

CURRENT HABITAT ISSUES

The Habitat Committee (HC) will meet on Friday and Saturday, October 30 and 31. In September, the Council requested that the HC prepare a letter to the Bureau of Forestry, citing concerns about relaxation of harvest practices, for Council review at this meeting; that letter is Attachment 1 to this agenda item.

In addition, in September the Council discussed sending a letter to the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), encouraging BOR to reply to NMFS' essential fish habitat recommendations for BOR's Central Valley Project and State Water Project. The Council chose to wait until November to determine whether BOR had replied to NMFS' recommendations, and whether a letter was warranted. As of October 14, the BOR has not responded to NMFS. A draft letter to BOR is Attachment 2 to this agenda item.

At this meeting, the HC heard reports on the Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program and the Deep Sea Coral Partnership, and discussed salmon essential fish habitat and overfishing issues; the California Central Valley Biological Opinion; ecosystem-based management; and the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.

Council Action:

Consider comments and recommendations developed by the HC at its October 2009 meeting.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.1.a, Attachment 1: draft letter to the California Board of Forestry on measures to protect salmonids.
2. Agenda Item E.1.a, Attachment 2: draft letter to the Bureau of Reclamation on the Central Valley Biological Opinion.
3. Agenda Item E.1.b, Supplemental HC Report.
4. Agenda Item E.1.d, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Report of the Habitat Committee
- c. Reports and Comments of Agencies and Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Consider Habitat Committee Recommendations

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PFMC
10/16/09