

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON
FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA PLANNING

The Habitat Committee (HC) has two comments regarding the November meeting.

1. Suggestion to schedule evening meeting

The HC has become aware of work the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) has done to make the extensive information developed during the Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Environmental Impact Statement process available to the public. Among other things, PSMFC has developed an interactive website that allows managers, fishermen and others to perform customized queries of EFH data, to map areas of interest, and to conduct analyses without need for Geographic Information System expertise or software. The project is funded by National Marine Fisheries Service. The HC suggests that the Council schedule an evening presentation to allow Council members, advisory groups, and interested public to learn about the information available on this site and the use of this tool. The site, whose functionality is still being enhanced, should be completed by November. It can be previewed at: http://marinehabitat.psmfc.org/interactive_maps.html. A presentation at the March or April meeting could be arranged.

2. Support for ecosystem presentation

The HC supports scheduling the proposed special session regarding oceanographic factors and groundfish recruitment trends. A short summary of that topic appears in Agenda Item B.1.a, Attachment 3. The HC believes this presentation will have relevance for future discussions regarding ecosystem based management.

PFMC
09/11/06