

HABITAT STEERING GROUP COMMENTS ON
MARINE RESERVES PHASE II CONSIDERATIONS

The Habitat Steering Group (HSG) recognizes the need for a coordinating body to assist the Council in the development of Phase II. We recognize the budgetary and staff constraints the Council faces in moving forward. Therefore, the HSG discussed on Monday how best to assist the Council given these limitations. The different tasks identified by the group that need to be coordinated include:

- Coordinating a science panel to help develop siting criteria.
- Coordinating stakeholder participation.
- Analyzing socioeconomic impacts.
- Integrating other state and federal marine reserve processes into the Council process.

These tasks can be accomplished through concurrent processes, which need to be coordinated. The coordination responsibility would be limited to identifying the tasks to be accomplished, recommending to the Council the appropriate entity to accomplish the tasks, tracking the progress of those assignments, and keeping the Council updated.

The HSG is willing to accept this responsibility to assist the Council in proceeding with Phase II. To fulfill this responsibility the HSG would require dedicated resources (i.e., funding) for additional meetings and participants (for expertise purposes) as necessary.

PFMC
09/12/00