

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT WORKSHEET

Objectives

Objectives of the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Worksheet are to determine whether or not:

- A proposed action may adversely affect designated EFH within the proposed action area;
- EFH Consultation is needed with NOAA Fisheries as required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA).

Definitions

Essential Fish Habitat

EFH is defined as the waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding or growth to maturity. Regulations for implementing the MSFCMA are at 50 CFR 600.905 - 930.

Adverse Effect

An 'adverse effect' is any impact that reduces the quality and/or quantity of EFH. Adverse effects may include direct or indirect physical, chemical, or biological alterations of the waters or substrate and loss of, or injury to, benthic organisms, prey species and their habitat, and other ecosystem components, if such modifications reduce the quality and/or quantity of EFH. Adverse effects to EFH may result from actions occurring within EFH or outside of EFH and may include site-specific or habitat-wide impacts, including individual, cumulative, or synergistic consequences of actions.

Application of Adverse Effect Definition

While the adverse effect definition appears to offer a broad application, the intent is to consult with NMFS for only those actions that would remove, disturb, impede, or eliminate habitats necessary for fish. The following table serves to provide a few examples (however, not limited to) of adverse effect.

Action	Adverse Effect
Fish Passage Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In-water work occurs when sensitive fish life history stages are present or blocks passage of adult fish.• Fish habitats de-watered by activity, as to affect fish eggs entrained in spawning gravels.• Improperly designed and mal-aligned fish passage.
Streambank Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In-water work occurs when sensitive fish life history stages are present or blocks passage of adult fish.• Vegetation used for stabilization is non-native and considered invasive.
Marine Debris Removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In-water work removes marine vegetation (rockweed, laminaria, eelgrass).• In-water work occurs when sensitive fish life history stages are present.

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Title		RCBD #
Project Location		
Project Contact	Phone	E-mail Address
Brief Project Description		

II. EFH SPECIES LIST AND ESSENTIAL FISH HABITATS

Identify the fish species, waterbody, and habitat type in the table below. [Source: Essential Fish Habitat at www.fakr.noaa.gov/efh]

SPECIES	WATERBODY:		
	Marine	Estuarine	Anadromous

III. POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF PROPOSED ACTION ON EFH

Is the project likely to result in any of the potential adverse effects (impacts that reduce quality and/or quantity of EFH) listed below?

Yes No

- Contamination
- Physical disruption
- Stream diversion
- Indirect impacts (lost of prey, reduction in species fecundity)
- Site-specific or habitat-wide impacts, including individual, cumulative, or synergistic consequences of actions

Other:

Comments:

IV. CONSERVATION MEASURES PROPOSED TO AVOID, MINIMIZE, OR REDUCE POTENTIAL ADVERSE IMPACTS ON EFH

- Use of Best Management Practices
 - Minimize in-water construction work
 - Use silt fences or silt curtains, when appropriate
 - Re-vegetate disturbed streambank and shoreline habitat with native vegetation, includes protective measures
 - Conduct in-water work during a timing window to avoid impacts to migrating fish and when sensitive life stages are absent.
 - Keep all construction staging, fueling, and servicing operations a minimum of 100 feet from waterbodies identified as EFH.
 - Use contaminant and invasive free embankment and surface materials.
 - Other:

V. EFH DETERMINATION AND CONSULTATION

- The project will **not** adversely affect on EFH.
NO FURTHER EFH CONSULTATION WITH NMFS REQUIRED.

- The project may **adversely** effect on EFH.
CONSULTATION WITH NMFS IS REQUIRED¹.
REFER TO 50 CFR 600.920 9(e) FOR CONSULTATIONS REQUIREMENTS AND MANDATORY CONTENTS OF AN EFH ASSESSMENT.
 - A copy of this form was provided to NMFS Dated:

NOAA Representative Date

¹ The EFH Worksheet does not serve an EFH Assessment.