

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON
OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY “CONDITION REPORT”

The Habitat Committee (HC) reviewed the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary’s (OCNMS) condition report. Although the report was distributed too late to provide meaningful review, sharing this document with the Council at this early point in the OCNMS management plan review process is beneficial. Such early communication bodes well for future collaboration between the OCNMS and the Council. The HC acknowledges the benefits of completing this report as a lead-in to establishing baselines and for the management plan review process, and appreciates that the OCNMS is the first sanctuary to use the condition report as a starting point for the management plan review process.

Due in part to the short review time, the HC is uncertain whether the discussions in the report are detailed enough to support the conclusions provided. The HC believes the final document will be of great interest to the Council. The HC believes the Council should strive to engage in the sanctuary’s management plan review process, and to do so, both agencies must understand each other’s timelines in order to improve coordination. The HC would be willing to assist with further review and comment on the condition document, but we are not sure if that is a feasible option given the short timeline. We reiterate that there is a need to improve coordination between the National Ocean Service, NMFS, and the Council, such as improving synchronization of schedules.

PFMC
04/08/08