

CURRENT HABITAT ISSUES

The Habitat Committee (HC) will meet on Wednesday and Thursday, September 11 and 12, 2013, to discuss offshore wind energy, Klamath water issues, essential fish habitat, Magnuson-Stevens Act priorities, and other issues.

At the June Council meeting, the Council approved a letter to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, whose Fish and Wildlife Program is currently undergoing a review and amendment process. The final letter is attached (Agenda Item F.1.a, Attachment 1).

Also at the June meeting, the Council directed the HC to prepare a draft letter to the Department of Energy (DOE), responding to its request for information on the environmental effect of offshore wind energy development, for the September Council meeting briefing book. The DOE letter (Agenda Item F.1.a, Attachment 3) outlines areas topics for research related to offshore wind energy development (as called for in the DOE's Request for Information) with emphasis on ocean conditions and project specifications unique to the west coast.

The Habitat Committee prepared a second letter on wind energy development for the Council's consideration. This letter is addressed to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), requesting Council membership on BOEM's Oregon Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Taskforce as being the appropriate entity to address potential conflicts between offshore energy development and marine fisheries in the Federal waters of the Pacific. The HC and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel recommended a letter on this topic at the June meeting, but it was unclear that this was a separate issue from the letter to DOE. Therefore, a second draft letter to BOEM (Agenda Item F.1a, Attachment 2) is provided for the Council's consideration.

Council Action:

Consider comments and recommendations developed by the HC.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.1.a, Attachment 1: Final Letter to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council.
2. Agenda Item F.1.a, Attachment 2: Draft letter to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.
3. Agenda Item F.1.a, Attachment 3: Draft letter to the Department of Energy.
4. Agenda Item F.1.b, Supplemental HC Report.

Agenda Order:

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

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