

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON
UNMANAGED FORAGE FISH PROTECTION INITIATIVE

The Habitat Committee (HC) reviewed information on the unmanaged forage fish initiative. This topic has generated high and diverse amounts of public comment in support of the initiative, and the HC would like to see this topic pursued on an aggressive timeline. HC supports the next steps in Section E of the I.2.b supplemental report, with the following clarifications:

- The HC recommends that the initiative be continued by the Ecosystem Workgroup, which should include at least one scientist with expertise in forage fish communities and trophic ecology.
- The HC recommends development of a workshop that allows the Ecosystem Workgroup to obtain information on relevant species and data gaps.
- The HC endorses the process that starts with identifying lower-trophic level species, highlights those of concern, examines present management regimes, and subsequently devises a management approach that fits the problem.

PFMC
09/12/13