

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON
FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 13, ANNUAL CATCH LIMITS
AND ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

The Habitat Committee (HC) has commented a number of times in the past on forage fish and krill management issues, especially as to their role as a prey item and as such its designation as Essential Fish Habitat (under the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan [FMP] and other FMPs) and their role in ecosystem.

The HC supports the conservative approach the Council has adopted toward Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) management, and recommends including forage fish considerations in CPS management as well as in the Ecosystem FMP. Such a conservative approach is appropriate especially in light of climate change and ocean acidification effects on these species.

Also, the HC recommends that additional forage fish species listed in Table 4.1-1 of Agenda Item F.2.a, Attachment 1 be added to the ecosystem component species category in the CPS FMP. This will afford additional recognition of the important role that these species play in the ecosystem. Eventually these species should be included in the Ecosystem FMP being developed by the Council.

PFMC
06/11/10