

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT ISSUES

Situation: The Habitat Committee (HC) will meet Monday, October 28, 2002 to develop recommendations on the following agenda items:

- D.2 Adoption of Final Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan
- G.7 Groundfish Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
- G.8 Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Environmental Impact Statement

Other issues on the HC agenda include proposed changes to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, Klamath flow issues (see draft letter, Supplemental Attachment 2), the habitat effects of marine aquaculture, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) rulemaking process. The Council received a response to its May 13 letter to FERC, which is included as Attachment 1. In addition, in September the Council approved a letter addressed to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding Columbia River dredging. That letter was mailed on September 20.

The HC's complete agenda is provided in Ancillary B.

Council Action:

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

Reference Materials:

1. Letter from FERC to Council (Exhibit B.1, Attachment 1).
2. Letter to Secretary of Interior on Klamath River flows (Exhibit B.1, Supplemental Attachment 2).

Agenda Order:

- a. HC Report
- b. Update on Marine Reserves
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Consider HC Recommendations

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PFMC
10/15/02