

Please review these suggested edits to the Draft Arctic and Western Area Contingency Plan (December 2022, Version 2022.2) from the Alaska Regional NOAA Fisheries Habitat Conservation Division. These comments are similar to those made for the Prince William Sound Area Contingency Plan back in April of 2022. If you have any questions please contact seanbob.kelly@noaa.gov.

1. Information Sources, revise to include the following:

U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service	Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), federal fisheries, Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC)	Habitat Conservation Division Anchorage 907-586-7824 or 907-271-6354
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2. Relevant Statute/Regulations/Authorities please include the following:

NMFS Alaska Region	https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/about/alaska-regional-office
Essential Fish Habitat, Info & Maps	https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/habitat-conservation/essential-fish-habitat-efh-alaska
Marine Mammal Info	https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/alaska#protected-marine-life

3. Habitat Types, Essential Fish Habitat please include the following information and web links:

Descriptions

EFH text descriptions are the legal definition for EFH and serve as the "basis" for effect determinations. EFH text describes the physical and biological environment and the location of EFH for each species by life history stage, if known. Species profiles for the Arctic and Western region and habitat assessment reports within the Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) provide information about each species, including any known habitat associations, reproductive traits, predator prey relationships, and species-specific literature citations.

Arctic Fisheries

North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC). 2018. Fishery Management plan for fishery resources of the Arctic management area. Anchorage, Alaska, North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

<https://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/uploads/ArcticFMP-1.pdf>

Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Groundfish FMP

North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC). 2020. Fishery management plan for groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area. Anchorage, Alaska, North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

<https://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/uploads/BSAIfmpAppendix.pdf>

Crab FMP

North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC). 2021. Fishery management plan for Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands king and Tanner crabs. Anchorage, Alaska, North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

<https://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDFdocuments/fmp/CrabFMP.pdf>

Pacific Salmon FMP

North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC). 2021. Fishery management plan for the salmon fisheries in the EEZ off Alaska. Anchorage, Alaska, North Pacific Fishery Management Council. <https://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDFdocuments/fmp/Salmon/SalmonFMP.pdf>

For additional information refer to the [Assessment of Essential Fish Habitat for the Alaska Federal/State Preparedness Plan for Response to Oil & Hazardous Substance Discharge/Releases, Unified Plan, 2014.](#)

URL: https://alaskarrt.org/PublicFiles/Assessment_EFH_forAlaskaUnifiedPlan_2014.pdf