

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT ISSUES

Situation: The Habitat Steering Group (HSG) will meet Monday, October 29 to develop recommendations on Council Agenda items D.6, Queets Coho Status Review; C.6, Rebuilding Plans; C.7, Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Environmental Impact Statement; F.1, Status of Marine Reserves Proposals for the Channel Island National Marine Sanctuary; and G.2, Draft Highly Migratory Species FMP.

The HSG will also review a draft letter on Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) hydropower relicensing which is anticipated to be ready for Council approval in March 2002. This programmatic letter covers subjects common to numerous projects which are scheduled for relicensing in the near future. The letter will ensure the Council's policies and recommendations will be presented in a consistent manner for all of the projects.

Other issues that will be discussed at the HSG meeting include approaches to the identification and protection of habitat areas of particular concern (HAPC) and updates on the CalFed Environmental Water Account (EWA) Science Review, Central Valley Technical Recovery Team, San Francisco Airport expansion, and Klamath flow issues (see Ancillary D for the complete agenda).

Council Action:

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

Reference Materials:

1. Habitat Steering Group Agenda (Ancillary D).

PFMC
10/16/01