

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON
REVIEW AND PLANNING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW REQUIREMENTS
RESULTING FROM REAUTHORIZATION OF THE MAGNUSON-STEVENSON ACT

The Habitat Committee (HC) notes that the following section of the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act provides new language regarding resources available for the development of ecosystem based fishery management plans:

SEC 406 Fisheries System Research

(2) AGENCY TECHNICAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE, REGIONAL PILOT PROGRAMS.—The Secretary is authorized to provide necessary technical advice and assistance, *including grants*, to the Councils for the development and design of regional pilot programs that build upon the recommendations of the [NMFS Ecosystem Principles Advisory] Panel...

The HC recommends that the Council, in its efforts to move forward with ecosystem-based fishery management (EBFM) planning, investigate opportunities to secure such grants and technical advice. Such resources would be a major asset if a planning team is established.

Given that other regional councils have already made progress toward EBFM planning using prior grants for pilot studies, these Councils may be better positioned to seek such funding. Therefore, a prompt inquiry into the availability of these funds may help secure such assistance.

PFMC
03/06/07