

HABITAT COMMITTEE COMMENTS ON  
GROUNDFISH ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT SYNTHESIS REPORT AND  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**NMFS Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Synthesis Report**

The Habitat Committee (HC) received a presentation from Michele McClure and Waldo Wakefield (NMFS FRAM) and Ole Shelton (Habitat Conservation Program), on the NMFS EFH Synthesis Report. The HC appreciates NMFS' efforts in synthesizing the EFH Phase 1 data into more digestible and comparable data summaries. The presentation was a brief overview of the results of the complex analyses that went into the synthesis. The biogenic habitat analysis was not highlighted in the presentation, however more information on the methods and results of the biogenic habitat analysis is available in Appendix 1 and now posted to the Council website.\*

This information, in addition to the biogenic habitat data summaries from the Phase 1 report, will be useful for anyone wanting to delve further into these analyses of biogenic habitat and support the development of EFH proposals. The HC recommends that the Council adopt the NMFS Synthesis report as a supplemental document to the EFH Phase 1 Review Report.

**Groundfish EFH Request for Proposals to Modify Essential Fish Habitat**

The HC has reviewed the modified request for proposals, and feels this version is ready for public distribution. However, before the actual release, the Council should ensure that all relevant documents (reports, appendices, etc.) and all datasets used in the EFH Report and NMFS Synthesis Report be made available to the public on the Catalog site and/or Council site.

For instance, the data available in the national database prepared under the auspices of NOAA's Deep-Sea Coral Research and Technology Program (NOAA 2011) as referenced in the EFH Review Phase 1 Report should be made available for proposal development. The HC recommends that these data be uploaded to the EFH Review data catalog website at this time <http://efh-catalog.coas.oregonstate.edu/bio/>.

\* <http://tinyurl.com/brdr8s5>