Essential Fish Habitat project status report

Reporting date:

Project number: 2006-5 & 2007-2

Title: Habitat effects on growth and condition of northern rock sole

PIs: Hurst, Abookire, Heintz, & Short

Funding year: 2006 & 2007

Funding amount: $17,652 FY06; $28,865 FY07

Status: ☒ Complete ☐ Incomplete, on schedule ☐ Incomplete, behind schedule

Planned completion date if incomplete:

Reporting: Have the project results been reported? If yes, state where the results were reported and attach an electronic copy of the report.

The results of this work are reported in a manuscript submitted to Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences. The manuscript received positive reviews and will be accepted pending final minor revisions.

An electronic copy of the MS is attached. A final version of the manuscript will also be sent when accepted.

Results: What is the most important result of the study?

The most important results of the work are that the growth rates at our three focus study sites have maintained their rank order over the 3+ sampling seasons to date. Holiday Beach has consistently supported faster growing age-0 rock sole than Pillar Creek Cove and Shakmanof Beach. While growth variation is correlated with temperature variation, it is not the primary driver of growth variation in this system. Growth rates were not correlated with fish density. In addition, analyses indicate that size and time of settlement may be significant contributors to size variation.