

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON
CONSULTATION PROCEDURES FOR FISHERY REGULATION IN
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES

The Habitat Committee (HC) has not developed specific comments on the draft flowchart, noting that other Council members, committees and staff are already engaged in that activity. That having been said, the HC supports the preliminary comments compiled by Council staff. In particular, the HC supports expansion of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA) comment period to 180 days or more so that the HC, and the public, can contribute fully to Council deliberations.

It is interesting to note that interactions between Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and NMSA authorities will continue to evolve given that both are committed to implementing ecosystem-based fishery management. It is also noted that MSA reauthorization may further influence the process through which fishing regulations in NMSs are considered.

The HC would appreciate further opportunity to consider this, or subsequent, drafts of this flowchart to better determine avenues.

PFMC
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