



**U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers**

**Galveston District
Southwestern Division**

**Houston Ship Channel Expansion Channel
Improvement Project, Harris, Chambers,
and Galveston Counties, Texas**

**Draft Integrated Feasibility Report–Environmental
Impact Statement**

APPENDIX L

**DRAFT ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT
ASSESSMENT**

AUGUST 2017

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DRAFT ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT ASSESSMENT

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The Draft Essential Fish Habitat Assessment (EFH) will be developed after the release of this Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement (DIFR-EIS) during the next planning phase, when a specific dredged material management plan (DMMP) for the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) is developed. Refinements to the TSP during the next planning phase will affect the final size and extent of the channel modifications, and therefore will affect the final quantities of oyster reef and bay bottom benthic habitat which are identified as EFH to be documented in the EFH Assessment. Also, impacts and benefits of the DMMP may affect the quantity of EFH impacted. Therefore, the EFH Assessment will be prepared after the specific DMMP for the TSP is developed. Consultation with NMFS will be initiated with the release of the DIFR-EIS and receipt of any comments regarding EFH impacts. It is anticipated a separate EFH Assessment containing all the elements required in the EFH Final Rules for an assessment will be required for this project, and coordinated with NMFS following development of the DMMP for the TSP.