

Essential Fish Habitat Designations

1. Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Designations:

Should an operator detect adverse impacts to EFH, EPA must be notified. Consultation between EPA and NOAA Fisheries Habitat and Ecosystem Services Division and/or an individual permit may be necessary. Sites located in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, as well as Indian country in Connecticut, Rhode Island and only Federal facilities in Vermont, must review information on Essential Fish Habitat Designations in the Northeastern United States, available at the NOAA Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office website,¹ as a quick method of ascertaining what species and life stages have EFH designation in a given geographic area. The website is linked to specific EFH information presented in map form. The direct link to the EFH Mapper information is found online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/map/essential-fish-habitat-mapper>.

Should adverse impacts to EFH be detected as a result of this permit action, or if new information is received that changes the basis for EPA's conclusions, NOAA Fisheries Habitat and Ecosystem Services Division will be contacted and an EFH consultation will be reinitiated.

¹ Currently available at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/habitat-conservation/essential-fish-habitat>