



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration

National Marine Fisheries Service

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April 11, 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR: Douglas P. DeMaster, Ph.D.
Director, Alaska Fisheries Science Center

Jeremy Rusin
Deputy Director for Science and Research,
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FROM: James W. Balsiger, Ph.D.
Administrator, Alaska Region

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Robert D. Mecum
Deputy Administrator, Alaska Region

SUBJECT: Essential Fish Habitat Spending Plan for FY 2018

This memorandum confirms the division of fiscal year 2018 (FY 2018) Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) funds between the Alaska Region (Region) and the Alaska Fisheries Science Center (Center). Region's Habitat Conservation Division (HCD) and the Center's Habitat and Ecological Processes Research Program (HEPR) collaboratively develop the annual EFH spending plan to address EFH management priorities and science needs. Importantly, we have developed a process unique to the Alaska Region.

For FY 2018, the Region will direct \$300,000 to the Center for EFH research and the Center will add \$95,000 to this effort. Thus, a total of \$395,000 will fund the top five highly ranked EFH Research Projects (Tables 1 & 2, in bold) and partially fund Hurst et al. Additionally, HCD has requested funding from the Office of Habitat Conservation (OHC) to fully-fund the Yeung et al. proposal.

Table 1. FY 2018 Multi-year Commitments for Continued EFH Research.

Table with 7 columns: PI's, Title, Management Prioritization, Scientific Score, Scientific Rank, Amount, Running Total. It lists three research projects with their respective funding amounts and priorities.



Table 2. FY 2018 Single Year EFH Research Proposals. Project selected for funding in **bold**.

PI's	Title	Management Prioritization	Scientific Score	Scientific Rank	Amount	Running Total
Lindeberg, Pirtle, Neff	A unified nearshore catch database to refine juvenile EFH models and maps for Alaska	4	4.33	2	75,000	\$268,031
Kastelle, Helser, Litzow, Laurel	Is nearshore habitat essential to overwintering YOY Pacific cod?	5	4.31	4	87,529	355,560
Yeung, Copeman, Matta, Rooper, Yang	Spatial variation in early juvenile flatfish growth and condition in relation to thermal phases in the eastern Bering Sea shelf	6	4.25	5	88,318 OHC Funded	443,878
Pirtle, Marsh, Rooper, Simpson	Model-based essential fish habitat descriptions for Arctic cod, saffron cod and snow crab in the Arctic	7	4.05	6	97,600	541,478
Hurst, Copeman	Age effects on thermal habitat requirements on commercial flatfishes	8	4.00	7	70,450	611,928
Maselko, Andrews	Spatio-temporal dynamics of Pacific Ocean perch across EFH habitat in the Gulf of Alaska	9	3.40	8	122,560	734,448
Hoff, Goddard, Wilborn, Rooper, Heintz	Essential fish habitat for eastern Bering Sea fish species: Raising species to Level 3 Distribution map of essential reproductive habitat for Atka mackerel in the Aleutian Islands	10	3.40	9	95,691	830,179
McDermott, Bryan	Distribution map of essential reproductive habitat for Atka mackerel in the Aleutian Islands	11	3.25	10	60,990	891,079
McDermott, Rooper, Bryan	Arctic lagoons as essential production hotspots to support nearshore food webs	11	3.20	11	104,800	995,879
Vollenweider	Arctic lagoons as essential production hotspots to support nearshore food webs	12	3.13	12	67,000	1,062,879
Limpinsel, McConnaughey	Developing a strategy to strengthen our understanding of the role and importance of nearshore fish nurseries in the Southeast Bering Sea and Bristol Bay	13	2.75	13	\$35,010	1,097,889

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