

HABITAT ISSUES

Situation: The Habitat Steering Group (HSG) will receive and review draft letters for Council action on three topics reviewed and discussed at the March HSG meeting. These letters will help assure the protection of essential fish habitat (EFH) for coho and chinook salmon during decision making regarding San Francisco airport expansion, the CalFed ecosystem management program, and long-term irrigation project operation on the Upper Klamath.

During its meeting, the HSG will discuss a draft habitat classification scheme for use with the fishing gear impact work. They will also review a draft proposal from NMFS of a process to be used for identifying habitat areas of particular concern (under EFH). These discussions will be in preparation for its meetings with the Work Group on Gear Impacts and the Ad-Hoc Marine Reserve Committee.

The HSG will receive updates on Oregon and Washington salmon recovery plans. They will also hear presentations on the progress of the EFH interim final rule, the status of the salmon plan amendment, and EFH for highly migratory species.

Council Action:

- 1. Consider draft letter to City of San Francisco regarding airport dredge/fill proposal.**
- 2. Consider draft letter to signatories of CalFed Bay Delta Program regarding Council's interests in funding, habitat restoration, and adaptive management under the ecosystem restoration program.**

Reference Materials: None.

PFMC
03/20/00