

CURRENT HABITAT ISSUES

The Habitat Committee (HC) will meet on Thursday, June 20, 2013, to discuss coastal marine spatial planning, the habitat components of the integrated ecosystem assessment, and other issues.

At the April Council meeting, the Habitat Committee offered to draft a letter to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC), whose Fish and Wildlife Program is currently undergoing a review and amendment process. A draft letter is attached (Agenda Item G.1, Supplemental Attachment 1). The letter suggests two ways to amend the program: coordinating with the Pacific Council on ocean research and ecosystem matters, and exploring adaptive use of higher spill levels to improve juvenile salmon survival. The letter also requests an extension to the comment period on the Fish and Wildlife Program amendments to correspond with the Pacific Council process.

At the April Council meeting, the Council approved a Habitat Committee letter asking the Department of Interior to provide sufficient water to avoid a fish kill in the Klamath River this summer. The final letter is attached (Agenda Item G.1, Attachment 2).

In addition, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) recently requested information about the potential environmental effects of wind energy (and areas for future study) from industry, academia, local, state and Federal government agencies, tribes, and other offshore wind stakeholders. The HC will discuss this Request for Information, which is attached (Agenda Item G.1, Attachment 3) and may recommend that the Council develop a letter to BOEM on this subject.

Council Action:

- 1. Consider comments and recommendations developed by the HC at its June 2013 meeting.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.1.a, Supplemental Attachment 1: Draft letter to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council.
2. Agenda Item G.1.a, Attachment 2: Final letter to the Department of Interior.
3. Agenda Item G.1.a, Attachment 3: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Request for Information.
4. Agenda Item G1.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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