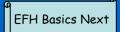
> Conservation Measures are:

- Based on analytical impacts assessment model.
- ➤ Diverse Span a wide range of EFH and geographic scale.
- > Pre-cautionary.

EFH Conservation Measures for Fishing Activities (continued)







EFH Basics – What is EFH?

How is Essential Fish Habitat authorized?

- The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.
 - ✓ NMFS has direct authority to regulate fishery actions and impacts.
 - ✓ NMFS Consultations on developmental activities are advisory and promote a structured discussion of any adverse effects to EFH.

What is the definition of Essential Fish Habitat?

▶ 'Essential Fish Habitat' means those waters and substrates necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding or growth to maturity.

How is EFH described?

FFH is described <u>using the best scientific information available</u> based on the general distribution of each species. EFH is identified with <u>text descriptions</u> and <u>delineated by maps</u> where sufficient information exists.

EFH Species

What species in Alaska have EFH identified?

- EFH is identified for only those species managed under a federal <u>Fishery Management Plan (FMP)</u>.
 - Bering Sea and Aleutian Island Groundfish Pacific Cod, Walleye pollock, etc
 - Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Pacific Cod, Sablefish, Rockfish spp.
 - Bering Sea and Aleutian Island King and Tanner Crab King & Tanner crab
 - > Alaska Scallops
 - Alaska Stocks of Pacific Salmon All Five Pacific Salmon Stocks



EFH Consultation

What triggers an EFH Consultation?

An EFH Consultation is triggered when a federal agency, or its designee, determines that an action to be authorized, funded, or undertaken by the agency may adversely affect EFH.

What does 'adversely affect' mean?

➤ An 'adverse effect' is any impact that reduces the quality and/or quantity of EFH.

What types of actions may affect EFH?

Actions (fill, dredge, etc...) associated with development projects such as port projects, roadways, airports, mining, oil & gas, etc..

EFH Consultation (continued)

What do federal agencies need to do?

- ➤ A federal action agency, or its official designee, must determine whether its actions may adversely affect EFH.
 - ➤ If the agency determines that an action may adversely affect EFH, the action agency must prepare an EFH Assessment.
 - ➤ If the action would not adversely affect EFH, then the agency should document this determination in its record. (No reason to contact NMFS)

What is in an EFH Assessment?

- ➤ An EFH Assessment is an objective review of the impact an action may have on fish and their habitat. An EFH Assessment includes:
 - a description of the action
 - an analysis of the potential adverse effects of the action on EFH and the managed species
 - the agency's conclusions regarding the effects of the action on EFH
 - and proposed mitigation, if applicable

EFH Consultation - How do we start?

When does EFH consultation begin?

➤ EFH consultation begins when a federal agency contacts NOAA Fisheries and requests review of an EFH Assessment.

Are there initial steps an action agency can take before contacting NOAA Fisheries? Yes.

- On-line information sources are available to assist federal agencies and the public.
 - ➤ <u>EFH Map Descriptions</u> depict the area of EFH for each life stage of fish managed under a Fishery Management Plan within the Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea, and Aleutian Islands.
 - > EFH Text Descriptions identify EFH for each life stage of managed fish species.
 - > Staff

Can EFH Assessments be combined with other federal consultations or environmental review processes? Yes.

➤ NOAA Fisheries strongly encourages such efforts to streamline the consultation process. I.e., <u>National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)</u>, <u>Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act</u>, <u>Clean Water Act</u>, <u>Endangered Species Act (ESA)</u>, and Federal Power Act.

EFH Consultation - What happens next?

After a federal agency consults, what must NOAA Fisheries do?

NOAA Fisheries will provide conservation recommendations to the action agency within 30 days of the proposed action, or within existing review procedures.

What is required of the federal action agency once it receives EFH conservation recommendations from NOAA Fisheries?

- Within 30 days after receiving a conservation recommendation from NOAA Fisheries, the federal agency is required to provide a detailed written response to NOAA Fisheries.
- This response must include a description of measures proposed for avoiding, mitigating, or offsetting the impact of the activity on EFH.
- > Explanation is necessary for not following any recommendation(s), including scientific justification for any disagreements.

Are federal agencies required to accept NOAA Fisheries conservation recommendation(s)? No.

➤ EFH recommendations are advisory and non-binding to the federal action agency.

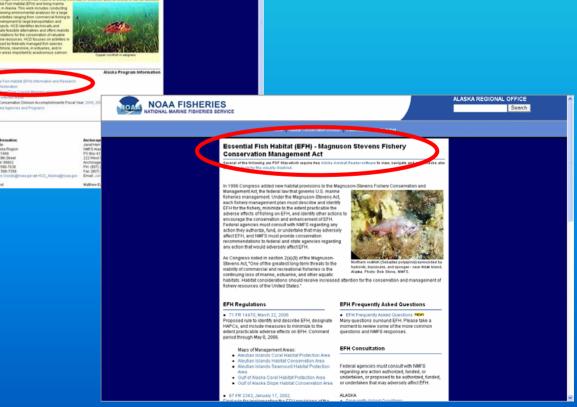
Why Consult? Or Why did we just go through all this?

- ✓ Highlights the requirement for Federal Action Agencies to comply with the MSA.
- ✓ Follows a regulatory process & fits within existing review procedures.
- ✓ Creates an open discussion of any effect(s) we, as a Public, may be have on EFH.
- ✓ Conserves and protects domestic & international commercial fish stocks and their habitats.



EFH - Navigate Our Website





EFH Main Web Page



ALASKA REGIONAL OFFICE

Search

Home | Habitat Conservation Division | Essential Fish Habitat

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) - Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation Management Act

Several of the following are PDF files which require free Adobe Acrobat Reader software to view, navigate and print. Adobe also offers free tools for the visually disabled.

In 1996 Congress added new habitat provisions to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and

Management Act, the federal law that governs U.S. marine fisheries management. Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, each fishery management plan must describe and identify EFH for the fishery, minimize to the extent practicable the adverse effects of fishing on EFH, and identify other actions to encourage the conservation and enhancement of EFH. Federal agencies must consult with NMFS regarding any action they authorize, fund, or undertake that may adversely affect EFH, and NMFS must provide conservation recommendations to federal and state agencies regarding any action that would adversely affect EFH.

As Congress noted in section 2(a)(9) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, "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 increase



Northern rockfish (Sebastes polyspinis) surrounded by hydroids, bryozoans, and sponges - near Adak Island, Alaska. Photo: Bob Stone, NMFS.

habitats. Habitat considerations should receive increased attention for the conservation and management of fishery resources of the United States."

EFH Regulations

71 FR 14470, March 22, 2006

Proposed rule to identify and describe EFH, designate HAPCs, and include measures to minimize to the extent practicable adverse effects on EFH. Comment period through May 8, 2006.

Maps of Management Areas:

- Aleutian Islands Coral Habitat Protection Area
- · Aleutian Islands Habitat Conservation Area
- Aleutian Islands Seamount Habitat Protection
 Area
- Gulf of Alaska Coral Habitat Protection Area
- · Gulf of Alaska Slope Habitat Conservation Area

• 67 FR 2343, January 17, 2002.

inal rule for implementing the FFI I provisions of

EFH Frequently Asked Questions

EFH Frequently Asked Questions NEW!

Many questions surround EFH. Please take a moment to review some of the more common questions and NMFS responses.

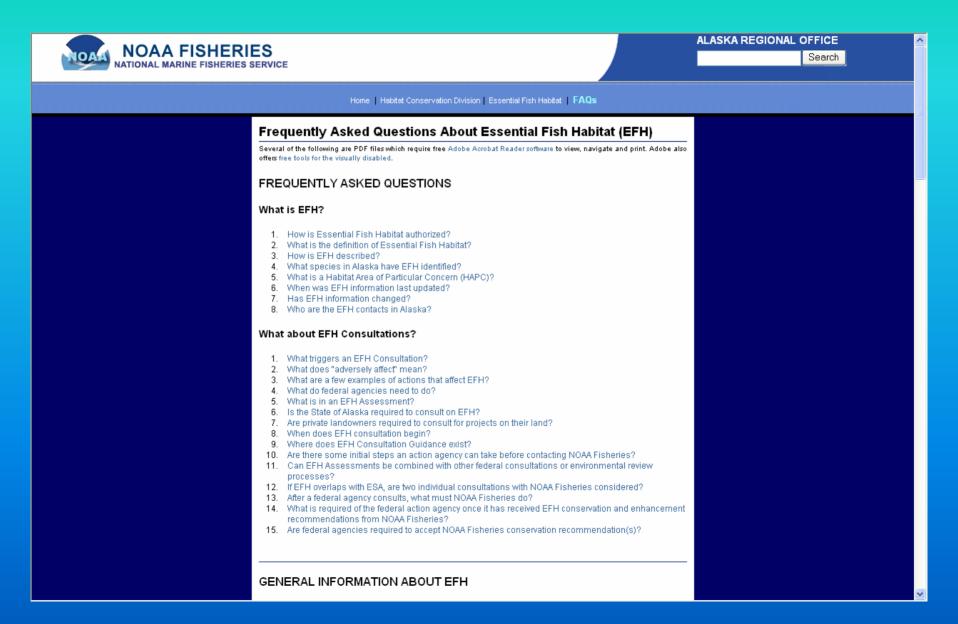
EFH Consultation

Federal agencies must consult with NMFS regarding any action authorized, funded, or undertaken, or proposed to be authorized, funded, or undertaken that may adversely affect EFH.

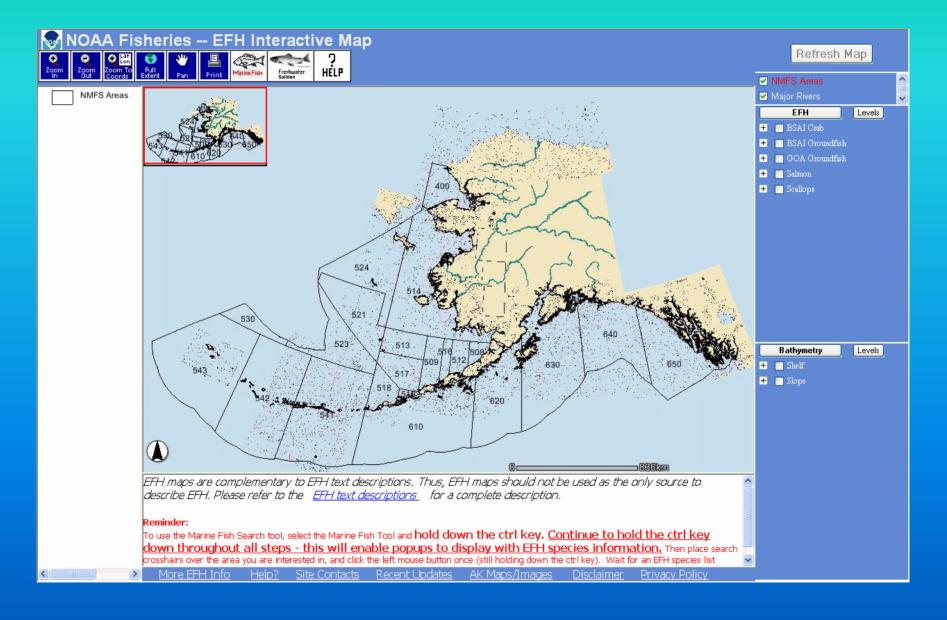
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EFH Information – FAQ's



EFH Web-Map Interface



EFH Tutorial

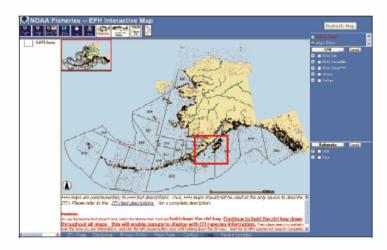
Marine EFH Search Tutorial

EFH Species Search Steps

 Locate the tool bar at the top of the EFH map interface window and click the Zoom-In tool button (see below).



Select the area you are interested in on the map by using the Zoom-In tool to create-a-box around the area. To do so, hold down the right mouse key and drag a square or rectangle (see image below). Then release the mouse button.

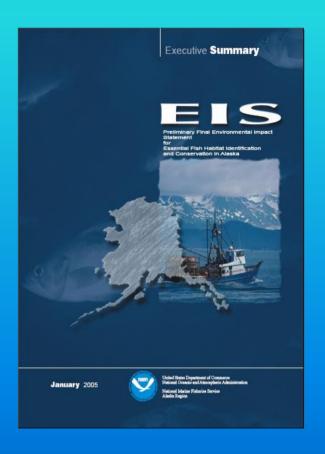


EFH Information - Environmental Impact Statement

- EFH Text Descriptions [Appendix D]
- EFH Map Descriptions [Appendix D]
- HAPC [Appendix J]

http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/habitat/seis/efheis.htm







EFH Information

Appendix D – EFH Text Descriptions

Appendix J – HAPC

Appendix D EFH Text and Map Descriptions for Federally Managed Species of the Alaska Region

Prepared by

National Marine Fisheries Service

April 2005



Appendix J Proposed HAPC Identification Process

Prepared by

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

April 2005



EFH Information - Fish & Science



http://access.afsc.noaa.gov/reem/LHWeb/index.cfm

Appendix F Essential Fish Habitat Assessment Reports

Prepared by

National Marine Fisheries Service

April 2005

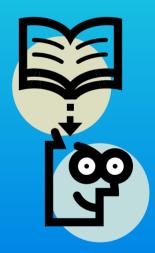
EFH Consultation Guidance

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT CONSULTATION GUIDANCE

Version 1.1

April 2004

National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Habitat Conservation Silver Spring, Maryland



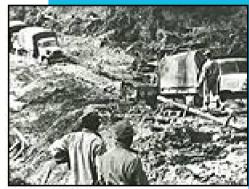
EFH Information – Appendix G Non-Fishing Activities

Recommended EFH Conservation Measures - Road Building and Maintenance

- 1. To the extent practicable, avoid locating roads near fish-bearing streams. Roads should be sited to avoid sensitive areas such as streams, wetlands, and steep slopes.
- 2. Incorporate appropriate erosion control and stabilization measures into road construction plans to reduce erosion potential.
- 3. Build bridges when possible. If culverts are to be used, they should be sized, constructed, and maintained to match the gradient and width of the stream, so as to accommodate design flood flows, and they should be large enough to provide for migratory passage of adult and juvenile fishes. If appropriate, consider using the culvert guidelines contained in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Fish Pass Memorandum of Agreement, August, 2001

(http://www.sf.adq.state.ak.us/SARR/fishpassage/pdfs/dot_adfq_fishpass080301.pdf).

- 4. Locate stream crossings in stable stream reaches.
- 5. Design bridge abutments to minimize disturbances to stream banks and place abutments outside of the floodplain whenever possible.
- 6. To the extent practicable, avoid road construction across alluvial floodplains, mass wastage areas, or braided stream bottom lands unless site-specific protection can be implemented to ensure protection of soils, water, and associated resources.
- 7. Avoid side-casting of road construction and maintenance materials on native surfaces and into streams.
- 8. To the extent practicable, use native vegetation in stabilization plantings.
- 9. Ensure that maintenance operations avoid adverse affects to EFH.



YUKON ARCHIVES

NMFS EFH Correspondence

NOAA FISHERII NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES S		ALASKA REGIONAL OFFICE Search
	Home Habitat Conservation Division EFH Habitat EFH Consultations	
	EFH Consultation and Related Correspondence Correspondence from August 2002 to Present	
	Several of the following are PDF files which require free Adobe Acrobat Reader software to view, navigate and print. Adobe also offers free tools for the visually disabled.	
	Search Habitat Correspondence:	
	A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z A	
	ADOT&PF Mitigation Letter AEFH Mitigation Memorandum to Bill Ballard AK DEC Sonafrank letter Residue Review AK DNR request for review of AK Coastal Management Program AK Marine Conservation Council Abbott Loop Road to East 48th Ave Project EFH Acute and Chronic Taxicity of Hydrocarbons in Alaska Airport Improvement Projects Involving Wetlands Akutan Small Boat Harbor Final EIS Alaska Water Quality Standards Alaska Water Quality Standards Alaska Water Quality Standards Proposed Revisions Aleknagik Wood River Bridge EFH Aleutian Island portion of Alternative 5B EFH/EIS modification Aleutian Islands Alternative 5b EFH EIS Allison Lake Hydroelectric Project Motion to Intervene Allison Lake Motion to Intervene Alpine Corps Permit POA 2005-1576 Alpine Satellite Development Plan DEIS 0401-02 Alternative Permit Processing Procedure Special Public Notice Amalga Harbor Relocation of Dredge Spoil Site Anchor River Diversion and Bridge Anchorage Marine Terminal Redevelopment EA Anchorage Marine Terminal Redevelopment Environmental Assessment Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility DEA Angoon Hydroelectric Project Scoping Aniak Airport Master Plan State Project Aquatic Farm Application Notices Atka Alaska Proposed Bulk Fuel Upgrade Project Auk Bay POA 2005-1144-1	V

EFH Information - Websites

- EFH Information
 - http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/habitat/efh.htm



- EFH Web Mapping Interface
 - http://akr-mapping.fakr.noaa.gov/Website/EFH/viewer.htm?simple

All EFH Links Avaliable through FAKR Website

http://www.fakr.noaa.gov

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