

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT ISSUES

Situation: The Habitat Committee (HC) will meet Monday, April 8, 2002 to develop recommendations on Council Agenda items B.1, Salmon Management - Columbia River flows; D.1, Review Process for CINMS and Update on Other Marine Reserve Processes; E.6, Groundfish FMP EISs; and E.7, Rebuilding Plans.

The HC will also review a new 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, which was originally presented to the Council in March, covers issues 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 HC meeting include approaches to identifying and protecting habitat areas of particular concern, essential fish habitat/Magnuson-Stevens Act review, and updates on Klamath flow issues (see Ancillary E for the complete agenda).

Council Action:

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

Reference Materials:

1. Habitat Steering Group Agenda (Ancillary E).
2. Draft letter to FERC (Exhibit C.1, Attachment 1).

Agenda Order:

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

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03/25/02