

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT

OCNMS Management Plan Review

The Habitat Committee (HC) heard an update on the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) draft Management Plan and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document, which are scheduled to be available in January, with a 60-day comment period. As earlier updates have indicated, nothing in the management plan affects fishing activities. The HC discussed ways to ensure that any Council comments on the draft Management Plan and NEPA document be provided by the OCNMS deadline. An update on the status of the draft Management Plan and NEPA document will be provided to the HC in November, and the HC will develop a draft comment letter for the March 2011 Council briefing book. OCNMS has indicated that if necessary, their comment deadline may be extended by 30 days.

Central Valley Issues

In response to NMFS' letter of July 28, 2010 to the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), NMFS has received an informal response from the BOR indicating its willingness to provide a more adequate response to NMFS' essential fish habitat conservation recommendations regarding the long-term operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project.

PFMC
09/12/10