

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON UPDATED RESEARCH AND DATA NEEDS

The Habitat Committee (HC) reviewed the draft Research and Data Needs document and has the following proposed edits:

- In the introduction (page 1), the document should reference the National Marine Sanctuary Program (which is a part of NOAA) and the academic community as potential partners in research implementation. We recommend that the Council use this document to work with the sanctuary program to identify common research objectives. We will need support and collaboration from all our partners (other Federal and Non-Federal entities) to meet these research and data needs.
- On pages 4, in the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) section, the second bullet beginning, “Map benthic habitat...” should be modified to state, “Map benthic habitats within Federal and State waters...” to reflect the need for appropriate mapping in both areas.
- On page 9 under Section 3, the HC suggests the topic sentence (in bold) be modified from, “3. Encourage development of probabilistic habitat-based models that incorporate environmental variation to establish harvest policies and enable risk assessment for fishing strategies.” to say, “3. Encourage development of probabilistic habitat-based models that incorporate environmental variation and anthropogenic disturbances to establish harvest policies and enable risk assessment for fishing strategies.”
- Under salmon FMP, “limiting factors” section (Page 11, first full paragraph), there is no mention of dams in the list of limiting factors. Dams should be added.
- Support the ecosystem section as outlining priorities that are necessary foundational steps towards a longer-term objective of ecosystem management. On page 34, Section 7.1, in the last sentence beginning “to begin moving toward these objectives...” add the phrase “and explicitly incorporating habitat and climatic factors in our fishery management models...” after the word “objectives.”
- On page 35, we suggest adding a section (changing the current Section 7.1.3 to 7.1.4) that reads, “3. Encourage development of probabilistic ecosystem-based models that incorporate environmental variation and anthropogenic disturbances to establish harvest policies and enable risk assessment for fishing strategies.”