



# DEIS UPDATE

Environmental Impact Statement  
for  
Essential Fish Habitat Identification and Conservation  
in Alaska

## Update on Progress on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council have completed a preliminary DEIS for Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) in Alaska. The preliminary DEIS evaluates three actions: (1) describe and identify EFH, (2) adopt an approach to identify habitat areas of particular concern (HAPCs), and (3) minimize adverse effects of fishing on EFH. The document is available on the web at [www.fakr.noaa.gov/habitat/seis/efheis.htm](http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/habitat/seis/efheis.htm).

The Council reviewed the alternatives for each action and selected preliminary preferred alternatives on October 12, 2003. A copy of the Council's EFH motion can be found on the web at [www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/Committees/EFH/1003EFH.pdf](http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/Committees/EFH/1003EFH.pdf).

NMFS and the Council will revise the EIS to incorporate the preferred alternatives, and the DEIS will be available for public comment by **January 16, 2004**.

## HAPC Call for Proposals

The Council will accept proposals for HAPC designation between November 1, 2003, and January 10, 2004. The Council identified the following two priorities for HAPCs: (1) seamounts in the EEZ, named on NOAA charts, that provide important habitat for managed species; and (2) largely undisturbed, high-relief, long-lived, hard coral beds, with particular emphasis on those located in the Aleutian Islands, which provide habitat for life stages of rockfish or other important managed species. Further information can be found at [www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/HAPC/10\\_03HAPC.pdf](http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/HAPC/10_03HAPC.pdf).

## To Request a Copy of the EFH DEIS

You are currently on the mailing list to receive the complete EFH DEIS. NMFS wants to provide the EFH DEIS to all interested parties in a desired format, while avoiding unnecessary costs. If you want to receive a copy of the EFH DEIS, please fill out the form below and return it to **NMFS by November 30, 2003**. Please refold the newsletter with the NMFS address displayed, then tape and mail it. You can also email the information to [AK.EFHEIS@noaa.gov](mailto:AK.EFHEIS@noaa.gov), or fill out the form on the web at [www.fakr.noaa.gov/habitat/seis](http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/habitat/seis). . . .Thanks for your help and your interest in EFH.

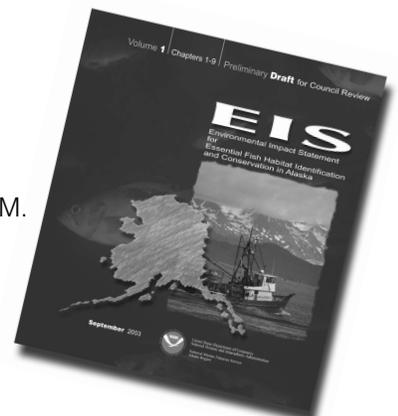
- Please remove my name from your EFH distribution list.
- Please keep my name on your EFH distribution list:
  - I would like to receive a CD-ROM of the DEIS.
  - I would like to receive a printed copy of the DEIS.
  - I would like to receive both a printed copy of the DEIS and a CD-ROM.
  - I would like to receive a printed copy of the Executive Summary and a CD-ROM.

Please use the following mailing address:

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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NOAA / National Marine Fisheries Service  
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**Response Card Inside:**

Environmental Impact Statement for  
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**RESPONSE CARD:**

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