

HABITAT STEERING GROUP COMMENTS ON  
GROUNDFISH FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

With regard to the scope of the groundfish fishery management plan environmental impact statement (EIS), the Habitat Steering Group (HSG) has the following recommendations on issues that should be addressed and alternatives that should be considered:

1. The management tools identified in the Pacific Council=s Groundfish Strategic Plan should help guide the analyses that are included in the EIS; specifically, habitat protection and restoration; and the establishment of marine reserves should be included in the alternatives.
2. Alternatives for the identification and establishment of habitat areas of particular concern (HAPCs) for groundfish should be included in the EIS.
3. Alternatives for the assessment of gear impacts on habitat should also be included in the EIS.

The HSG plans to follow the EIS process and will continue to be involved and comment as management alternatives are developed.

PFMC  
06/14/01