

shallow waters, living substrates in deep waters, and freshwater areas used by anadromous fish. Under Alternative 3, HAPC designations would be constrained to explicit geographically defined sites or locations, such as a particular seamount. Under Alternative 4, habitat types would be selected based on the HAPC considerations in the regulations, and HAPC sites would then be selected within the habitat types. Under Alternative 5, HAPC areas would

be identified for individual FMP species based on the productivity of the habitat.

The timeline for completing the EFH EIS has been revised since the scoping meetings held in 2001. The current schedule is as follows: Council review of preliminary draft EIS from September 15 - October 14, 2003; Draft EIS published for public comments by January 16, 2004; public comment period on draft EIS no later than January 16 - April 15, 2004; Final EIS published by June 1, 2005; Record of Decision by

August 14, 2005; any resulting FMP amendments and final regulations by August 13, 2006; concurrent HAPC process with any implementing regulations by August 13, 2006.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et. seq.*

Dated: August 14, 2003.

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[FR Doc. 03-21366 Filed 8-19-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S