

ONGOING AND NEW HABITAT ISSUES

Situation: The Habitat Steering Group (HSG) has no items for Council action.

From the Council's agenda (B.4), the HSG will discuss its obligations and a process to review the status of essential fish habitat (EFH) during the overfishing review for Queets wild coho that is due September 1, 2001. The salmon fishery management plan requires the HSG to work with federal, state, local, and tribal habitat experts to review the status of the EFH affecting the identified stock and, as appropriate, provide recommendations to the Council for restoration and enhancement measures that will help the stock recover. This report to the Council is not meant to be exhaustive, but rather a summary of information gleaned from those directly involved in EFH management.

The HSG will receive an informational presentation on the marine reserve work of COMPASS (Communication Partnership for Science and the Sea) and its science advisory group. It will also receive an informational presentation from the Environmental Protection Agency on the designation of a part of the Columbia River as a Superfund site.

Additionally, the HSG will begin a review of the EFH guidelines presented to the public as compared to the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management Act. The HSG will also receive updates on salmon EFH implementation, including the technical guidance available to agencies and discuss the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) report *The Habitat Approach*, which describes implementation of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for salmon.^{1/} NMFS will also provide other updates, including work on the Puget Sound Groundfish ESA listing, fishing gear impacts, habitat areas of particular concern, the Federal Columbia River biological opinion, and on the San Francisco airport expansion. Other updates will include those on California's kelp management plans and on Klamath water flow issues, including dam relicensing and water operation plans.

Council Action:

- 1. Consider comments and recommendations developed by the HSG at the November meeting.**

Reference Materials:

1. Report of the Habitat Steering Group (Exhibit F.1, Supplemental HSG Report).

PFMC
10/17/00

1/ Please note that this report was distributed for the September meeting (Ancillary D). If you need another copy, please contact Fran Recht 541-765-2229, franrecht@newportnet.com.