

## CURRENT HABITAT ISSUES

The Habitat Committee (HC) will meet on Friday, March 5, 2010. At this meeting, the HC will hold committee elections and discuss California Central Valley water issues and Sacramento River salmon issues, Western Straits of Juan de Fuca coho habitat issues, ecosystem-based management, and the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. In addition, the HC has prepared a draft letter on the Biological Opinion on Federal Columbia River Power System Operations (Attachment 1).

At the November meeting, the Council directed staff to send a letter to the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) concerning their long-term operations of the Central Valley Water Project. The letter supported the salmon essential fish habitat (EFH) conservation recommendations made to the BOR by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Since then, the BOR has responded to NMFS' EFH conservation recommendations. The letter from BOR to NMFS is attached (Attachment 2) for the Council's information.

### **Council Action:**

**Consider comments and recommendations developed by the HC at its March 2010 meeting.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item C.1.a, Attachment 1: Draft letter on the Columbia Basin Biological Opinion.
2. Agenda Item C.1.a, Attachment 2: Letter from BOR to NMFS on EFH Conservation Recommendations for the Central Valley Water Project.
3. Agenda Item C.1.b, Supplemental HC Report.
4. Agenda Item C.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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02/22/10