

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

The Habitat Steering Group (HSG) received a briefing on the Groundfish fishery management plan (FMP) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) from Mr. Jim Glock, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The HSG would like to commend staff for drafting the Scoping Summary Report which we believe provides a clear description of the purpose of the EIS, the scoping process itself, and the issues which were identified during the process.

It is our understanding that, at a minimum, the EIS must address essential fish habitat issues which could include the development of Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs), marine reserves, and proposals to address fishing gear impacts on habitat. The HSG would like to reiterate its support for these habitat protection initiatives and would like to participate in their development. The HSG understands the Council may appoint a committee made up of advisory group members which would review and select the alternatives to be included in the draft EIS. If this is the case, the HSG requests representation on that committee.

The HSG also requests that Council staff provide an all-inclusive list of proposed alternatives for the EIS for our review and consideration.

PFMC
09/12/01