

*Tim Roth read this
since nobody else was
available*

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON
GROUND FISH FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The Habitat Committee (HC) supports the development of a technical review committee to review the risk analysis being developed for the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). We recognize this risk assessment requires expertise on habitat, geology, bathymetry, and modeling. The scope of this work is beyond the immediate expertise of the HC, so we support the recruitment of outside expertise as needed. The HC is willing to participate in this process at the request of the Council. Given the difficult schedule ordered by the court for completion of this EIS, the HC also recognizes a technical review committee offers the best opportunity for transparency of the science and the process.

PFMC
10/31/02