

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT ISSUES

Situation: The Habitat Steering Group (HSG) will meet Monday, March 11 to develop recommendations on Council Agenda items F.3, Update on Amendment 12 - Rebuilding Plans; D.1, Status of National Marine Sanctuary Processes Pertaining to Marine Reserves; and G.2, Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan.

The HSG will also review a draft letter on Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) hydropower relicensing which will be presented to the Council for review (Exhibit C.1, Attachment 1). 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 identifying and protecting habitat areas of particular concern and updates on Klamath flow issues (see Ancillary D for the complete agenda).

Council Action:

1. Consider comments and recommendations developed by the HSG at the March meeting.
2. Consider draft letter to FERC regarding hydropower relicensing.

Reference Materials:

1. Habitat Steering Group Agenda (Ancillary D).
2. Draft letter to FERC (Exhibit C.1, Attachment 1).
3. Letter to Mr. Jim Lone from Dr. Bill Hogarth, NMPS (Exhibit C.1, Attachment 2).
4. Public Comment C.1.c.

Agenda Order:

- a. Report of the HSG
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Consider HSG Recommendations and Take Action if Necessary

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02/27/02