



Texas Department of Transportation

Environmental Affairs Division

Standards of Uniformity Template for Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Assessment Technical Reports

The Technical Report for assessing EFH decisions shall be prepared using this template. All field notes, photographs, and other data/documents produced in support of completing the EFH report shall be included as attachments and the final report maintained in the project file.

EFH assessment reports do not have to be submitted to National Marine Fishery Service (NMFS) and consultation does not need to occur if it is our decision that the project will not adversely affect EFH. In those cases this report may be used to document that decision. If the action may adversely affect EFH, then this report may be submitted to NMFS and the abbreviated consultation process outlined at 50 CFR § 600.920(h) should proceed.



Essential Fish Habitat Assessment
Project Name and CSJ

Date

Texas Department of Transportation
District Name
Address



Essential Fish Habitat Assessment for *Project Name*

This Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Assessment is prepared pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and contains the minimum elements for assessment delineated at 50 CFR § 600.920 (e)(3).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Provide a detailed description of the project, project location, anticipated start/completion dates, construction/demolition process, in-water work activities, and reference any attachments (i.e. site photographs, reference maps, project location maps and project plan/profile sheets).

PROJECT SETTING AND EFH DESCRIPTION

Provide the results of on-site inspections. Describe the project location by name (bay system, other...) and the physical relation to designated EFH. Provide a description of the waters adjacent to the project including substrate characteristics, tidal influence, average depth, etc.

EFFECTS OF THE ACTION

Provide a descriptive analysis of the potential effects of the action on EFH and managed species. Describe any proposed mitigation measures and detailed descriptions of any project elements designed to avoid or minimize impacts.

CONCLUSION

Provide a determination that the project: 1) will not adversely affect EFH; or 2) may adversely affect EFH. Note: Projects that may result in substantial adverse effects to EFH must be coordinated through the expanded consultation procedures. Alternatives to avoid or minimize impacts to EFH (i.e. construction or demolition methods, alignments, etc.) must be considered and described in the report. ENV should be notified for assistance.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION *(This section is optional)*

Provide the views of recognized experts on the habitat or species. Provide summaries for reviews of pertinent literature.

ATTACHMENTS