**Geographic Data Related to Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat, May 11, 2019 and November 19, 2019**

These data were developed to support implementation of NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service’s Final Rules to implement Amendment 19 and Amendment 28 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The Amendment 19 final rule (71 FR 27408, May 11, 2006, effective June 12, 2006) made changes to designated groundfish EFH, designated habitat areas of particular concern (HAPCs) and implemented conservation measures in the form of gear configuration restrictions and gear-specific closed areas. The Amendment 28 final rule (November 19, 2019, effective January 1, 2020) made changes to essential fish habitat (EFH) conservation areas (the gear-specific closed areas designed for protecting EFH), among other provisions. Amendment 28 did not change designated EFH or designated habitat areas of particular concern. The complete EFH-related data set includes information based on both of these final rules to give an updated and comprehensive look at EFH, through November 19, 2019. Note that no 2006 geo-spatial data for designated EFH or HAPCs are updated from what was published by NMFS in 2006. Any discrepancies should be discussed with NMFS staff.

Coordinates outlining boundaries EFH and EFH conservation areas are extracted from regulations (660.75-660.79) in the final rules, and converted to various formats to facilitate access and use by the public. The coordinate files and Geographic Information System (GIS) files were developed with the utmost care. However, they are not legal boundaries and any discrepancies between these files and the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*.

The data are provided in two formats:

(1) CSV format: A comma-delimited ASCII text format which includes the name of the area and the coordinate in decimal degrees and degrees minutes formats. If you have Microsoft Excel, you can double-click this file to open it in Excel, and then save as a spreadsheet format if desired.

(2) Shapefiles: for use with GIS software, such as ESRI’s ArcView and ArcInfo or other software that can import this proprietary format. Shapefiles of the point coordinates only, as well as closed polygons are provided. Note that additional data, specifically the Exclusive Economic Zone boundary, the shoreline, and the state water boundary, were required to complete some of polygons, and are not necessarily the current official legal boundary.

These files can be downloaded from our website at:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/map/groundfish-essential-fish-habitat-data-and-maps>

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