

HABITAT STEERING GROUP COMMENTS ON
THE PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT OF THE
HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Habitat Steering Group (HSG) received a brief update on the draft highly migratory species (HMS) fishery management plan (FMP) from Ms. Michele Robinson, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. From a habitat perspective, the HSG believes the draft plan is ready to be distributed for public review.

Specific comments on the FMP's habitat sections (Chapter Four and Appendix A) include:

1. The HSG recommends that prey species for each HMS species managed under the FMP, by life stage, be moved from Appendix A and included in the legal essential fish habitat descriptions in the final plan under Chapter Four.
2. The HSG endorses the HMS Plan Development Team's recommendations to proceed with the identification of Habitat Areas of Particular Concern for HMS shortly after the final plan has been adopted by the Council.

PFMC
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